

Lesson #2-30***Palm Sunday and Holy Week***

Mark 11:1-11; 15:16-39

**Key Verse:**

“Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Mark 11:10

Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way [Jesus] breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

Mark 15:39

The Point:

We can celebrate Jesus, the king.

Unit Theme (March 29—April 12)

God’s Triumph

Holy Week Stations

Experience prayer stations based on the story.

Supplies:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| † Bibles | † Large bowl of warm water |
| † Bookmarks | † Towel |
| † Activity Sheet | † Red wine vinegar |
| † Scissors | † Small cups |
| † Tea light candles | † Strips of white paper |
| † Dish | † Marker |
| † Leaves or branches | † Push pins or tape |
| † Squares of cloth | † Large cross |
| † Bowl of fragrant liquid soap | † Stones |
| | † Optional: music player |

Holy Week Stations

Experience prayer stations based on the story

Preparation:

1. Set up the stations as described below.
2. Stations can done one per day as household devotions or all at the same time, repeating the activity as often as you would like.
3. Adapt the items and process to best fit the number, ages, and abilities of the participants as well as accessibility of supplies.

Instructions:

1. **This week we begin Holy Week, starting on Palm Sunday. Holy Week tells the story of Jesus' last days.**
2. **When you arrive at a station, have someone read the Bible passage and questions aloud. Then, spend time in quiet reflection. Immerse yourself in the story of Jesus' passion.**
3. Turn on some quiet music, if desired.

Setup

Place tea light candles at each station. Light candles and start the music.

Set out a Bible with bookmarks for each story.

Print out each of the Holy Week Station Signs on the following pages on a separate piece of card stock, cutting them into individual pieces. Place one at each station.

Triumphal Entry (Palm Sunday)

Dish to hold the leaves or branches
Leaves or small branches (this can even be flat-leaf parsley) for each participant

Anointed at Bethany (Monday)

Squares of cloth for each participant
Bowl of fragrant liquid soap

Foot Washing (Tuesday)

Large bowl of warm water
Towel

The Last Supper (Wednesday)

No additional materials

Garden of Gethsemane (Maundy Thursday)

Red wine vinegar
Small cups for each participant

Trial and Crucifixion (Good Friday)

Strips of white paper for each participant
Marker
Push pins or tape
Large cross

The Closed Tomb (Holy Saturday)

Stones

Holy Week Stations

Experience prayer stations based on the story

Triumphal Entry

Mark 11:1-11

The people are very excited about Jesus' arrival. However, they may have been expecting a warrior to free the Jewish people from the Roman Empire. What they expected they would not receive.

Have you ever expected one thing but got another? What do you know about Jesus that is unexpected?

After you meditate on or discuss these questions, take a leaf from the dish,
and place it on the table in front of you.

Anointed at Bethany

Mark 14:3-9

When the woman poured the expensive ointment over Jesus' head, she may have been anointing him as the Messiah. Or she may have been preparing him for burial. Or she may have been doing both. In any case, her act showed extravagant love and devotion.

What is most valuable to you? How can you anoint Jesus with it?

After you meditate on or discuss these questions, take a square of cloth and dip it in the soap. Think about how the woman showed her love for Jesus shamelessly. Take the cloth with you as a reminder to express your love for Jesus in your own unique, but shameless way.

Foot Washing

John 13:1-15

Jesus turned the tables. He reversed roles and showed his disciples how to really lead—as a humble servant.

What do you think is more difficult—serving or being served?

What makes this difficult for you?

After you meditate on or discuss these questions, if you are with someone else, take a moment to wash one another's hands or feet. If you are alone, place a hand or foot in the water, and imagine the Son of God sitting at your feet, serving you. Go and do likewise.

Holy Week Stations

Experience prayer stations based on the story

The Last Supper

Luke 22:14-20

Jesus gives us a gift to remember him by, a ritual of bread and wine. Whether we eat and drink or not, he has given us a new covenant, a promise of forgiveness of sins and everlasting, unconditional love.

What helps you remember Jesus' great love for you? When do you feel included in God's family?

Say a prayer for people who feel or who are excluded.

Garden of Gethsemane

Mark 14:32-42

Jesus was willing to die, even death on a cross. He chose to drink from the cup of suffering because it was God's will.

Are you willing to suffer for others? Are you willing to do God's will, even when it is painful?

After you meditate on or discuss these questions, pray for those who are suffering in our community and around the world. Take a sip from the cup.

Crucifixion

Mark 15:21-41

Jesus died for you.

Write or draw a prayer of confession on the strip of paper.
Pray over it and pin or tape it to the cross. Let go and embrace the meaning of the cross.

Your sins are forgiven. Forever.

The Closed Tomb

Mark 15:42-47

Jesus' death was real and so was the sadness and fear of his followers.

When have you been sad or afraid? What brings you comfort?

After you meditate on or discuss these questions, hold a stone in your hand. Pray for those who are sad or scared.