

 <p>SERIES & TITLE</p>	<p>Easter 2024 - The Olive Branch of Peace</p>
 <p>BIG IDEA</p>	<p>Jesus came to make peace between God and humanity by conquering sin and death through His sacrificial death on the cross.</p>
 <p>ICE BREAKER</p>	<p>What comes to mind when they hear the word "peace." What images, feelings, or situations do they associate with peace?</p>
 <p>MAIN POINTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The crowds welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem expecting Him to overthrow Roman rule and establish an earthly kingdom. • Jesus sweat drops of blood in Gethsemane, agonizing over the suffering before Him. • On the cross, Jesus made peace between God and humanity through His blood. • Jesus conquered sin and death, not temporary earthly powers, bringing true, lasting peace. • Following Jesus forces a response and can divide even families.
 <p>DISCUSS</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why was it significant that Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey rather than a warhorse? 2. What did the olive imagery in Gethsemane represent about Jesus' purpose? 3. Why did the crowd turn from "Hosanna!" to "Crucify Him!" so quickly? What did they misunderstand? 4. How does Jesus bring peace according to Colossians 1:19-20? What did His death accomplish? 5. Why does Jesus say He came to bring division according to Luke 12:51-53? How have you seen or experienced this? 6. Are you at peace with God? If not, what is keeping you from fully surrendering to Jesus as Lord?
 <p>NEXT STEP</p>	<p>Identify one relationship where peace needs to be made - either vertically with God or horizontally with another person. Commit to taking a concrete step this week toward restoring that peace through repentance, forgiveness, or reconciliation.</p>
 <p>SCRIPTURE</p>	<p>Colossians 1:19-20 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.</p> <p>Luke 12:51-53 Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three...</p>



**NEXT WEEK
SNEAK PEAK**

Join us next week and invite a friend as we start a new series called CROSSROADS: Choosing the Road Less Traveled, looking at the lives of people in the Bible when they were at a crossroads in life.

Questions or Feedback? Email Groups@CentralAZ.com