

# LIFE Groups - Lent / Easter 2025

## Week 8 - The True Vine

### Jesus vs. Hades!

Jesus entered Jerusalem with His focus set on completing the mission the Father had given. His final earthly words and actions were vital for His disciples, and for us as His followers today.

#### 1 - Welcoming Jesus, Our King

This past Sunday was Palm Sunday, remembering Jesus' entry to Jerusalem on Holy Week. When He arrived at the Mt of Olives, the crowds hoped He would fulfill **Zechariah 14:3-5** in waging war on Rome, but Jesus' mission was in line with **Zechariah 9:9-11** - a mission of peace and a spiritual victory over the forces of death. Last week we read Jesus' words that He is "the Resurrection and the Life". On the Mt He states that "even stones would cry out". In the picture to the right, what are the most prominent "stones" on the Mt of Olives? How does this give insight into Jesus' statement?

*The crowds hoped for a particular kind of Messiah that day, but Jesus was on a different mission. It's still easy to put our own hopes ahead of God's purposes - What can we learn from Palm Sunday to not miss the true will and purpose of God in our own situations? Think personally, as a church, and even nationally!*

#### 2 - Watch Pastor Scott's Video for Journey to The Cross - Week 8

*\*The readings follow the **Journey to the Cross** devotional booklet!\**

#### 3 - Scripture reading - Jesus' 7th Miracle, He is the "True Vine"

##### Miracle #7 - Raising Lazarus, defeating Hades!

- Last week we read about Jesus' miracle of raising Lazarus in Bethany, just a short walk from Jerusalem. **Now read John 11:45-53** - The miracle of raising Lazarus led some of the Priests and Temple leaders to plot against Jesus - what was their reasoning? How does their desire for control and maintaining power blind them from seeing God's purposes?

##### "I am the True Vine"

- In Jewish tradition, the Vine represents the Temple, and God is the vineyard owner - **Read Isaiah 5:1-7** - How does this first parable in all of Scripture foreshadow the reaction of the Temple leaders to Jesus?
- **Read John 15:1-8** - John writes after the Jerusalem Temple has been destroyed - how would Jesus' words have been a comfort to his readers?

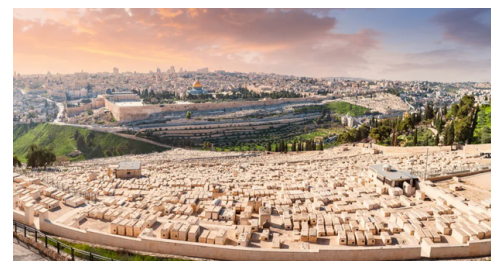
##### Pray together!

- Use the Week 6 prompt in the United in Prayer section in the booklet!

Journey to The Cross 2025



A DISCIPLE'S WALK THROUGH  
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



#### The Mount of Olives

*Above: This hillside overlooking the Temple courts was where many of the Passover pilgrims would camp out during their visit to Jerusalem. Because of prophecies, Jews desired to be buried on the mount in anticipation of the Resurrection when God's Messiah would arrive at the Mt of Olives!*



*Above: A vineyard and tower near Bethlehem. Ancient vineyards had a stone tower structure in the middle as a lookout, like the Temple stood in Jerusalem as a spiritual tower for God's people.*



**LIFE GROUPS**  
DISCIPLESHIP • COMMUNITY • OUTREACH