

**BEFORE THE SESSION:**

- Pray for each of your group members by name
- Look over the questions on the right and choose the ones that are most appropriate for your small group. If you're really feeling motivated, you might even think of a few on your own.
- Think through how you might prompt your group a little if they have difficulty getting started in discussion.
- Take a look at the accountability question below. Lead members to gather one on one or in same sex clusters to discuss it over coffee this week.

**THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA**

God's promise of restoration is fulfilled through the coming of Jesus.

**ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTION**

Are there any areas in your life that are or have the potential of preventing you from obtaining the peace and restoration God wants for you?

**TO PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK:**

Read Esther 1-10; Ezra 7-10; Nehemiah 1-13; Psalms 126;

**AS YOU READ...**

...Think about what God's plan is for your life.

**CONNECT****(10 min.)**

Choose one or both of the following questions to begin your time together as a group.

1. **What would be three top qualities you would look for in a leader? Examples could include: vision, proven service, integrity, etc.**
2. **What do you think is the most troubling event, problem, or concern in our world today? Why?**

**EXPLORE****(40 min.)**

Say something like, "Today we will be talking about Zechariah's foretelling of the coming of the King, Jesus Christ." Then guide your group through these questions.

3. **If you were in worship this week, what statement or experience stood out to you? What stood out during last week's reading?**

**(Leader:** Take some time to discuss any questions that may have arisen as your members read through this week's assigned reading.)

4. **Leader: Take some time to share what is happening in verses 9-13 in your own words (See This Week's Study Notes for a summary.) then ask the following question. How does the king pictured here differ from leaders in our world today?**
5. **Read Zechariah 9:9-10; Matthew 21:4-5; and Luke 19:38. Why do you think Jesus is riding on a donkey on these three occasions rather than, say...a war horse (v.10)?**
6. **Read Zechariah 9:11. What is the foundation or basis of God's promise of restoration being fulfilled?**
7. **Recall some of the characteristics of King Jesus in verses 9-11. Which one(s) is/are most attractive to you? Why?**
8. **This text teaches us that God desires peace for exiles and prisoners? What have you felt imprisoned by in your own life? A disease? Guilt? Something else? How did you experience God's promise of peace in that situation? If you're feeling that way now, how can this group help?**
9. **Being a disciple of this king is not about what you know. It's about what you do. What projects or actions have you taken to promote peace within your church, community or world?**

**TRANSFORM****(10 min.)**

Wrap up your time by recalling a few things from your meeting that stood out to you. Then, ask the following question and pray together.

10. **Titus 2:11-14 describes how we should live as we await the ultimate promise of eternity with Christ. Read it together then partner up and pray these verses over each other.**

# This Week's Study Notes:

## So What's The Story?

This is the account of the prophet Zechariah's foretelling of the coming King Jesus some 500 years before He was born in Bethlehem. God's promise communicated through the words of the prophet in these verses were a comfort to the people.

## Scripture Notes

### Zechariah 9:9

The Israelites who moved back to Jerusalem, were commanded to rejoice and shout. This was at a time when the temple was rebuilt under Nehemiah's leadership, the Persians still ruled over them, and they had no semblance of a nation. They were to rejoice and shout because they were to expect a coming King, a Messiah, whom God would bring (see John 1:41,49). This Messiah was not like other kings. Alexander the Great, in Zech 9:1-8, entered cities on a horse, mighty and proud. But the Messiah would be a humble king, riding a beast of burden. A horse is fit for times of war, a donkey is fit for times of peace.

### Zechariah 9:10

The arrival of the Messiah-King would initiate the manifestation of peace throughout the nations. Kings were known for war. Their main purpose was to lead the army in conquering lands and quenching rebellious slave nations. But as prophesied by Isaiah, the Messiah would be a King of Peace. This peace would first begin within Israel.

## Leader Tips

### AS YOU READ THIS WEEK...

- Think about and pray for each member of your small group.
- Think through the following questions:
  1. Whom does God bring to mind as I read these verses? Why?
  2. What needs to change in my own life as a result of what I'm reading?
  3. Whom do I need to tell about these verses?

### FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY WE RECOMMEND...

- Bible Commentary: [Bible.org](http://Bible.org)
- Bible Commentary: [DesiringGod.org](http://DesiringGod.org)
- Pronouncing Biblical Words: [Netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm](http://Netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm)

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