

**The Prophets Foretold  
Zechariah 9:9-10**

**MAIN POINT: The kingdom of God is here right now and citizens of that kingdom will live under God's rule of peace—not the rule of fear, hate, or violence.**

**[LEADER NOTE: CHOOSE ONE OF TWO OPTIONS BELOW TO START YOUR DISCUSSION]**

**Introduction A:**

Begin the discussion by asking the group to brainstorm a list of qualities they look for in a top level leader (president, CEO, etc.). For example: integrity, experience, vision, decisiveness, record of public service, boldness, etc.

Then ask individual volunteers to take turns sharing which of those would be in their top three, and why. You can set the tone for openness and honesty by being the first to share your top three. Aim for getting three or four responses before moving to the next topic.

**Introduction B:**

Have group members use newspapers, newsmagazines, smart phones, or portable electronic devices to search for top news headlines. Have them call out the headlines and stories that speak of social problems in the news—climate change, Syrian immigration, terrorism, gun control, unemployment, police-citizen relations, etc.

After a good list has been compiled, ask the group to respond to these questions:

- **What human emotions are tied to these various problems—for example, terrorism may be tied to emotions of anger by perpetrators and fear by victims.**
- **What do you think are some possible underlying reasons (not solutions, but causes) for these problems?**

**The King Who Rides a Donkey**

Ask a volunteer to read aloud Zechariah 9:9 and then ask the group to discuss these questions:

- **Pastor Andy explained that a donkey was a deliberate contrast to the usual war horse for a victorious king to ride. What was Zechariah trying to prove with this imagery?**
- **How can a king—or any leader of a large group of people—be victorious without resorting to war or violence? Can we think of any examples from history?**
- **Can you think of any examples of God's kingdom advancing without resorting to war or violence? Share one example if you can.**

**This King Will Establish Peace**

Ask a volunteer to read aloud Zechariah 9:10. Using your own words, say the following:

**Zechariah said that the coming king would proclaim peace to the nations. "Peace" in the Bible means more than the mere absence of conflict or violence. It is a sense of wholeness and well-being.**

Next, ask the group to respond to these questions:

- **Zechariah contrasted the donkey and the war horse. What would biblical peace look like in contrast to these common problems:**
  - **Broken relationships**
  - **Fear/Anxiety**
  - **Hunger**
  - **Anger**
  - **Poverty**
  - **Loneliness**
- **How can the Church (Christians as a whole) lead the way in proclaiming biblical peace in practical ways?**
- **What projects or actions we take on as a Life Group or as Emmaus Road church to promote peace within our church or community?**
- **How have you personally experienced the peace of Christ?**
- **How are you doing right now in experiencing peace? How can this group “proclaim peace” into your life?**  
**[LEADER NOTE: Take time to converse and pray about any needs mentioned in response to this question.]**

**Prayer:**

Conclude your group session by praying aloud this prayer that we prayed in the worship service.

**God of hope,**

**You call us home from the exile of selfish oppression to the freedom of justice, the balm of healing, and the joy of sharing.**

**Make us strong to join you in your holy work, as friends of strangers and victims, companions of those whom others shun, and as the happiness of those whose hearts are broken.**

**We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**