April 2020  Home Group Questions:

Mark 10:46-52  A True Disciple
Leaving Jericho, Jesus encounters a blind man named Bartimaeus (the only healing where a man is named in the synoptic gospels).
In Bartimaeus we see all the preceding traits of a true disciples come together – (we looked at 6 in the sermon: Conviction, Humility, Relationship, Faith, Focus and Action).
He comes humbly, with empty hands, pinning all his hopes on Jesus.  His faith in Jesus makes him whole.  Jesus opens his eyes, and once he can see, he immediately gets on the road and follows Jesus as He heads towards the cross.

Summary: A true disciple of Christ has had their eyes opened to the truth so that they trust only in Him as they take up their cross and follow.

Q What are some of the false views that people have about what it takes to enter the Kingdom of God?

Q What are some of the tell-tale signs that Bartimaeus is a genuine disciple?

Q What are some of things about Jesus that Bartimaeus grasps so easily, which the disciples really struggled with?

Q Who opens the eyes of the blind?  Why is this such an important thing to remember when we are trying to witness to our friends?

Mark 11:1-11  Great Expectations
Jesus nears Jerusalem.  But before arriving, He stops and sends 2 disciples to fetch a donkey.  
Fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah (9:9) He then rides into the city as the crowds cry, ”Hosanna!”
The crowds are excited about “the coming of the Kingdom of David”, but Jesus only ever preaches about the coming of the Kingdom of God! – Their expectations are far too low.
This initial excitement is short lived.  Jesus looks around at the city and then returns to Bethany for the night.

Summary: Jesus has set His face to Calvary and he will not be diverted by the excited crowds.  His mission and His goal are way beyond that which the crowds can envisage.

Q What are some of the ways that people today try to “recreate” Jesus?

Q Riding in on a donkey was a symbol of peace (A warrior comes on a horse).  What is the peace that Jesus came to bring?  How is that peace possible?

Q Take a look at the parable of the sower and the soils (Mark 4:14-20).  What are the dangers of misunderstanding the gospel and believing that it’s all about life here and now?