

Lesson #3-28

Holy Week

Luke 19:29-40; 22:1-6, 14-23; 23:32-47



Key Verse:

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Luke 19:38

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

Luke 23:46

The Point:

We celebrate Jesus as our savior, who suffers and dies for us.



Introduction

Jesus enters Jerusalem where a large crowd cheers his arrival. The crowds that gather include some Pharisees, religious leaders who are troubled by the disciples' cries. They tell Jesus to order the crowd to stop, but he refuses, claiming that even the rocks would shout out his praises. Judas conspires with the Pharisees and betrays Jesus for money.

While celebrating Passover with his disciples, Jesus tells them about the events that will come, including his betrayal and crucifixion. This is the Last Supper that we remember in our celebration of Holy Communion.

As he is dying on the cross, the two men being crucified with him take different views of what is happening. One mocks Jesus, while the other seeks forgiveness from him. Those who encounter Jesus realize that they are encountering God.

The Point

We celebrate Jesus as our savior, who suffers and dies for us. After the long journey to the cross, Jesus has finally reached the end of the road. He must have been in mourning and heart-heavy at the events he knew lay ahead, yet he maintained his commitment to the journey. The excitement of the disciples does not change his self-awareness or his mercy, even as he faces his death.

Activities a la Carte

Activities

Supplies

Introduction

Happy Times, Sad Times

Jesus experienced joy and sorrow, too.

10 min.

- † Large sheet of paper
- † Markers or crayons

Learning the Story

A Messiah's Final Week

Dive into the story of Jesus' last week.

15 min.

- † Bibles
- † Pens or pencils
- † Optional: Activity Sheet #3-28.A

Activities

From Colt to Cross

Learn to fold palms into crosses.

10 min.

- † Activity Sheet #3-28.B
- † Palm fronds
- † Optional: large sheets of green construction paper, scissors

Shouting Stones

Decorate stones with words of praise and hope.

10 min.

- † Smooth decorative stones, or egg cartons cut into single cups
- † Permanent markers
- † Optional: acrylic paints and brushes

Prayer

God's Story @ Home



Introduction (10 minutes)

Happy Times, Sad Times

Jesus experienced joy and sorrow, too.

Supplies:

- † Large sheet of paper
- † Markers or crayons

Preparation:

1. Draw two columns on the paper. Draw a sad face at the top of one column and a happy face at the top of the other.

Instructions:

1. **The story this week moves from joy and celebration to sadness and betrayal. Life is filled with both feelings. To begin our time together, we will draw some things in our lives that make us happy and sad. On the large sheet of paper, you see two columns: one with a happy face and one with a sad face. Draw simple figures or symbols to represent your stories in each column.**
2. Give everyone time to work.
3. When they are finished, invite them to share the meaning of some of their drawings. Do not force or require this sharing time; allow those who wish to speak to do so.
4. **It seems hard to imagine that Jesus also had both sad and happy times in his life. Today we will hear the story of just one week that includes a large range of emotions for Jesus and those who follow him.**

Learning the Story (15 minutes)

A Messiah's Final Week

Dive into the story of Jesus' last week.

Supplies:

- † Bibles
- † Pens or pencils
- † Optional: Activity Sheet #3-28.A

Preparation:

1. Optional: Make one copy of Activity Sheet #3-28.A for each participant.

Instructions:

1. **In the first section of today's story, Jesus makes a grand march into Jerusalem while his disciples hail him as king—but many parts of this story do not match our expectations. As we read through the story, take notes about things that surprise you or that you think might have surprised the people of Jesus' day.**
2. Ask for a volunteer (or volunteers) to read the story from Luke 19:29-40.
3. After the reading, discuss what everyone noticed that was surprising or that did not match expectations. Invite them to highlight or draw symbols in their Bibles, using smiling faces, exclamation marks, or sad faces to help them remember their response. Questions to aid the discussion can include:
 - **How do you think the owners of the colt felt?**
 - **What about Jesus' march into Jerusalem seems like a "normal" parade? What seems different?**
 - **How do you think the Pharisees felt about Jesus' statement about the rocks?**
 - **Jesus' journey to the cross is surprising. He makes a lot of choices that upset people, or confuse them, but also that heal and free them. Jesus does not make his choices just to be different. Jesus is different because his way is the way of love.**
4. **We have read the story of Jesus' grand march into Jerusalem while his disciples hail him as king, but many parts of that story did not match our expectations. The same thing happens as we move further into**

the story of Holy Week. Again, as we read through the story, write down things that surprise you or that you think might have surprised the people of Jesus' day.

5. Ask for a volunteer (or volunteers) to read the story from Luke 22:1-6, 14-23; 23:32-47.
6. After the reading, discuss what they noticed that was surprising or that did not match expectations. Questions to aid the discussion can include:
 - **Do you think the disciples understood the real meaning of Jesus' words at the Passover meal?**
 - **How do you think the two criminals on the crosses felt?**
 - **What do you think convinced the Roman centurion that Jesus was the Son of God?**



Activity (10 minutes)

From Colt to Cross

Learn to fold palms into crosses.

Supplies:

- † Activity Sheet #3-28.B
- † Palm fronds
- † Optional: large sheets of green construction paper, scissors

Preparation:

1. Get palm fronds from your church or a garden center, or cut large green paper into strips, one for each person plus extra in case of mistakes. The strips should be at least 18 inches long, tapering from one half inch at the wide end to a point at the other.
2. Make copies of Activity Sheet #3-28.B.

Instructions:

1. **On Palm Sunday, in many cultures, it is tradition to receive a palm frond to remember the glorious procession of Jesus into Jerusalem. Today we are going to make palm fronds (or construction paper fronds) into palm crosses.**
2. Distribute Activity Sheet #3-28.B.
3. **Follow the diagrams on the activity sheet to fold your frond into a cross. It can be tricky, so we will do it together.**
4. Demonstrate by folding your own frond into a cross, step by step. After everyone has completed their crosses, wrap up the activity: **These palm crosses will dry nicely, so find a place where you can keep it as a constant reminder that Jesus is our king!**

Activity (10 minutes)

Shouting Stones

Decorate stones with words of praise and hope.

Supplies:

- † Smooth decorative stones, or egg cartons cut into single cups
- † Permanent markers
- † Optional: acrylic paints and brushes

Instructions:

1. **Jesus claims if the disciples were silent that the stones would shout out. What would the stones want to shout out about the Son of God? Take a stone (or an egg cup that represents a stone) to decorate and a marker. What praises or hopes will your stone say about the Son of God?**
2. Allow time to decorate stones. As they decorate, discuss the following questions:
 - **If these stones had been on the ground when this story was happening what words or phrases do you think they would have heard?**
 - **Why were the crowds so excited to see Jesus?**
3. Place the stones where they will see them each day as a reminder that we, too, can praise Jesus every day.



Prayer

Before ending, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

God of our hopes and praises, we turn to you in celebration as your Son enters the holy city of Jerusalem. Yet with him we also weep, knowing that your Son is facing the final steps in his journey to the cross. As we gather in this holy week for worship, be with us, and walk with us in all our days. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

If you have the “Living the Word: Sharing God’s Story @ Home” sheet, remember to use it throughout the week as a part of your family devotions!

A Messiah's Final Week

Dive into the story of Jesus' last week.

Luke 19:29-40 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴ They said, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying,

“Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!”

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.”

⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

A Messiah's Final Week

Dive into the story of Jesus' last week.

Luke 22:1-6 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹ Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. ² The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.

³ Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; ⁴ he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. ⁵ They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. ⁶ So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

Luke 22:14-23

¹⁴ When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶ for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸ for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹ But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. ²² For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" ²³ Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

A Messiah's Final Week

Dive into the story of Jesus' last week.

Luke 23:32-47

³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent."

From Colt to Cross

Learn to fold palms into crosses.

