

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

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# SERMON SERIES

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Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students to proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, and biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series are exactly what you're looking for!

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete detailed sermon outlines, discussion questions, and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

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## SERIES OVERVIEW FOR AWAKEN: Experiencing Easter in a Whole New Way

Do you know that feeling you get when something just "clicks?" When a school lesson hasn't made sense but then one little point clears everything up? Or when you're reading a book and one detail connects all of the dots from the previous chapters? Sometimes, when we look into the difficult parts of a story, we become more appreciative of the outcome. While Easter is a time to dress up in pastel colors, search for candy-filled eggs, and rejoice in Christ's resurrection, we need to wake up and remember that there is a side to the Easter season that is dark, brutal, and filled with sadness. When we wake up to see Easter from a new perspective, we can rejoice more fully in what He has done for us.

### "AWAKEN" COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **Session 1 – From a Different Angle (Luke 19:28-48)** | Everyone has a specific perspective in which they view the world around them. At times, that perspective is so focused on one thing that everything else becomes blurry and we miss out on the fullness around us. It's time to wake up, view everything around us without spiritual blindness, and see what God is revealing to us.
- **Session 2 – Broken Bread, Broken Heart (Matthew 26:6-29)** | Things in life do not always work out the way we want. It is easy to become so fixated on how we want things to turn out, but we have to remember that there is a purpose behind every good and bad thing. When we awaken our souls, we awaken the ability to learn from every experience in life.
- **Session 3 – The Veil Is Torn (John 19)** | Nobody likes getting bad news. Unfortunately, bad news is inevitable because bad news stems from bad behavior. The bad news for all of humanity is that we are born into sin and deserve punishment, but the good news is that God created a plan to save us from that punishment and it came at a hefty cost.
- **Session 4 – The Best News of All! (Matthew 28)** | When something amazing happens in life, what is the first thing people tend to do? They share it! They share it with as many people in the shortest amount of time. What would it look like if we took the best news of all and made it go "viral?" We've got the best news, but what do we do with it now?

### "AWAKEN" IS PART OF YM360'S SERMON SERIES LINE OF RESOURCES AND IS IDEAL FOR:

- Any large group setting
- Mid-week youth service
- "Master teacher" format

# BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

## EVERY SERMON SERIES FROM YM360 COMES WITH:

- **Detailed Sermon Outlines** – Every Sermon Series comes with detailed sermon outlines. Teach them "as is" or adapt them to suit your specific ministry context.
- **Discussion questions** – Questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives. You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go.
- **Title and Background slides** – These are designed to be dropped into your favorite presentation software to help you build a creative environment around your sermon. Use them as a backdrop for song lyrics, Scripture passages, teaching points, and any illustrations you choose to display.
- **Artwork for promo and social media** – Social media images, web banners, and a printable poster file are included. Perfect for newsletters, websites, social media platforms, or print them off for posters and bulletin inserts.
- **Logo (including native logo design files)** – We include a logo file and the native design files to allow you to use the logo in ways you see fit.
- **100% downloadable and adaptable**

# Awaken Teaching Guide | A One-Page Glimpse Of Everything You Need To Prepare

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

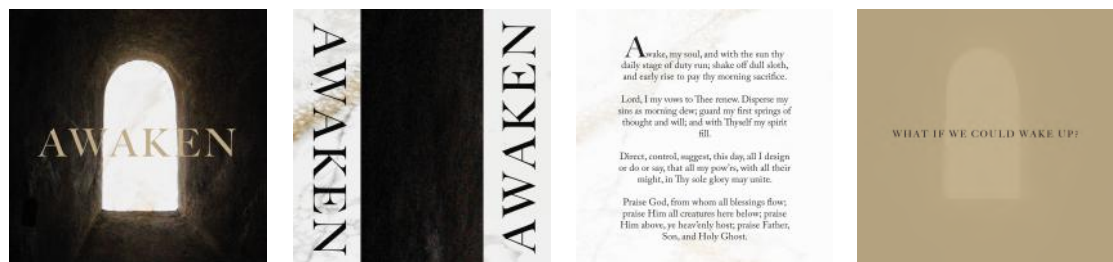
## BACKGROUND AND TITLE SLIDES



## PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK



## INSTAGRAM IMAGES



## LOGO TREATMENT

AWAKEN

NOTE: Each YM360 Sermon Series also comes with the native files of the logo in case you want to replicate the design for other uses.

## **Awaken Sermon Series | Session 1: From a Different Angle**

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**How To Use A YM360 Sermon Series** | YM360 Sermon Series are designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. Each series download provides various elements such as a detailed sermon outline, suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you can use to craft a message that speaks to your students in your specific context.

This series download also includes discussion questions that can be used to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Make sure to leverage the series logo, title slide, background slides, and social media artwork this YM360 Sermon Series provides for promotion and message support. We've even included the native design files to allow you the freedom to use the logo in any way that meets your needs.

This YM360 Sermon Series was created to be suitable for all types of churches and ministry environments. It was intentionally designed to provide you with everything you need while also allowing you the freedom to make it fit your particular ministry context. Nobody knows your ministry like you do. Therefore, we encourage you to make any adjustments to this series you feel are necessary to best fit the needs of your students, church, or ministry context.

**A Prayer Before You Prepare** | Heavenly Father, you have given us your Word, written by inspired men to bring us wisdom and understanding about who you are, what you've done, and how you love us, and we thank you. Through your truth, I pray that we would all grow in our relationship with you and with others and we attempt daily to live a life that resembles Christ. A life that shows believers, and not-yet-believers, that we do not have to remain dead to ourselves. That through the work of Jesus on the cross, we can choose to obey you in every aspect of our life knowing that when we fail, you will be there to clothe us in mercy and love. We ask of this in Jesus' name.

# Awaken Teaching Guide | A One-Page Glimpse Of Everything You Need To Prepare

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**Series Snapshot** | *Awaken* is a four-session sermon series that will help your students see the Easter story from a new, and perhaps an uncomfortable, perspective. Easter is a time when we celebrate the culmination of God's redemptive plan, but what Jesus had to endure in the days leading up to His death, burial, and resurrection is something we tend to leave out so, wake up and Easter afresh!

**Series Overview** | Do you know that feeling you get when something just “clicks?” When a school lesson hasn't made sense but then one little point clears everything up? Or when you're reading a book and one detail connects all of the dots from the previous chapters? Sometimes, when we look into the difficult parts of a story, we become more appreciative of the outcome. While Easter is a time to dress up in pastel colors, search for candy-filled eggs, and rejoice in Christ's resurrection, we need to wake up and remember that there is a side to the Easter season that is dark, brutal, and filled with sadness. When we wake up to see Easter from a new perspective, we can rejoice more fully in what He has done for us.

- **Session 1 – From a Different Angle (Luke 19:28-48)** | Everyone has a specific perspective in which they view the world around them. At times, that perspective is so focused on one thing that everything else becomes blurry and we miss out on the fullness around us. It's time to wake up, view everything around us without spiritual blindness, and see what God is revealing to us.
- **Session 2 – Broken Bread, Broken Heart (Matthew 26:6-29)** | Things in life do not always work out the way we want. It is easy to become so fixated on how we want things to turn out, but we have to remember that there is a purpose behind every good and bad thing. When we awaken our souls, we awaken the ability to learn from every experience in life.
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## Awaken Series | Session 1

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**Large Group Teaching Summary** | Everyone has a specific perspective in which they view the world around them. At times, that perspective is so focused on one thing that everything else becomes blurry and we miss out on the fullness around us. It's time to wake up, view everything around us without spiritual blindness, and see what God is revealing to us.

**Key Takeaway** | When we widen our perspective, so much more is revealed.

**Scripture Focus** | Luke 19:28-48

**What You May Need** | *Optional Illustration:* A Surprise Party (Personal Story), *Optional Illustration:* Military Homecomings (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtFUziKRG3I>), *Optional Illustration:* Combined City in Your Area, *Optional Illustration:* Glasses Prescription/Eye Examination, *Optional Illustration:* Prices of Items Increase the Closer You Are, *Optional Illustration: What do you tend to do when you're very upset?*

# Awaken Sermon Series | Session 1: From a Different Angle

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## I. Introduction

- A. Tonight, we are starting a new series called *Awaken*.
  - 1. We are officially in the Easter Season! Pastel colors, jelly beans, bunnies, spring breaks, and more tend to overshadow the reason why we celebrate this season. This is the time in which we celebrate Jesus' resurrection!
  - 2. You may be asking yourself, "What does 'Awakening My Soul' have to do with Easter?" Think about it like this: You're sleeping soundly and your mom peers in through the door to make sure you are sleeping and not playing your Nintendo Switch. From her perspective, you're still and quiet. However, you might be having the most fantastic dream ever! When you wake up, you tell her all about the dream that swept you off into a far-off land. Perspective is everything!
  - 3. This season, we should celebrate what we all know: Jesus was raised from death to give full life to you and me! Through His work on the cross, our debt is paid and we get to live life as sons and daughters of God! Though this is great news, what Jesus had to endure to make this news possible was far from great.
  
- B. You see, Jesus went through quite a bit of hardship leading up to the glory of His resurrection and if we don't change the way we look at the Easter Story, we are likely to keep missing details that will help us rejoice and celebrate even more! It's like we need a prescription change in how we view the world.
  - 1. ***Optional Illustration: If you have glasses or contacts, share about all of the exams and instruments used to determine what your vision prescription is. If you do not need corrective lenses, perhaps do some research regarding eye exams and why it is important to be able to view things correctly.***
    - a) Ex: I will share about my first time getting a glasses prescription. While my vision is still decent without help, glasses provide a clearer picture. Smaller, blurry details are now sharper and help add to the bigger picture.
  
- C. You may have been around the church for quite some time and think you know the Easter events like you know your best friend, but the truth is that there is a very sad, dark, and brutal perspective to Jesus' final days. Yes, he underwent torture and died a death He did not deserve, but the brutality and sadness began before those events. Let's readjust our perspective and look at today's story from a different angle.

## II. Tension

- A. OUR PERSPECTIVE OF THE WORLD ALWAYS LEAVES SOMETHING OUT
  - 1. ***Optional Illustration: Surprise Party! Share a time when you were either the recipient or a part of a surprise party.***
    - a) Ex: I will tell the story of when, the night before I left for my military orders overseas, I tried to spend time with all of my friends but everybody said they were busy. In my mind, from my perspective, not one friend wanted to spend time with me before I left the country for a year. Finally, one friend said they could hang out and when I arrived, ALL of my friends and family were there to see me off. My perspective was "nobody wants to spend time with me" but as I began to put the pieces

together, I should have seen the bigger picture. I missed it in the details because my heart felt abandoned and alone.

2. Missing details can cause a lot of issues in life. Imagine being a doctor and missing one little detail that leads to the lack of needed care for a patient. Or a mechanic who missed one bolt on a tire leading to the tire falling off during a trip. Missing details can be dangerous at times and in the case of the Easter story, missing details can leave us clueless.
  3. The truth is that our sinful hearts can change the way we view the world around us. If your heart is full of anger then everything around you will be angry. If you're joyful then the world won't seem near as awful as it is for others.
  4. But, if our hearts and perspectives are aligned with God, then we can view the Bible with a clear picture. Smaller details won't be lost in the periphery. They will be evident like the rest of the Word.
  5. And this isn't just a sin issue either. As humans, we are limited in what we can know and perceive about the world around us. Often our previous experiences shape or affect how we see new experiences too. Our perspective is often limited as we take in the world around us. The same can be true of our perspective on familiar stories in the Bible.
- B. Jesus did enter Jerusalem triumphantly, but have you ever been curious as to how Jesus felt at that moment? The story, though known well, is usually seen broadly so let's wake up and look a bit more intently at what is happening.

### III. Scripture

- A. Luke, one of Jesus' Apostles, wrote two books in the New Testament. One was his own Gospel account, and the other was the Book of Acts. One of the great things about the Gospel According to Luke is that Luke writes chronologically, which means he writes things in the order they happened in real life. This makes navigating his work pretty easy! Luke begins his account with the births of John the Baptist and Jesus and ends with the Ascension of Jesus.
1. Through this gospel account, Luke adds some pretty distinct elements from the other Gospel accounts that make it a great read.
    - a) Luke is the longest of the Gospels, but don't let that scare you! It is longer because he adds a bit more details!
      - (1) Remember, more detail can help get a fuller picture of the story and a better perspective on the whole thing.
    - b) Luke is the only one to include some of Jesus' childhood and Jesus' story after resurrection which helps provide an even wider perspective of the story.
    - c) One likely reason Luke's account is more detailed than the other Gospel authors is that he was once a physician. Physicians are very detail-oriented people so Luke did not miss anything.
  2. Though there is much to look at in the first 18 chapters of the Gospel of Luke, we find ourselves beginning this series with Luke 19. Up to this point, Jesus has been born, raised, and is now towards the end of his earthly ministry. Parables have been told, diseases have been healed, and many have come to know Jesus personally and follow Him after hearing His teachings on the Kingdom of God.



## Awaken Sermon Series | Session 1: From a Different Angle

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But, following prophecy and God's purpose, Jesus begins His obedient trek to His earthly end.

B. Read LUKE 19:28-40 ESV

1. *"And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, 'Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'"* So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" And they said, "The Lord has need of it." And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out. "
- a) Jesus is preparing to make His final leg of the trip to Jerusalem. He begins His trip in Jericho where He has just finished teaching Zaccheus some truths about saving the lost.
- b) Jericho was around 17 miles from Jerusalem so it took Jesus and His followers some time to get there but they stopped briefly at a double-city.

**(1) Optional Illustration: Combined Town**

- (a) Ex. I would jump in here and use a nearby town/city as an example, like Memphis, TN being connected to Lakeland, Bartlett, Germantown, etc. (This is just for clarification)
2. Once there, Jesus asks His disciples to go and find a colt. A colt was a young male donkey and wasn't used for much because it was still small and not strong enough to help with much. Jesus even says that the colt they were to untie had never been sat on! But Why?
  - a) READ ZECHARIAH 9:9 ESV
    - (1) *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."*
    - (2) This was prophesied! Of all of the prophecies that point to Jesus, this one is about to be fulfilled.
  - b) Everything, so far, is happening as it was told. There is a divine plan in place and Jesus is fulfilling it. This is a part of the story that is pretty well known. Jesus goes the two miles from Bethphage and Bethany to the gates of Jerusalem. Luke mentions the spreading of cloaks on the ground! Now why would people do that?
    - (1) Spreading your clothing on the ground showed a massive amount of respect for a new king. It was like rolling out the red

carpet! The followers saw Jesus as their king and followed the same customs as they would have for any other appointed King.

**(a) Optional Cross-Reference: King Jehu (2 Kings 9:13)**

(2) While Luke doesn't mention it, Matthew 21:8 reveals that as he came into the city, cloaks AND palm branches were placed on the road which is where we get the name Palm Sunday.

3. READ V. 39-40 ESV

a) *"And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."*

b) Let's look at this from a different angle now. We get the perspective of Jesus and His followers: They are all a part of the fulfillment of prophecy! The Pharisees, however, see things from a different perspective.

c) They yell to Jesus to rebuke His followers! They did not see Jesus as a king so they only saw these people playing pretend. Jesus' response to them, though easily missed, is vital.

(1) "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."  
God's very creation would recognize the divine nature of Jesus. There would be no silence. The rocks would wake from their silence and praise Jesus' coming.

4. This seems like a great moment, right? Jesus is fulfilling prophecy, He's riding this colt, and His followers are right there with Him. Everyone, except the Pharisees, is rejoicing and singing praise, and even if they couldn't, the rocks would. This is the part of Palm Sunday we tend to finish the lesson, but not today.

C. Read LUKE 19:41-44 ESV

1. *"And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."*

2. Amidst the grand entrance, praise, and excitement that Jesus has made it to Jerusalem, Jesus is weeping.

a) Has something like this ever happened to you? When everything around you seems like it should bring joy yet on the inside, you're sad to the point of weeping? This is where we begin to the sadness of Easter. So why is Jesus sad?

(1) While everybody around Him is in celebration, Jesus knows the details. Jesus sees everything from all angles and it is pointed at this one truth: *There are those in the city of Jerusalem that have rejected Jesus.* With this rejection also comes:

(a) *Rejection of everlasting peace*

(b) *Rejection of God's ultimate authority*

(c) *Holy judgment and destruction*

(2) The truth is that Jesus is here to bring peace and to show that everything they had heard and read about Him was true.

**(a) Optional Cross-Reference: Romans 2:8**

## Awaken Sermon Series | Session 1: From a Different Angle

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3. Imagine this from Jesus' perspective. He has preached nothing but Good News for ALL people. Jews and Gentiles. Poor and rich. Healthy and unhealthy. He is bringing peace for all along with His kingdom and there are still many who do not acknowledge Him. Because of their rejection, they will face God's judgment. This is what makes Jesus weep. Those who reject Jesus will be lost forever.
4. These people are spiritually blind. They may be looking at a man named Jesus, riding on a colt, but they are blind to who Jesus truly is. There may be some of you in this very room who are spiritually blind. You know much, but you still fail to see everything from all angles. The only way to see better is to adjust your perspective.
5. Everybody has a specific way of dealing with big emotions.
  - a) **Optional Illustration: What do you tend to do when you're very upset?**
    - (1) Ex: We have taught our daughters to do one of two things: draw boxes and breath, or scream into a pillow.
  - b) Sometimes, we have to exert some kind of physical behavior to feel better. Jesus is already upset and weeping because He knows some of the people in this city are a lost cause- they will never see Him for who He is, so He goes to the temple. Isn't that something we should all strive for? To rush to church when life seems a bit too heavy?
6. Remember, Easter is usually a time when we think about all the goodness of Jesus, but Jesus did endure quite a bit of hardship. As He heads to the temple, things just get worse.

### D. Read LUKE 19:45-48 ESV

1. *"And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, saying to them, 'It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers.'" And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him, but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words."*
2. Jesus enters into the temple and what does He see? He sees tables and salespeople using the temple courtyard as a farmer's market! Some context though.
  - a) This is the time of Passover! Many people from all over have traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the festivities which go on for days and days. Many of these travelers come to the temple to make sacrifices but traveling with animals can be very difficult, and what if an animal were to die along the way?
  - b) These salespeople were selling cattle, sheep, and other animals for these travelers to use for their sacrifices and there wasn't anything wrong with that. What was wrong was that these salespeople would mark up their prices so that they could make a fortune! Some call this "good business" but Jesus knew that their hearts were not to help others worship God, it was to help themselves.
    - (1) **Optional Illustration: The price of public parking goes up the closer you get to a venue!**
      - (a) Ex: Driving around St. Louis to see the Cardinals play the Giants, it was clear that the closer you got to the stadium, the more expensive parking was. Lot owners were greedy!

## Awaken Sermon Series | Session 1: From a Different Angle

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- c) Jesus cleared these “robbers” out of the temple to bring it back to what it was supposed to be used for; a house of prayer. If this wasn’t bad enough, as Jesus taught at the temple, hatred began to grow.
  3. There were men, including priests, who rejected everything Jesus stood for. Verse 47 even says that they sought to destroy Jesus. They realized they couldn’t because technically Jesus had done nothing wrong.
- E. This is where we need to pause and recap what Jesus has been going through.
  1. Jesus has spent His ministry speaking nothing but the truth about who He is and what He has come to do
  2. In this day, just about every Jew, and most Gentiles, knew about God’s plan and prophecy
  3. Jesus underwent ridicule and rejection pretty much everywhere He went, including in His hometown
  4. He enters Jerusalem and sees the fanfare. He is welcomed and greeted like a king, but He knows what He is entering into.
  5. He weeps over lost people because they have rejected Him and His teaching
  6. His Father’s house, the Temple, has been taken over by robbers, and those who fail to use it for its intended purpose
  7. And if that isn’t enough, there is a group of people who hate Him because, well, He lives and teaches in a way that threatens their power.
  8. Jesus has been rejected, and unwanted, and has enemies who seek to kill Him. How would you feel?

### IV. Application

- A. Has your perspective of Palm Sunday changed?
  1. WILL YOU CHOOSE TO ADJUST THE ANGLE IN WHICH YOU KNOW JESUS?
    - a) We have been given God’s very own Word to know Him and make Him known. But, sometimes we tend to pick and choose what we want to read. Let’s be honest, some passages, and even some books of the Bible are a bit boring and even hard to read, but it is in there for a reason!
    - b) Everything in scripture has a purpose to drive you toward a deeper relationship with God because all of it illuminates something new. There may be an interesting detail from today’s passages that you never would have known if we just stopped.
    - c) God’s desire for your life is to know that like those who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem and were a part of one of the Easter stories we read today, you are also folded into His story. You may just need to look at Scripture from a different angle which does require work.
  2. OR WILL YOU CHOOSE TO CONTINUE LOOKING THROUGH THE SAME EYES?
    - a) God gave us a vision to see Him and His creation. If you were to look at the same thing over and over again, it would no longer be special. It’s like a movie you have seen 30 times. Yes, it’s good and you know every line, but if you just look at something again and again and in the same way, it is no longer special.
    - b) Sometimes, looking through scripture can be daunting and details are missed. You’ll never see those details if you never adjust your perspective.

### V. Gospel

## Awaken Sermon Series | Session 1: From a Different Angle

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- A. WAKE UP AND SEE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR NEWNESS OF LIFE!
1. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is not just a story we tell on Palm Sunday. It also isn't just one of many prophecies that Jesus fulfilled.
  2. This was all just one part of God's ultimate plan to save His people from His wrathful judgment and our eternal punishment. Jesus came into Jerusalem with a gift for all its people and more.
  3. That gift is still available for you to receive today. You just need to allow your soul to awaken and receive it.
- B. This gift is what we call salvation. God had initially created a world where He would be with us, walking with us, engaging with us, but because of the human desire for more, we allowed sin into the world. Because of our disobedient hearts, we deserve punishment. But our God is a God of love and you'll see that God always desires His people to come to Him. The only way we could be in a right relationship with Him is through a sacrifice- a payment for the wrongdoing of our sins. See sin isn't just breaking a list of dos and don'ts sin is breaking the relationship we were meant to have with God. We need payment, a solution, a sacrifice to heal that relationship.
- C. Jesus was that sacrifice. He was sent by God, born like every human, tempted like every human, and lived a life on this earth with complete obedience to God, something we could never accomplish. Because of this and His message of the Kingdom of God, those in power saw Him as a threat and sentenced Him to death on a cross; a death reserved for the worst criminals. He did all of this FOR YOU- so that you could once again live in and enjoy a relationship with the God who created and loves you. He suffered it all so that you would not have to live with an eternal punishment. Would you awaken your soul today and accept His gift?

### VI. Conclusion

- A. This Easter, why not adjust your perspective and view Jesus from a different angle? Yes, the Easter story does bring some amazing news but when we look at the details and recognize how much sadness there is in the Easter story, it makes Jesus' sacrifice worthy of even more celebration and praise.
- B. Palm Sunday is usually met with happy feelings, but the true nature of it is that Jesus entered into that city knowing it would be the last city on Earth he would step a human foot in. Wake up! He knew what he was doing, and He did it for you.
- C. Let's pray.

## Awaken Sermon Series | Session 1: From a Different Angle

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**Series Overview** | Do you know that feeling you get when something just “clicks?” When a school lesson hasn’t made sense but then one little point clears everything up? Or when you’re reading a book and one detail connects all of the dots from the previous chapters? Sometimes, when we look into the difficult parts of a story, we become more appreciative of the outcome. While Easter is a time to dress up in pastel colors, search for candy-filled eggs, and rejoice in Christ’s resurrection, we need to wake up and remember that there is a side to the Easter season that is dark, brutal, and filled with sadness. When we wake up to see Easter from a new perspective, we can rejoice more fully in what He has done for us.

**Large Group Teaching Summary** | Everyone has a specific perspective in which they view the world around them. At times, that perspective is so focused on one thing that everything else becomes blurry and we miss out on the fullness around us. It’s time to wake up, view everything around us without spiritual blindness, and see what God is revealing to us.

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**Key Takeaway** | When we widen our perspective, so much more is revealed.

**Scripture Focus** | Luke 19:28-48

### Awaken | Session 1 Discussion Questions

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You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and consider how these Biblical truths impact their often complicated and ever-changing lives.

#### Get Them Talking | An Optional Opening Question to Get Students Talking

1. Ask your students what good things are happening in their lives right now. Did they ace a test at school? Did they win an award? Is their family getting along? Get them talking and thinking about the good things we have in life because of God’s goodness. Nothing is too small to celebrate!
2. Ask students about their favorite Easter traditions in their homes.

#### Discussion Questions

1. Read Luke 19:28-40 What does this teach you about God? What does it teach you about yourself?
2. Reflect on a time when your perspective on a situation drastically changed once you saw it from a different angle. How did this change affect your understanding or response?
3. Why do we celebrate Jesus’ triumphal entry on Palm Sunday as part of our Christian calendar?
4. How do you typically respond to difficult emotions or situations in your life?
5. Discuss the concept of spiritual blindness mentioned in the sermon. How can someone be spiritually blind, and how might they get a clearer vision to see God at work in their life?
6. How does it change your view of Jesus to know He weeps over those who don’t know Him?
7. What areas in your life need adjusting so your perspective aligns more closely with God’s truth?
8. Think about Easter as a time of spiritual renewal and awakening. How can you embrace this season as an opportunity for personal growth and transformation in the days to come?