

Journey with the Rabbi

Week 1 Devotional — The Donkey and the Way of the Kingdom

This devotional workbook is designed to help you reflect on the humility of the Messiah as He entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Throughout Scripture the donkey appears at key moments in the story of redemption — from Abraham and Moses to the Messiah Himself. Use this guide for prayer, reflection, and journaling as you consider how God may be forming your heart for His kingdom.

Day 1 — The Burden

Old Testament: Isaiah 53:4

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

New Testament: Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Messiah.

Reflection

A donkey is a beast of burden. Its purpose is not glory, but service. It carries the weight others cannot. When the Messiah rode into Jerusalem, He did not simply ride a donkey—He came to carry the burdens of the world. The kingdom advances through people willing to carry the burdens of others.

Question

Am I willing to carry the emotional, spiritual, and practical burdens of others, or do I prefer comfort and self-protection? What burdens might God be asking me to carry right now?

Reflection Space

Day 2 — Unexpected Kingdom

Old Testament: Zechariah 9:9

Behold, your king comes to you; righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey.

New Testament: John 18:36

My kingdom is not of this world.

Reflection

Many expected the Messiah to arrive with military power. Instead He came riding a donkey. The kingdom of God often arrives in ways that contradict human expectations. The danger is not that God fails to act. The danger is that we fail to recognize Him when He does.

Question

Do I expect God to work in ways that align with my expectations, or am I willing to recognize Him even when He moves differently than I imagined?

Reflection Space

Day 3 — Recognizing God's Work

Old Testament: 1 Kings 19:12

And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

New Testament: Luke 19:41–42

As He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it and said, 'If you had known on this day what would bring you peace...'

Reflection

The crowds saw the donkey. But many did not understand what they were witnessing. God often moves quietly. Not with spectacle, but with subtlety. Not with noise, but with purpose.

Question

How often might God be moving in my life in ways I fail to recognize because I am looking for something more dramatic? Am I attentive to the quiet ways God works?

Reflection Space

Day 4 — Leadership in the Kingdom

Old Testament: Micah 6:8

What does the LORD require of you? To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.

New Testament: Matthew 20:26–28

Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant... just as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve.

Reflection

The world associates leadership with authority and power. But the Messiah leads through humility. A king rides a donkey. The kingdom of God is built not through domination, but through service.

Question

Do I measure leadership by influence and authority, or by service and sacrifice? What would it mean for my leadership to reflect the Messiah's donkey rather than the world's war horse?

Reflection Space

Day 5 — Availability

Old Testament: Isaiah 6:8

Here am I. Send me.

New Testament: Luke 19:30

You will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat.

Reflection

The donkey did not choose the moment of redemption. It simply made itself available to the Master. God often accomplishes extraordinary things through those who are simply available.

Question

If the Messiah wanted to ride into the world through my life today, would I be ready?

Reflection Space

Day 6 — Inner Transformation

Old Testament: Ezekiel 36:26

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you.

New Testament: Romans 12:2

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Reflection

Redemption begins within. Before the kingdom transforms the world, it transforms hearts. The Messiah did not simply come to overthrow systems. He came to renew people.

Question

Do I focus more on changing the world around me than on allowing God to change the heart within me?
What inner work might God be inviting me into right now?

Reflection Space

Day 7 — The Hidden Work of God

Old Testament: Zechariah 4:10

Do not despise the day of small beginnings.

New Testament: Matthew 27:60

He placed Him in a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.

Reflection

The story begins with an unused colt. It ends with an unused tomb. Both are humble. Both are unnoticed. Both are set apart for the purposes of God. God often accomplishes His greatest works through things the world considers small.

Question

Am I willing to serve faithfully even when my contribution goes unseen or unrecognized? What areas of my life does God desire to set apart for His purposes that I have not yet surrendered?

Reflection Space

Final Reflection

The donkey carried the King. The tomb could not hold Him. God often chooses what is humble, unnoticed, and set apart to carry the weight of His greatest purposes. The question the story leaves us with is not simply why the Messiah rode a donkey. The deeper question is this: Am I becoming the kind of person God can use to carry His kingdom into the world?
