



Holy Week at Home



*every day, open the envelope and follow the
instructions with your family*

**CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK WITH STORIES,
ACTIVITIES, AND SPECIAL OBJECTS**

ADAPTED, WITH PERMISSION, FROM THE WORK OF LAURA NILE

Palm Sunday

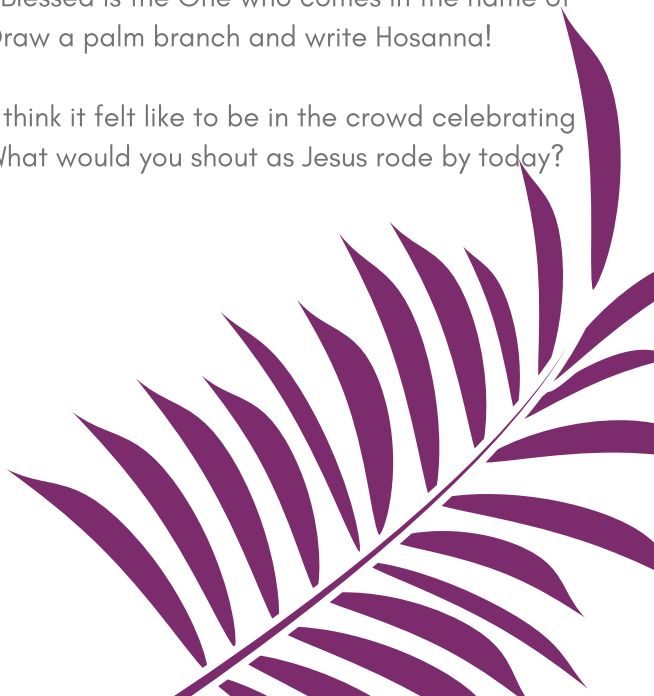
Read: Mark 11:1-10

Item: Green Branches

Listen: Today we remember when Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people cheered and celebrated by putting their coats on the road before him. Others cut branches from trees nearby and spread them on the road before him.

Do: Cut some branches from trees around your house or your yard. Shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord." Draw a palm branch and write Hosanna!

Ask: What do you think it felt like to be in the crowd celebrating Jesus that day? What would you shout as Jesus rode by today?



Holy Monday

Read: Mark 11:11

Item: Pencil and paper

Listen: When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, he went to the temple and looked closely at everything, and then he went to his friend's house in Bethany to spend the night.

Do: Look around your house or yard. What do you see? Are there things there that remind you of God? Write a list or draw some pictures of what you see when you look around your house, yard or neighborhood. Circle what reminds you of God.

Ask: What do you notice when you look closely? What do you think Jesus noticed in the temple? What do you remember noticing about our church building?



Holy Tuesday

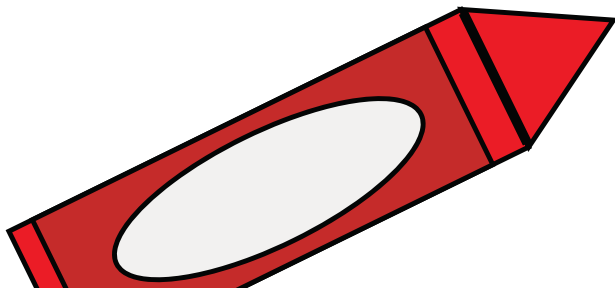
Read: Mark 11:15-19

Item: Red Crayon

Listen: On Tuesday, Jesus went to the Holy Temple and saw that instead of worshipping God, people were using it as a store. They were selling things that made it seem like you had to have enough money to *really* worship God the right way. Jesus flipped over all the tables and cleared it for worship again.

Do: Color your paper as hard as you can with your red crayon. Cover as much of the paper as you can.

Ask: How do you think Jesus felt when he flipped over the tables? How do you think the money changers felt? How do you think the poor people felt who were there? How would you have felt? When do you feel angry?



Holy Wednesday

Read: Mark 14:10-11

Item: Gold Coins

Listen: One of Jesus' friends, Judas, did something terrible to Jesus. He took money from the people who wanted to hurt Jesus and in exchange, he handed Jesus over to them to be killed. He loved money more than he loved his friend and it destroyed him.

Do: Ask your parents about how you can give money to people who need it right now. When we give our money away to others, we use money to help instead of for greed, like Judas did.

Ask: Have you ever had a friend hurt your feelings? What did that feel like? Were you able to become friends again afterward? How do you think Jesus felt when his friend hurt him? How does it feel to give your allowance or birthday money away?



Maundy Thursday

Read: John 13:1-17,31b-35

Item: Soap and water

Listen: Jesus shared a very special Passover meal with his friends. As they sat down, Jesus got up and got a bucket of water and towel to wash his disciples' dirty, dusty feet. They couldn't believe that their teacher would get so dirty for them.

Do: Right now washing our hands is part of caring for ourselves and others. Wash your mom or dad's hands and then wash your own again. Sing "Jesus Love You" as you wash each other's hands.

Ask: What does it feel like to wash a grown-ups hands? Why is it important to wash our hands? How do you think Jesus' friends felt when Jesus washed their feet?



Good Friday

Read: Psalm 22:1-2, Mark 15:25-39

Item: Holding Cross

Listen: Today is the saddest day of our year. Even though Jesus had done nothing wrong, the people hurt him, laughed at and teased him, and put him on the cross to die. While he was dying, Jesus said some of the words from Psalm 22 about feeling like God had abandoned him. There on the cross, Jesus died.

Do: Hold on to your little cross while you listen to the Bible story. After the story, choose a room in your house and cover the windows with paper, darkening the room. Leave the windows covered until Sunday morning.

Ask: How does today's story make you feel? Sad? Angry? Confused? Why do we call it Good Friday if it is such a sad day? What makes you feel better when you are sad?

Holy Saturday

Read: John 19:38-42

Item: Seeds

Listen: On Saturday, we remember that Jesus lay in the tomb this whole day. But the next day, the first person who saw him thought he was a gardener. For thousands of years, Christians have celebrated today by gardening.

Do: Plant your flower seeds in your yard or in a pot of dirt in your house. Remember to water them until they sprout up and produce beautiful flowers. While you're at it, ask your parents if it's okay to pull some weeds in your yard!

Ask: Do you like getting your hands dirty in the garden? Why do you think Mary thought Jesus was a gardener on Easter morning? What do you think he was wearing?



Easter Sunday

Read: Matthew 28:1-10

Item: Sidewalk Chalk

Listen: Christ Has Risen!! This is the best news of all-- death is not the most powerful thing in the world-- God's love is! We call this Good News "The Gospel" and it's the reason that we celebrate even when life seems like it is its very darkest. God's love has defeated sin and death and so today we celebrate!

Do: Tear the paper off the windows and let the morning light in! Decorate the sidewalk in front of your house with the Good News that Christ has risen from the dead!

Ask: What is your favorite kind of celebration? How does this Easter feel different than other years? How can you share the good news today?

