

Holy Week at Home



Church Publishing, Inc. is offering a wonderful, free download of Holy Week prayers, activities and coloring pages here: https://issuu.com/churchpublishing/docs/holy_week_activities_for_families_final

You may also want to make a “Holy Week Box” to observe these last days of Lent. *This Holy Week box is adapted from a resource developed by Linda LeBron, Camille LeBron Powell, Mary Hawes, and Day Smith Pritchatt, and another by Sharon Ely Pearson. The Holy Week clipart is from clipart.co*

Holy Week in a Box

Nine items will help you tell the story of Holy Week when you’re at home. You might need to be creative with your objects. (Making substitutions is OK!) Gather all your objects (it’s like a scavenger hunt) and put them in the box. You’ll want (something like):

- a small box (a cardboard jewelry box that you can draw on would be ideal) plus a marker
- a small wooden figure or a clothespin doll or a Lego person
- a leaf, cut from green paper or found in your yard (it can be any shape but it represents a palm leaf)
- a feather
- a piece of glass, or a glass marble
- a coin
- a pipe cleaner
- a rock
- flowers (you can wait to pick them or draw them on Easter)

Choose a place in your house to display your box, like a table or a windowsill. You might want to use a cloth or construction paper as an underlay. (You can change the colors as suggested.) Or you might want to use the box as your base.

After you read the Bible story each day, you can wonder with your family and then say the Lord’s Prayer together.

Palm Sunday



If you want to put a piece of cloth or construction paper in your space, use red - the liturgical color for **Palm Sunday**. Put a **leaf** on top.

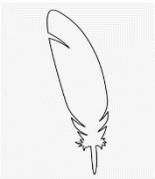
It's Palm Sunday. The people cut down palms and cheered as Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Read:

Mark 11:1-10 in the Bible translation of your choice or
"The True King" in The Beginner's Bible (p. 427) or
"Jesus Enters Jerusalem" in The Children's Illustrated Bible (p. 256)

Wonder: How can we welcome Jesus into our lives and homes?

Monday



If you are using a cloth or piece of paper to anchor you space, change it to purple, the color of Lent. Add a feather to the underlying cloth.

When Jesus came to Jerusalem, he went into the Temple. There were people selling things like pigeons, treating the temple like a market. They were cheating others out of their money. Jesus was very angry.

Read:

Mark 11:15-19 or
"Jesus and the Temple Traders" in The Children's Illustrated Bible (p. 258)

Wonder: Some people might be worried about money right now. Some people are not able to work. Your family probably isn't shopping as much as it did a few months ago. How can we use our money wisely, yet generously?

Tuesday



Put a piece of glass on the cloth. The glass represents an expensive drop of perfumed oil. The cloth or paper is still purple.

Jesus' friends loved him very much. They wanted him to be well-fed and cared for. They also knew something might happen to him. His friend Mary anointed Jesus' feet with expensive perfume.

Read John 12:1-8 or

"A Gift for Jesus" in The Beginner's Bible (p. 423) or

"Judas Plots to Betray Jesus" in The Children's Illustrated Bible (p.261)

Wonder: How do you honor and care for people you love?

Wednesday



Place the coin on the purple cloth or on the box. Jesus watched people in the Temple giving money to God. Some made a big show of giving lots of money. But one person didn't.

Read her story in Mark 12:41-44.

Read "A Poor Widow's Gift" in The Beginner's Bible (p. 433)

Wonder: How can we give to God's kingdom?

Maundy Thursday

If you have a small box you can draw on, use your marker to draw a plate and a cup (or chalice) on the lid. You could also use clay to make a plate and cup. The box will be your table. You could also use dollhouse furniture, or build a table from Legos. Place your figure by the table. The figure is Jesus.



Today we remember the last Passover meal Jesus had with his friends.

Read Mark 14:12-25 or

Read "Washing the Disciples' Feet" and "The Last Supper" in The Beginner's Bible (p. 437) or

Read "Preparing for the Passover" and "The Last Supper" in The Children's Illustrated Bible (p. 262)

Wonder: How do we remember this meal?

Good Friday



The religious leaders wanted to get rid of Jesus. They told lies about him. Jesus was arrested. It was a very sad day, because the authorities put Jesus to death on a cross. Make a cross out of the pipe cleaner and place it with the Jesus figure in front of the box. Change your cloth underlay to black.

Read Mark 15:1, 15, 22-25, 37, 39 or

Read "Jesus is Arrested and Crucified" in The Beginner's Bible (p. 446) or

Read pages 266 – 275 in The Children's Illustrated Bible

Wonder: How do we see Jesus loving us through the cross?

Saturday

This is the day when Jesus is in the tomb. Put all the objects in the box and place the rock on top, so the lid can't be opened. The disciples were so sad. They didn't think they would ever see Jesus again.

When you are sad, what makes you feel better?

Easter Sunday



Today is the day we feel joy, joy, joy! We shout "Alleluia! The Lord is Risen!" The women went to the tomb and found the stone that had covered it was rolled away. The tomb was empty. Open the box and fill it with flowers, either picked from your yard or drawn with markers.

With your family, sing "I've got that Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in my Heart!" Or sing the Echo song and really shout the "Alleluia"! This is an Easter unlike any we have known but we *do know* that God loves us. God loves us so much that Jesus came to earth to live among God's people. Jesus died and on the third day rose again. That's why we say:

Alleluia! He is Risen! The Lord is Risen indeed!