

## **LOGOS—At home Bible Study for week of April 3, 2020**

### **Lent 6**

#### **Holy Week**

Scripture Reference: Matthew 21:1–11; 26:14–27:66

**Lesson Focus for younger children:** Jesus died on a cross.

#### **Intro conversation/activity**

How do we put things in order?

- We put numbers in order by arranging them from smallest to largest. Let's count to ten.
- We put letters in order by arranging them from first to last (if you have letter tiles have the kids put them in alphabetical order)
- We put stories in order by finding the beginning, middle, and end of a story.

Today we're reading two smaller stories that are part of a big story called Holy Week. Holy Week has lots of smaller stories in it. The beginning of Holy Week is much different from the middle of Holy Week. The middle of Holy Week is much different from the end of Holy Week. We want to be sure to put the stories of Holy Week in order because Holy Week was one of the most important times in Jesus' life. Today's two Bible stories, both have roads in them! One road is a road Jesus travels into Jerusalem. The other road is a road Jesus walks to the cross. The roads that Jesus walked were dusty roads. We're almost ready to get to the end of our Lent road. At the end of the Lent road is Easter. What happens on Easter? (Jesus rises from the dead to a new life.)

#### **Prayer**

Dear God,

Bless [Name] during Holy Week.

Help [him/her] to walk with Jesus.

Amen.

#### **Open the Bible:**

Today's two stories from our Spark Story Bibles: Palm Sunday and The Day Jesus Died. Both of these stories are part of a big story about Holy Week. The story of Holy Week is made of lots of smaller stories. All of these stories tell about what happened to Jesus and his disciples on Jesus' last week on earth, before he died on the cross. Let's read our two stories to learn more about this week.

Read Palm Sunday on pages 454–459.

Then read The Day Jesus Died on pages 476–481.

- If you don't have the Spark Story Bible, use the above scripture passages.

Talk about the order of events in the two stories. Consider having the kids draw a picture story (or colour and arrange the "Timelines in Faith" page below) .

Picture 1: shows Jesus riding a donkey on Palm Sunday.

Picture 2: people who are cheering for Jesus.

Picture 3: Jesus talking to some grumpy religious leaders.

Picture 4: Jesus carrying the cross.

Picture 5: people crying.

Picture 6: Three crosses on a hill.

Have a brief conversation about the stories. Ask the kids these questions?

1. What happened at the beginning of Holy Week?

- Jesus went to Jerusalem for Passover, Jesus asked someone to get him a donkey, Jesus rode in a parade.
2. What happened at the end of Holy Week?
    - Jesus died on a cross.)
  3. One way we get ready for Easter is to read the Bible stories about Holy Week. Talk about how your family gets ready for Easter.

### **Activity:**

#### Beautiful Crosses

Christians around the world put crosses in their churches and homes. Many Christians wear beautiful crosses as jewelry. Crosses show others that we are Christians, followers of Christ Jesus. Crosses remind us that Jesus died on a cross. Jesus also rose from the dead. The cross is empty! Jesus is risen!

Take time to look at some beautiful crosses (on-line, in books, around your home, on a walk). Spend a moment discussing each cross, what kind of material it is made out of and its location (inside, outside). Ask the kids which one is their favorite one.

#### Make a Cross

##### Supplies

- Mural/construction paper
- Markers
- 2 in (5 cm) colorful tissue paper squares
- Glue
- Masking tape
- Paper plates

Draw the outline of a cross on mural/construction paper and tape it on the wall of your room. Work together to make our own beautiful cross.

- Why is the empty cross beautiful to Christians? (Jesus died on the cross, but the empty cross reminds us that Jesus rose to a new life at Easter.)
- Let's cover our cross in flowers. Pour a thin layer of glue on a paper plate. Demonstrate all of these steps. First take a square of tissue paper. Put the tip of your pointer finger in the center of the square. Wrap the tissue paper around your finger. Dip the tissue paper covered tip of your finger into the glue. Then press the flower onto the cross. Hold your finger on the cross and count to ten before you remove it. Now it's your turn. Spread your little flowers all over the cross. Join with the kids as all of you glue tissue paper flowers to the cross. Find a place in your home to hang up your cross throughout the season of Easter.

### **Closing conversation/prayer:**

Today we learned about Holy Week. Holy Week started with Palm Sunday. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and the people shouted, "Hosanna!" Holy Week ended with Jesus dying on a cross.

#### Prayer Time

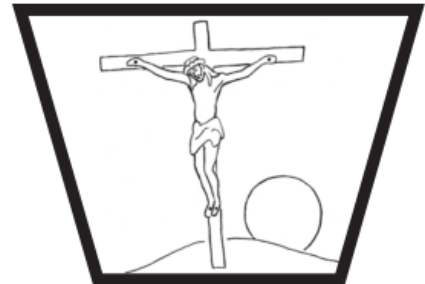
We can pray on our knees, like Jesus prayed before he went to the cross. We can say the prayer words that Jesus said to God. Let's all kneel. Repeat each line after me.

Please God,  
Make me strong.  
Help me trust you.

Amen.

# Timelines in Faith

During Holy Week we follow Jesus on his journey to the cross. Remembering his journey helps us remember the sacrifice Jesus made for our sins and his blessed resurrection. Color these pictures of events that happened during Holy Week. Then cut them out and put them in order from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection.



# Complicated Calendars

Many important things happen during Holy Week. Put the important events we celebrate this week on the calendar. You can write, use pictures, or both!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY



**EASTER  
SUNDAY**



**MAUNDY  
THURSDAY**



**GOOD  
FRIDAY**



**PALM  
SUNDAY**



**SATURDAY  
EASTER  
VIGIL**

## Lesson Focus for older children: A heavy day; a holy way.

### Intro

Why do we make the sign of the cross? What does that have to do with this week in the church year?

Then get more specific with questions like,

- What do you think the word "holy" means? (Accept all answers, steer toward "God-like.")
- When we remember our baptisms this way, or during baptisms, what makes the water we use holy? Us? Magic?
- Do you think of it as holy time when we gather in this space? Why or why not?
- Can someone act in a holy way? (yes) What does that look like?

Today we're hearing about a time that wasn't a happy one for Jesus, his followers, or even us. It was so serious that we still take the time to think about it today. Pay attention today to the way people in our story respond to heavy times.

### Pray the hymn: "My song is love unknown"

My song is love unknown,  
My Savior's love to me;  
Love to the loveless shown,  
That they might lovely be.  
O who am I,  
That for my sake  
My Lord should take  
Frail flesh, and die?

2

He came from His blest throne  
Salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange, and none  
The longed-for Christ would know:  
But oh, my Friend,  
My Friend indeed,  
Who at my need  
His life did spend.

3

Sometimes they strew His way,  
And His sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day  
Hosannas to their King:  
Then "Crucify!"  
Is all their breath,  
And for His death  
They thirst and cry.

4

They rise and needs will have  
My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save,  
The Prince of life they slay.  
Yet cheerful He  
To suffering goes,  
That He His foes  
From thence might free.

5

In life, no house, no home  
My Lord on earth might have;  
In death, no friendly tomb,  
But what a stranger gave.  
What may I say?  
Heav'n was His home;  
But mine the tomb  
Wherein He lay.

6

Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine;  
Never was love, dear King,  
Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my Friend,  
In whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
Could gladly spend.

### Open the Bible

#### Holy Week Story

Ask kids to find Matthew 21 on page 1084 and Matthew 26 on page 1092 in the Spark Bible (or the same passages in your home Bible).

Read each passage below carefully and write down any situation where Jesus is worried, troubled, or otherwise mistreated, and how he responds to those situations. Feel free to divide the reading amongst family members and then gather to share what you have read.

Suggested text sections?

- Matthew 21:1–11
- Matthew 26:14–30
- Matthew 26:26–35
- Matthew 26:36–56
- Matthew 26:57–68
- Matthew 26:69–75
- Matthew 27:1–23
- Matthew 27:24–31
- Matthew 27:32–44
- Matthew 27:45–56
- Matthew 27:57–66

This will take some time, but once each person is finished, gather together, and then share the outline of today's story, in order.

- Consider completing the above "Timelines in Faith" activity page.

It's becoming obvious that today's story isn't necessarily a happy one. But it's important that we keep moving through it. After all, that's what Jesus did, too!

Have a conversation. Consider the following questions:

1. What makes someone a king? Is it the clothes they wear, or the things they do?
  - Clothes might remind us that someone is a king, but real kings act like kings.
2. Jesus was, and is, the best king ever, because he was a holy king. What did Jesus do in today's story that makes him unlike other kings?
  - He sacrifices himself.
3. To someone who didn't know who Jesus was, how do you think these events would have looked?
4. How can we remember that Jesus is both the human, who experienced the things we drew here, and the Holy King, who deserves better things than we could ever think of?
  - A lot of what makes something "holy" has to do with how we act in different circumstances. That's called "context." The thing that makes Jesus' actions so holy in today's story is the fact that he still treated people with love when he was being betrayed, mocked, and even killed. That's a holy way.
5. How might today's story have changed if the disciples had failed to do what Jesus asked them?
6. How did Jesus know he could trust his friends?

Now let's read Matthew 28:7 and 28:10. (Spoiler alert!)

We see that before Jesus dies, he keeps sending his disciples ahead of him. But it looks like next week, we'll hear a story where Jesus goes ahead of the disciples.

- Why do you think this is?

### **CRAFT:**

#### **Reversed Pictures**

Kids use black construction paper and chalk to create a picture of the crucifixion as they remember, "a heavy day; a holy way."

Supplies:

- Black construction paper
- Chalk
- Clear contact paper (optional)

**Instructions:**

A lot happened to Jesus the day he died. It was a dark day, and a sad time for all the people who loved him. Even though Jesus was sad, he knew that what happened to him was all part of God's plan, and he followed what God wanted him to do. He wants to help us follow God's plan, too. That's part of being holy, and Jesus wants to help us be holy.

Draw a picture of Jesus' death. Since it was such a dark day, you are going to use black construction paper. But since Jesus is the light of the world, even in his death, you'll draw the picture with white chalk.

1. Invite kids to draw the three crosses on a hill.
2. Ask them to pick a verse or portion of a verse from the story and write it beneath the hill.

In the sad stories of Holy Week, remember that even on a heavy day, Jesus went a holy way.

**Closing Conversation and Prayer:**

I wish I could leave you with a happy ending this week. But Jesus' followers didn't know Easter was coming—I bet they felt awful.

How do you think the disciples made it through the days after Jesus died?

- Where did they turn when they felt alone? (to each other, their families)
- When things get really heavy, what people has God given you to talk to?
- Who is a "holy person" in your life who has a lot of good answers?

**Closing Prayer**

Matthew 26:36-44 New International Version (NIV)

Gethsemane

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup> He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

<sup>39</sup> Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

<sup>40</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. <sup>41</sup> "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

<sup>42</sup> He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

<sup>43</sup> When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing

Amen.

# Sunday Sudoku

Can you fill in this Sudoku with things that remind us of Holy Week? Remember, every row, line, and mini-box must contain one of each picture!

