JESUS IN JERUSALEM

BIBLE VERSE
Not long before it was time for Jesus to be taken up to heaven, he made up his mind to go to Jerusalem.
(Luke 9:51, CEV)

BIBLE STORY REFERENCE
Mark 11–16

MAIN IDEA
In his final days, which we call Holy Week, Jesus went to Jerusalem to teach people through his words and actions just how much God loves us and to show people what it means to follow God.

OBJECTIVES
Children will

- hear the events of Holy Week according to the timeline used in the Gospel of Mark;
- learn how the events of Holy Week teach us more about Jesus and what it means to follow God;
- recognize how Jesus’ life teaches us about God’s love for us;
- connect the stories from the Gospels with the traditional Holy Week celebrations in the church today.
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BIBLE STORY

Mark 11–16

All four Gospels tell the stories of the last week of Jesus’ life. Only the Gospel of Mark, though, outlines the Holy Week events day by day.

Sunday—Jesus traveled from Bethany and the Mount of Olives and entered Jerusalem to crowds cheering, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” Along the way, the people placed cloaks and branches on the path before him and welcomed him as the promised Messiah from the line of David.

Monday—Jesus returned from Bethany (where he stayed at night) to Jerusalem and went to the Temple to teach. He cleared out the moneychangers from the Outer Court of the Temple.

Tuesday—Jesus taught in the Temple porticoes in Jerusalem. He answered questions from the Pharisees, taught about the greatest commandment, and praised a poor widow for giving more than anyone else did to the Temple offering boxes. Later, Jesus taught his disciples on the Mount of Olives.

Wednesday—Jesus remained in Bethany at the house of Simon, a leper whom he had cured. While he was there eating a meal, he was anointed with oil by an unidentified woman.

Thursday—Jesus went to an upper room of a home in Jerusalem to eat the Passover meal with his disciples. After the meal, he went to the garden of Gethsemane with his disciples to pray. There he was arrested. He was taken to the house of Caiaphas, the high priest, to be tried.

Friday—Jesus was moved from the house of the high priest to the home of the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, where he was questioned by Pilate. Jesus was beaten and then taken to Golgotha to be crucified. Jesus died and was buried in a tomb near Golgotha.

Saturday—Jesus remained buried in the tomb.

Sunday—Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary, the mother of James, went to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body, and they discovered that the tomb was empty. Jesus was alive!

BIBLE BACKGROUND

The stories about the events of the last days of Jesus’ life take up large portions of each Gospel. This unit will not address the events of the week as separate events. Instead, this unit will address the events of Holy Week as a single journey, the story of Jesus’ journey through Jerusalem to the cross and the Resurrection. Various events from the week will be studied in light of how each event served as a step in Jesus’ journey to the cross that began long before Holy Week. To see this, consider the Bible verse chosen to represent the heart of the lesson: “Not long before it was time for Jesus to be taken up to heaven, he made up his mind to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51, CEV).
This verse is 10 chapters and some months before Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Holy Week was the climax of Jesus’ lifelong journey to prove to the world that there are no limits to the bounds of God’s love.

Jesus’ humble entry into Jerusalem on Sunday showed he came as a Messiah of peace sharing God’s love, not as a conquering king. When he overturned the tables of the moneychangers on Monday, Jesus showed that God’s love is not a commodity to be bought and sold. Instead, God’s love is available to all who are willing to worship and give thanks to God.

During the middle days of Holy Week, Jesus preached against hypocritical leaders who taught that God’s love was only for some. Jesus told people that the greatest thing they could do was to love God and others the way God wanted them to do.

Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples on Thursday. Jesus told the disciples they should love and serve one another. After the meal, Jesus gave the disciples a way to remember God’s love with the passing of the bread and the cup. Later, before he was arrested, Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane and committed himself to following God’s will in order to show the depths of God’s love to the world.

On Friday, Jesus laid down his life so that the world would know that nothing, not even our sins, can ever separate the world from the love of God. Sunday morning, Jesus was raised from the dead to prove that not even death could stop the love of God.

During the events of the week, Jesus could have turned and left at any point. Jesus did not have to go to Jerusalem; Jesus chose to go. On the night he was arrested, Jesus could have easily left and escaped into the desert. Gethsemane was on the Mount of Olives outside the city, minutes from the desert where Jesus and his disciples could have gone and hidden.

Jesus did not run. Jesus did not hide. Jesus did not use the full power of God to attack his enemies. Instead, step by step, Jesus journeyed through his last days in Jerusalem standing up for the truth about God’s love. He submitted to the plans, plots, and hateful acts of his enemies to prove that God’s love, in the end, is stronger than any act of hatred. Jesus’ journey through Jerusalem showed that God’s love was bigger than anything that stood against it, even the sins of all humanity.

CHECK YOUR FACTS

❑ The story of Jesus’ journey through Holy Week is found in all four Gospels. Matthew 21–28, Mark 11–16, Luke 19–24, and John 12–21 are the chapters that deal with the stories of Holy Week and Easter.

❑ Church traditions about Holy Week come from a melding of the stories found in all four Gospels.
The traditions of Palm Sunday come from combining texts from different passages in the Gospels.

The traditions of Holy Thursday, or Maundy Thursday, come from a combination of the Gospels as well. Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell the story of Jesus passing the cup and the bread as a way to remember the love of Jesus. John tells the story of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples and telling the disciples to love and serve one another by doing the same.

Mark is the only Gospel to give a day-by-day account of the events of Jesus’ last days on earth.

The Gospel of Luke indicates that it was Jesus’ plan to go to Jerusalem to face the events of his final days long before he actually did so.

Although Jesus spent the days of his final week in Jerusalem, he returned to Bethany, located just a few miles from Jerusalem, each night to spend the night.

Every day of his last week, with the exception of Wednesday, Jesus went into Jerusalem to teach his followers or others willing to listen about the true nature of God’s love and God’s kingdom.

Typically, there are six major stories emphasized as part of Holy Week: Jesus entering Jerusalem, Jesus overturning the tables of the moneychangers, Jesus eating the Last Supper with his disciples, Jesus being arrested and tried, Jesus dying on the cross, and the Resurrection.

Many common stories that we do not always associate with Holy Week, such as the story of the widow’s offering and the story of the greatest commandment, actually happened during this week when Jesus was teaching in the Temple.

**ABOUT THE CHILDREN**

Since many of the stories of Holy Week deal with the buildup to the cross, children may have a difficult time understanding why Jesus died. Rather than offering simple answers, allow the children to explore how Jesus’ actions showed the world the depth of God’s love. Avoid generalizing statements, such as “Jesus had to die.” Do not assign blame to any group of people for the death of Jesus. Instead, help the children see that Jesus chose to go to Jerusalem that week and chose to go to the cross because Jesus knew that the empty tomb would be on the other side of the story.

**Younger Children**

Avoid emphasizing stories of anguish and suffering with young children. Choose instead to focus on how Jesus showed just how much God loved the world through the things he did during the last week of his life.
Older Children

Older children have more questions about the dark side of Holy Week. Emphasize that Jesus chose the path he did. At any time, including on the way to Gethsemane and just before his arrest, Jesus could have left Jerusalem and escaped. Instead Jesus chose to show God’s love through his willingness to die and then rise again on Easter.

SHEPHERD TIPS

- Pray each week for the children under your care.
- Model the behavior you want from the children.
- Read the Talk Tips in each of the station plans and support the station leader in helping the children explore the ideas of the unit.
- Make sure the children use tools and equipment in a safe manner.
- Talk to the church school superintendent or coordinator if you have any questions or concerns about the children in your care.
- If you do not have a Gathering Time, consider using the Gathering Time devotionals as an opening with your groups in the stations.

Greet the Children

Help with nametags.
Thank the children for remembering to bring their offerings. Have the children place their offerings in the offering basket.
Take attendance. Note any children who are absent. Make plans to send absent children a note or card. Record names, addresses, and phone numbers for any children who are attending for the first time, and plan to call them or send them a welcoming card.

MISSION PROJECT

The mission focus this unit is on witnessing about who Jesus was and what Jesus did. Activities in all the stations will help the children better understand who Jesus was and what Jesus did.

The materials created in the Gathering activities, which are designed to help the children witness about their beliefs in Jesus to others, can be posted in the church throughout Lent as a way of letting the children witness to the church about who Jesus was. Some of the Gathering activities have the children think of ways they can act like Jesus to help others and teach about God.
STAFF MEETING

Prepare
Copy pages 3-7 and page 13 for each leader. Copy the station plans so each leader will have a copy of her or his station.

Make two copies of “Jesus’ Day-by-Day Planner” from the Storytelling Station for each leader.

Prepare the baskets for the “Jesus’ Journey and the Foods Along the Way” Bible story from the Creative Cookery Station

With the Participants
Read through the Bible Story, Bible Background, and Check Your Facts with the leaders.

Tell the story using the “Jesus’ Journey” Bible story.

Do the “Jesus Day by Day” activity with the leaders.

Pass out station materials and invite the leaders to read through them. Address any questions they might have.

Use the “Service of Shadows” from the Storytelling Station as your closing.

REFLECTION WEEK

Prepare
Assemble the suitcase of props for “Dangerous Journey” from the Storytelling Station.

Make a “Holy Week Hopscotch” board from the Game Station.

Make copies of the symbol patterns (page 13).

If you do not use Week Eight of Gathering Time, use the preparations suggested there to make oversized Easter letters.

With the Participants
Have an adult tell the story using the “Dangerous Journeys” activity and script from the Storytelling Station. Invite the children to help the adult tell the story.

Play “Holy Week Hopscotch.” (See the Game Station.)

Go on a scavenger hunt for symbols of Holy Week. (See “Scavenger Hunt” in the Game Station.)

In preparation for Easter Sunday, create a mural using the oversize Easter letters.

Invite the children to share lessons they have learned about Holy Week.

Let the children help hang their Easter-letter mural in the church.

Close with prayer.
GATHERING TIME

If you use Gathering Time each week, plan a way for the children to form groups as they arrive. Ask the shepherds for each group to sit in the same area of the gathering place each week. Each group should have a different color flag, sign, or carpet square for identification. Ask the shepherds to visit with the children as they arrive, making them welcome and reminding them to stay with the group.

If you do not have a Gathering Time, review the activities suggested for these times as possibilities for additional activities in your stations.

SETTING THE STAGE

Gathering Time is designed to help the children witness about their beliefs in Jesus to others through the activities inspired by the events that happened during the days of Holy Week.

Each Week

Begin with singing a favorite song from the Jesus in Jerusalem CD or another favorite Lent or Easter song.

Introduce the activity for the week and the day of Holy Week that inspired it. Give children time to do the Holy Week activity.

Invite the children to tape up the things they do each week in a hallway or in the Gathering area.

Take an offering as the groups are dismissed to go to their Stations.

Resources

- Bibles
- Jesus in Jerusalem CD

Supplies

- CD player
- mural paper
- scissors
- crayons
- paints and brushes
- colored pencils
- glue sticks
- tissue paper
- pastels
- markers
- magazines
- paper
- pencils
- newspapers
- 11x14 paper
- fine-tip markers
- chalices
- large, dark construction paper
- gel pens or gel FX markers
- masking tape
Week 1: Welcome
The First Sunday of Holy Week

Prepare
Cut out 2-foot-tall paper letters for the word W-E-L-C-O-M-E.

Assemble a different art medium to be used with each letter, such as crayons, paint, colored pencils, tissue paper and glue, pastels, markers, and magazines for a collage.

With the Children
Say: On Palm Sunday, a crowd of people rushed to greet Jesus and welcome him as a king. At our church, we want to welcome people who come as children of God. Today, we will make a giant-letter welcome sign to hang in one of the halls of our church.

Give each group a giant letter from the word welcome.

If you have fewer than seven groups, give the oldest classes more than one letter.

Give each group a different art medium to use on their letter, such as crayons for the W; magazines, scissors, and glue to make a collage for the E; colored pencils for the L; and so forth.

Invite the groups to decorate each letter with pictures, symbols, designs, and words to make people feel welcomed to the church.

Have a member from each group stand at the front with the group’s letter to see how all the letters look together.

Pray: Dear God, may the people who come to our church see this sign and feel welcomed as children of God. Help us celebrate every person we meet with the same love that you show to us. In the name of Jesus, the King, we pray. Amen.

Week 2: Take a Stand
The Monday of Holy Week

Say: On the Monday of Holy Week, Jesus went to the Temple. The outer courtyard was filled with the tables of moneychangers and sellers making lots of money by charging high prices to people who were coming to worship God. Jesus got so mad that he tossed over the tables and threw the moneychangers and sellers out of the Temple.

Give each group some paper and pencils.

Say: As a group, think of a place or a situation today where people take advantage of other people or do things that hurt others.

Write your situation or place of injustice on your paper.

Then spend time brainstorming about ways you can take a stand against the injustice your group chose.

Invite each group to talk about some of what they wrote.

Pray: Dear God, help us have courage like Jesus to stand for what is right. May our words, ideas, and actions help others. In the name of Jesus, who stood against injustice, we pray. Amen.

Week 3: Teaching God’s Truth
The Tuesday of Holy Week

Say: On the Tuesday of Holy Week, Jesus returned to the Temple and spent the entire day teaching people about God’s truths. Jesus used the Scriptures to show people that God’s love for them had always been there.

Give each group paper, glue sticks, scissors, and several newspapers.
Invite each group to create a “Speak the Truth” collage, showing what they consider to be God’s truths. Let each group have a chance to talk about their collage.

Pray: Dear God, as we learn about Jesus’ last week today, teach us something that will help us to share your truths with others wherever we go, like Jesus did. In his name we pray. Amen.

Week 4: Celebrate the Anointed
The Wednesday of Holy Week

Say: On Wednesday of Holy Week Jesus stayed in the town of Bethany. While he was eating a meal with his friends, a woman anointed him with oil, celebrating the fact that he was the Messiah, God’s Son, and the King of kings.

Give each group an 11-by-14 piece of paper and some markers.

Invite each group to work together to create an acrostic of the word Jesus. Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>J</th>
<th>Just</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Ever present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Super</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>Understanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Savior</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pray: Dear God, help us to have the courage of this woman to show the world that we believe Jesus is the Messiah and the King of kings. May our hearts be focused on you as we go to our stations this week. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Week 5: Remembering Jesus’ Love
The Thursday of Holy Week

Say: At the Last Supper, Jesus gave the disciples and the world a way to remember him with the sharing of bread and juice. Through Holy Communion, we remember Jesus and all of the things he taught about God.

Give each group a chalice, pencils, and slips of paper.

Invite each child to write a way to remember Jesus (other than Holy Communion) on a slip of paper and place it in the group’s chalice.

Invite the groups to read what everyone wrote in their groups and talk about things the children can do to help others remember Jesus.

Pray: Dear God, use the ideas we have gathered this morning to inspire us to help others remember your Son in many different ways. May our time today inspire us to think of even more ways to remember and celebrate Jesus. In his name we pray. Amen.

Week 6: A Time of Prayer
The Thursday Night of Holy Week

Say: When Jesus knew the end was near, he went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray. Jesus was afraid. God helped him to have the courage to do what he had to do.

Give each group a large piece of dark construction paper and dark markers.

Invite the children to write on the construction paper times they are afraid.

Pray: Dear God, help us know that even in the darkest times, you are there. Sometimes we get afraid like Jesus did, but like Jesus, we can pray to you in those times and you can help us have the courage to do what you have called us to do.

Give each group some gel pens or gel FX markers.

Have the groups draw symbols of God’s love or write “God is with us” on their papers.

Let the groups talk about how the love and presence of God shines through even in the darkest times.
Week 7: A Time of Sadness
The Friday and Saturday of Holy Week

Say: At the end of Holy Week, on Friday, Jesus was tried and beaten. He died on the cross and was buried. On Saturday, all of Jesus’ followers and friends were filled with sadness over his death. Some churches have the tradition of taking down the decorations in the church on Good Friday to remember Jesus’ death.

Invite each group to neatly take down and roll up the items made in the other sessions of Gathering Time and kept in the Gathering area.

Pray: Dear God, as we remember Holy Week and learn about you today, help us to remember that your plan that week was for Jesus to lay down his life and die in order to show the world that death is not the end, and that nothing, not even death, can separate us from your love and forgiveness. Amen.

Week 8: Not the End of the Story
The Last Sunday of Holy Week

Prepare
Cut out 2-foot-tall paper letters for the word E-A-S-T-E-R.

Assemble a different art medium for each letter, such as crayons, paint, colored pencils, tissue paper and glue, pastels, markers, and magazines for a collage.

Hang the items taken down last week in the halls or Gathering area again to celebrate that Jesus is alive!

With the Children

Say: Throughout this unit, we have looked at the events of the days of Holy Week according to the Gospel of Mark.

Today, we remember that Jesus’ death at the end of Holy Week was not the end of the story. On the Sunday after Jesus died, the women went to the tomb of Jesus and discovered that the tomb was empty and Jesus was alive!

Give each group a giant letter from the word Easter.

If you have fewer than six groups, give the oldest classes more than one letter. If you have more than six groups, let the two smallest groups work together.

Give each group a different art medium to use on their letter, such as crayons for the E; magazines, scissors, and glue to make a collage for the A; colored pencils for the S; and so forth.

Invite the groups to decorate each letter with pictures, symbols, designs, and words to celebrate that Jesus is alive!

Have a member from each group stand at the front with the group’s letter to see how all the letters look together.

Pray: Dear God, may the lessons of all the things you did during Holy Week make us feel even more the excitement and joy of the empty tomb on Easter morning! Thank you for the love you showed to the world through Jesus, the Messiah. In his name we pray. Amen.
Enlarge each symbol and then copy it on paper of the designated color.

**Green**–palm leaf  **Black**–cross  **Purple**–perfume battle and donkey  
**Yellow**–money bag and sunrise  **Red**–chalice and heart
## STATIONS AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATION</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ART</strong></td>
<td>Children will learn the Bible story through art experiences.</td>
<td>Watercolors, Crosses, Prayer Beads, Remembrance Pottery, Cross Carvings, Cross Plates</td>
<td><em>The Story of Easter</em> by Christopher Doyle and John Haysom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COOKING</strong></td>
<td>Children will learn the Bible story through experiences with food.</td>
<td>Hot Cross Buns, Jesus' Journey Map, Following Jesus, the Bread of Life, Bread Crosses, Jesus Showed Love Tablecloth</td>
<td>Bibles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GAMES</strong></td>
<td>Children will play a series of learning games.</td>
<td>Scavenger Hunt, Holy Week Hopscotch, Jerusalem Pebble Race, Ways to Follow God, Bible Verse, Pebbles and Stones, Guess the Story, Jerusalem Day by Day</td>
<td>Bibles, <em>The Story of Easter</em> by Christopher Doyle and John Haysom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MUSIC</strong></td>
<td>Children will learn the Bible story through musical experiences.</td>
<td>Let Us Break Bread, Filled With Excitement, Jesus Came to Town, Palms and Praise, Hosanna Hop, Were You There?</td>
<td><em>Jesus in Jerusalem</em> CD, <em>Jesus in Jerusalem</em> sheet music, <em>Jesus in Jerusalem</em> lyric sheets, Bibles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCIENCE</strong></td>
<td>Children will learn the Bible story through science experiences.</td>
<td>Jerusalem Geography, Magnetic Pull of God's Love, The Legend of the Dogwood, Jesus Came to Shine God's Light, Learn More About It, Charting the Days of Holy Week</td>
<td>Bibles, age-appropriate Bible dictionaries and other reference books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STORY</strong></td>
<td>Children will retell the Bible story.</td>
<td>Dangerous Journey—A Story in a Suitcase, Holy Week Acrostics, The Pictures Speak, Picture a Day, Jesus Day by Day</td>
<td>Bibles, <em>Love One Another</em> by Lauren Thompson and Elizabeth Uyehara (optional)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Jesus in Jerusalem*

In his final days, Jesus went to Jerusalem to teach people through his words and actions just how much God loves us and to show people what it means to follow God. By remembering the events of Holy Week, we discover ways we can love God in return.

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### Resources

- *The Story of Easter* by Christopher Doyle and John Haysom
- *Jesus in Jerusalem* CD
- *Jesus in Jerusalem* sheet music
- *Jesus in Jerusalem* lyric sheets
- Bibles
- *Love One Another* by Lauren Thompson and Elizabeth Uyehara (optional)
- Bibles, age-appropriate Bible dictionaries and other reference books
- *Finding Nemo* DVD
- *The Miracle Maker: The Story of Jesus* DVD
- *Jerusalem: The City Touched by God* DVD of your choice
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan-Ahead Supplies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>colored paper (green, red, purple, black, and yellow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scissors</td>
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<tr>
<td>tape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mural paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brown yarn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>watercolor paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>watercolor pencils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paintbrushes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cups of water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ribbon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beads (green, silver, yellow, purple, red, brown, wood, black, and white)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-inch heavy-duty paper plates</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-inch balls of air-drying clay</td>
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<tr>
<td>bobby pins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>craft netting</td>
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<tr>
<td>ivory® soap (lavender or regular)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>butter knives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>computers with internet access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>newspaper or posterboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>markers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>color printer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hole punch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paper fasteners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pencils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>injured legs (see station)</td>
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<tr>
<td>colored paper (green, red, purple, black, and yellow)</td>
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<td>scissors</td>
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<tr>
<td>tape</td>
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<tr>
<td>mural paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>brown yarn</td>
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<tr>
<td>purple tablecloth or piece of fabric</td>
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<tr>
<td>palm leaves</td>
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<tr>
<td>small plates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small baskets</td>
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<tr>
<td>purple napkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>chopped dates</td>
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<tr>
<td>chocolate coins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conversation heart candies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fresh flower petals</td>
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<tr>
<td>matzoh bread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>red grapes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>twisted pretzels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stick pretzels</td>
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<tr>
<td>meringue cookies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mixing bowls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>measuring spoons and cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wax paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cookie sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nonstick spray</td>
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<tr>
<td>new sponge brush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plastic sandwich bag</td>
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<tr>
<td>cardstock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plastic knives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>icing writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spatula</td>
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<tr>
<td>various breads (see p. 39)</td>
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<tr>
<td>balsamic vinegar</td>
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<tr>
<td>gallon-size plastic bags</td>
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<td>sticky notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>pen or maker</td>
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<tr>
<td>cups</td>
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<tr>
<td>water or lemonade</td>
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<tr>
<td>sifter</td>
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<tr>
<td>sharp knife</td>
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<tr>
<td>wooden spoon</td>
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<tr>
<td>clean brush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>white paper tablecloth or large white piece of fabric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>markers or fabric markers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>colored paper (green, purple, red, black, and yellow)</td>
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<tr>
<td>scissors</td>
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<tr>
<td>tape</td>
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<tr>
<td>large wooden cross</td>
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<tr>
<td>purple cloth</td>
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<tr>
<td>paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>pencils</td>
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<tr>
<td>sidewalk chalk</td>
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<tr>
<td>small toy donkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>cardstock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lamourine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>green crepe paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-inch shoelaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>permanent markers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flat dark stones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flat light-colored stones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stopwatch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>large sheets of paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>optional: tarp or sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>colored paper (green, red, black, and yellow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scissors</td>
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<tr>
<td>tape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>large wooden cross</td>
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<tr>
<td>purple cloth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crown of thorns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brightly colored scarves</td>
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<tr>
<td>wicker basket</td>
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<tr>
<td>loaf of bread</td>
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<tr>
<td>plastic goblet</td>
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<tr>
<td>tambourine</td>
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<tr>
<td>green crepe paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chenille stems</td>
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<tr>
<td>various art materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>candle</td>
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<tr>
<td>matches</td>
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<tr>
<td>optional: coat tree</td>
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<tr>
<td>colored paper (green, red, black, and yellow)</td>
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<tr>
<td>scissors</td>
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<tr>
<td>tape</td>
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<tr>
<td>brown yarn</td>
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<tr>
<td>dried spices (see p. 62)</td>
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<tr>
<td>olive oil</td>
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<tr>
<td>small bowls</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-inch squares of purple tulle</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-inch strands of white ribbon</td>
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<tr>
<td>compass</td>
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<tr>
<td>mask tape</td>
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<tr>
<td>floor pillows</td>
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<tr>
<td>stuffed donkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>palm fronds</td>
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<tr>
<td>markers</td>
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<tr>
<td>shoeboxes or large cardboard building blocks</td>
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<tr>
<td>bag of pennies or play coins</td>
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<tr>
<td>flat bread</td>
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<tr>
<td>perfume bottle</td>
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<tr>
<td>chalice</td>
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<tr>
<td>large rocks</td>
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<tr>
<td>cross</td>
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<td>appliance box</td>
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<tr>
<td>sheet</td>
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<tr>
<td>large magnet</td>
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<tr>
<td>nails</td>
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<tr>
<td>paper clips</td>
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<tr>
<td>dogwood blossoms</td>
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<tr>
<td>magnifying glass</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 glass pie plates</td>
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<tr>
<td>pocket mirror</td>
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<tr>
<td>flashlight</td>
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<tr>
<td>water</td>
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<tr>
<td>newspaper</td>
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<tr>
<td>index cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>pencils</td>
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<tr>
<td>colored pencils</td>
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<td>colored paper (green, purple, red, black, and yellow)</td>
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<td>scissors</td>
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<td>tape</td>
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<tr>
<td>mural paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>brown yard</td>
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<tr>
<td>cardboard building blocks</td>
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<tr>
<td>bag of pennies or play coins</td>
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<tr>
<td>flat bread</td>
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<tr>
<td>perfume bottle</td>
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<tr>
<td>colored pencils</td>
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<tr>
<td>round loaf of bread wrapped in clear plastic</td>
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<tr>
<td>small jar of olive oil or blessing oil</td>
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<tr>
<td>coins or pay money</td>
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<tr>
<td>palm frond</td>
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<tr>
<td>paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>colored pencils</td>
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<td>3-inch balls of air-drying clay</td>
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<td>Tables</td>
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<tr>
<td>baskets</td>
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<tr>
<td>boxes, steps, or stools</td>
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<tr>
<td>perfume bottle</td>
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<tr>
<td>wooden or brown plates</td>
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<tr>
<td>loaf of flat bread</td>
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<tr>
<td>large cup with foot</td>
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<tr>
<td>masking tape</td>
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<tr>
<td>DVD player</td>
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<tr>
<td>television</td>
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<tr>
<td>video camera</td>
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<tr>
<td>video playback equipment</td>
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<td>colored paper (green, purple, red, black, and yellow)</td>
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<tr>
<td>scissors</td>
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<td>tape</td>
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<tr>
<td>mural paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brown yarn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible-times costumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brown paint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paintbrush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>large brown paper bags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>palm leaves</td>
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<tr>
<td>tables</td>
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<td>baskets</td>
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<td>boxes, steps, or stools</td>
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<td>perfume bottle</td>
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<td>wooden or brown plates</td>
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<td>loaf of flat bread</td>
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<tr>
<td>large cup with foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>masking tape</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
RESOURCES

Art Station

Computer Station
- X524479 *Let’s Talk* (CD-ROM). Sunday Software. $24.00
- X513909 *Bible Crosswords and Word Search Studio* (2-CD-ROM set). Sunday Software. $28.00
- 705381321798 *Kid Pix Deluxe 4* (CD-ROM). $25.00
- 9781414339320 *iLumina Bible Software*, Tyndale House, $19.99, or *iLumina Gold Premium*.

Game Station
- 9780758608376 *The Story of Easter* by Christopher Doyle and John Haysom. Concordia Publishing House. $13.49

Music Movement Station
- *Jesus in Jerusalem* music. (Compact disc, 843504011659, $9.95.)
- *Jesus in Jerusalem* sheet music.
- *Jesus in Jerusalem* lyric sheets.

Science Station
- Age-appropriate Bible dictionaries and resource books. Check your church library or public library.

Storytelling Station
- 9780439283007 *Love One Another: The Last Days of Jesus* by Lauren Thompson and Elizabeth Uyehara (optional). Scholastic Press. This book is out of print. You may be able to find a copy in a church library or public library.

Video Station
- 786936215595 *Finding Nemo* (DVD). Buena Vista Home Entertainment. $29.99
- 737138043226 *Jerusalem: The City Touched by God* (DVD). Order by calling Sisu Home Entertainment at 212-947-7888. $29.95.

Resources are constantly changing and going out of print. Websites are also constantly changing. Although all websites we suggest were checked at the time this unit was developed, we urge you to check the sites to verify that they are still live and that they are still appropriate for children before doing the corresponding activities.

Go to [www.powerxpress.com](http://www.powerxpress.com) for any updated information and alternative activities.
ART STATION

STATION FOCUS

In his final days, Jesus went to Jerusalem to teach people through his words and actions just how much God loves us and to show people what it means to follow God. By remembering the events of Holy Week, we discover ways we can love God in return.

SCRIPTURES

Mark 11–16

STATION OBJECTIVES

Children will

- hear the events of Holy Week according to the Gospel of Mark;
- hear how the events of Holy Week teach us about God’s love for us;
- hear how Jesus taught the people during his final days;
- explore ways to study the events of Holy Week to learn more about Jesus and what it means to follow God.

STATION SETUP

Copy the palm symbol on green paper. Copy the donkey symbol and perfume bottle symbol on purple paper. Copy the money bag symbol and sunrise symbol on yellow paper. Copy the heart symbol and cup symbol on red paper. Copy the cross symbol on black paper.

Cut out the symbols and tape a set of symbols around the doorway of the station.

Be sure that each leader and each shepherd has a copy of the Main Idea, Objectives, Bible Story, Bible Background, Check Your Facts, About the Children, Shepherd Tips, and Mission Project (pages 3–7). These photocopies may have been handed out at the Staff Meeting.
WANT TO DO MORE?

Copy and cut out another set of the symbol patterns as directed in Station Setup. Tape the symbols on a piece of mural paper to create a pathway showing Jesus’ journey through Jerusalem.

String brown yarn from one symbol to the next to create a path between the symbols, representing Jesus’ journey from place to place and day to day. Start with the palm leaf and donkey, then string a piece of yarn to the money bag. String yarn from the money bag to the heart, from the heart to the perfume bottle, from the perfume bottle to the cup, from the cup to the cross, and from the cross to the sunrise.

SAFETY CHECK

- The church should be a place of security—a place where children can count on things and people being reliable.
- Each shepherd should know the whereabouts of every child in his or her group and where to reach a parent in case of an emergency.
- Check for allergies to any materials being used.
- Encourage the children to handle art supplies and tools sensibly. Use safety scissors.
- Provide smocks for children to protect clothing.

BIBLE STORY

Say: During the last week of his life, Jesus went to Jerusalem to show the world how much God loves us all. Stories about Holy Week are found in all four Gospel books in the Bible. Each Gospel book tells the story of Holy Week in a different way, but the basic story is the same.

Not long before it was time for Jesus to be taken up to heaven, he made up his mind to go to Jerusalem. (Luke 9:51, CEV)

Ask: Can you name the four Gospels? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John). What does the word gospel mean? (good news)

ACTIVITY OPTIONS

(45-50 minutes)

Choose from the following activities those that are appropriate for the age level of the children as your time, space, and resources allow.
For All Ages
Watercolors

Invite the children to look at the pictures from *The Story of Easter* by Christopher Doyle and John Haysom.

**Say:** The illustrator John Haysom uses watercolor paintings to illustrate the scenes from Jesus’ last days in Jerusalem.

Let each child select one of the events from the last week of Jesus’ life to illustrate.

Have the children use watercolor pencils to create drawings depicting events of the story of Jesus in Jerusalem.

Look at the pictures from the book.

Show the children that anywhere they want lines or darker shadings of color they need to color with their pencils.

Invite the children to use small brushes filled with water to blend the color from the outlines and shadings of their drawings through the inside of each part of their pictures.

Let the children show their drawings to the other class members.

Divide the class into groups of three or four.

Invite each group to use their drawings to retell parts of the story of Jesus’ last week in Jerusalem.

**Ask:** Why did you choose the scene that you did? What are some of the other parts of Holy Week that your group did not illustrate? What was the reason for Jesus’ journey through Jerusalem?

For All Ages
Crosses

**Prepare**

Cut a large piece of mural paper in half lengthwise.

Cut off and discard 1/3 of one of the halves of mural paper to make a shorter length of paper.

Tape the two lengths of mural paper onto the wall in a cross shape.

**With the Children**

**Say:** Earlier in his ministry, Jesus decided to go to Jerusalem to prove to the world, once and for all, the depth of God’s love.

Have the children say the Bible verse: “Not long before it was time for Jesus to be taken up to heaven, he made up his mind to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51, CEV).

**Talk Tip**
Create your own watercolor scene from Holy Week to show the children.

**Supplies**
mural paper
scissors
tape

**Supplies**
watercolor paper
watercolor pencils
paintbrushes
cups of water
Jesus in Jerusalem

Say: All along, Jesus knew that his path would lead to the cross. Jesus was willing to go to the cross and give his life so that we might live with God. Jesus’ death on the cross showed the world that God loves us and forgives us, and nothing, not even death, can ever separate us from the love of God. Throughout his last days, each step of Jesus’ journey was a step toward Jesus showing us the truth about God’s unending love.

Invite the children to tape their Jesus in Jerusalem watercolor pictures onto the mural-paper cross.

Ask: How did Jesus show the love of God to the world through the event from Holy Week that you put on the cross?

For All Ages

Prayer Beads

1. Give each child a 16-inch length of ribbon.
2. Have each child tie a knot in the exact middle of his or her ribbon.
3. Beginning with a green bead, have the child lace the right end of the ribbon through the bead from one direction. Then have the child lace the left end of the ribbon through the same bead from the other direction.
4. Pull the two ends of the ribbon tight until the green bead rests flat against the knot in the ribbon.

Say: Jesus’ journey through Jerusalem began on Palm Sunday. Look at the green and remember the palm leaves people waved as Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Repeat the process of threading both ends of the ribbon from opposite sides through a silver bead. Pull the ribbon tight until the silver bead rests by the green one.

Say: On Monday, Jesus overturned the tables of the moneychangers in the Temple.

Repeat the above process to thread a yellow bead above the silver one.

Say: On Tuesday, Jesus shined a light on the wrong teachings of the Pharisees and taught people the truth about God’s love.

Repeat the above process to thread a purple bead in place above the yellow bead.

Say: On Wednesday, a woman came to Jesus at the home of Simon in Bethany and anointed him with perfumed oil, showing that he was the King of kings.

Repeat the above process to thread a red bead in place above the purple bead.

Talk Tip
Talk about how the parts of Jesus’ journey fit together and led to Jesus’ offering and sacrifice on the cross. Encourage the children to share in their own words what Jesus’ journey to the cross means to them.

Supplies
ribbon
scissors
beads (green, silver, yellow, purple, red, brown wood, black, and white)

Talk Tip
Talk about how the parts of Jesus’ journey fit together and led to Jesus’ offering and sacrifice on the cross. Encourage the children to share in their own words what Jesus’ journey to the cross means to them.

ART
Jesus in Jerusalem

20
Say: On Thursday, after the Passover meal, Jesus gave bread and wine to his disciples to help them remember his great love for them when he was gone.

Repeat the above process to thread a brown wooden bead in place above the red bead.

Say: On Friday, Jesus died on the cross.

Repeat the above process to thread a black bead in place above the wooden bead.

Say: On Saturday, Jesus lay dead in the tomb while his followers mourned his death.

Repeat the above process to thread a white bead in place above the black bead.

Say: On Sunday, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus for burial and discovered that Jesus was alive!

Have the children tie the two ends of the ribbon together in two or three knots to hold the beads in place.

Encourage the children to tie their beads onto their clothes or take them home and tie them by their beds or on their backpacks to remember Jesus’ final journey through Jerusalem.

For Younger Children

Remembrance Pottery

Prepare
Make a copy of the symbol patterns (page 13).

With the Children
Give each child a 9-inch heavy-duty paper plate, a 3-inch ball of clay, and a bobby pin.

Give these instructions:
1. Press the clay to fill the bottom of the plate.
2. Use the rounded end of the bobby pin to draw a circle all the way around the clay about 1 1/2 inches from the outside edge.
3. Draw symbols inside the circle to help you remember the events from the last week Jesus lived on earth. (Let the children look at the symbol patterns from page 13 to get ideas for Holy Week symbols to draw on their bowls.)
4. Use the circle you drew as a guide to pull up the edges of the clay to form a shallow bowl. Pinch the edges of the clay bowl like pinching the edges of a pie crust.

Talk together about symbols that help us to remember the events of Holy Week.
Jesus in Jerusalem

The children may leave their bowls to dry and pick up the bowls next week or they may take their bowls home to dry.

Invite the children to keep their bowls somewhere they see frequently. Encourage the children to say prayers of thanks to God for Jesus whenever they see their bowls.

For Older Children

Cross Carvings

Prepare

Cut two 6-inch squares of craft netting for each child.

Use a toothpick to mark a bar of soap with lines showing where to carve a cross shape.

With the Children

Give each child a pre-marked bar of soap.

Have the children hold the soap over paper plates while they carve.

Show children how to use a butter knife to cut small pieces from the corners of the soap to carve a cross shape out of the soap.

Encourage the children to be patient and carve just a small bit of soap at a time.

Let the children continue carving until they have their soap crosses.

Ask:

What is our Bible verse for this unit? (“Not long before it was time for Jesus to be taken up to heaven, he made up his mind to go to Jerusalem.” Luke 9:51, CEV)

Ask:

When Jesus decided that he would have to go to the cross, did he go to Jerusalem right away?

Say:

Just as carving your crosses takes patience and time, Jesus’ journey to the cross took patience and time, too. Jesus chose to follow God’s will and wait for the right time to show the world the depth of God’s love for us.

Give each child two pre-cut squares of netting.

Have each child stack the netting squares on top of each other.

Let the child pour the shavings from his or her bar of soap onto the netting.

Show the children how to gather the corners and edges of the netting together to form a pouch.

Give each child a length of ribbon to tie his or her pouch closed.

Tell the children to take their soap crosses and soap shavings home to share with their families.

Talk Tip

Invite the children to talk about why they chose the symbols for their bowls that they did. Encourage the children to tell you about the events of Holy Week in their own words.

Supplies

- craft netting
- scissors
- Ivory® soap (lavender or regular; Ivory® brand is softer and works better)
- toothpick
- butter knives
- paper plates
- ribbon

Note

This is a challenging but very doable and satisfying task. Encourage the children to take their time and reassure them if they have difficulties.

Talk Tip

Invite the children to talk about why they chose the symbols for their bowls that they did. Encourage the children to tell you about the events of Holy Week in their own words.

Talk Tip

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Talk Tip
Say: Every time you use your soap during Lent, remember the journey that Jesus made through Jerusalem to show the world just how much God loves us.

**For Older Children**

**Cross Plates**

**Prepare**
Make a copy of the cross pictures (page 24) for each child.

**With the Children**
Give each child a 9-inch heavy-duty paper plate, a 3-inch ball of clay, and a bobby pin.

Have the children press the clay to fill the bottom of the plate.

Hand out the page showing different types of crosses. Invite the children to use the rounded end of the bobby pin to draw one or more of the crosses on their clay.

Let each child show the class the cross he or she drew and share why he or she chose that cross.

Ask: Which crosses do you like best? What does each of those crosses represent? What do you like about the crosses you chose?

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**CLOSING** (5 minutes)

If your group made the mural-paper cross with the children’s watercolor pictures, gather around the cross and invite the children to tell about the paintings they added to it.

Say: Long before Jesus entered Jerusalem, he made up his mind to go there to prove to the world just how much God loves us all.

Invite the children to say the Bible verse (Luke 9:51, CEV) together.

Say: Jesus loved all of us so much that he was willing to face hardship, suffering, and even death to show us that nothing, not even death, can ever separate us from the love of God.

Close With Prayer: Dear God, help us to remember that Jesus chose to give his life so that we can live with you. Jesus went to Jerusalem to show how much you love us. Amen.
Cross Connections

The cross is a symbol that reminds us of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It helps us remember how God acted to save human beings from sin and death. Dozens of forms of the cross can be found in Christian art. Here are just a few.

**Maltese Cross:** The symbol for the Knights of St. John in the eleventh century. These knights protected pilgrims on their way to visit Jesus’ tomb. The knights lived on the island of Malta.

**Greek Cross:** This cross symbolizes Christ’s victory over sin and death. All arms of this cross are equal in length.

**Tau Cross:** Some say Jesus was crucified on this T-shaped cross.

**St. Andrew’s Cross:** Tradition says that the apostle Andrew died on this form of cross because he felt unworthy to die on the kind of cross on which Jesus was crucified.

**Cross of Triumph:** This cross reminds us that the good news about Jesus is to be shared with people all over the world.

**Celtic Cross:** The circle behind the cross reminds us of eternal life.

**Papal Cross:** This cross is used in religious ceremonies by the Pope.

**Latin Cross:** This is probably the best known cross, and it stands for the crucifixion of Jesus.

**Anchor Cross:** This cross was used by early Christians in the catacombs to symbolize that Jesus is our anchor and strength.

**Jerusalem Cross:** The four small crosses remind us that missionaries have carried the good news about Jesus from Jerusalem to the four corners of the world.

Art: Barbara Upchurch
STATION FOCUS
In his final days, Jesus went to Jerusalem to teach people through his words and actions just how much God loves us and to show people what it means to follow God. By remembering the events of Holy Week, we discover ways we can love God in return.

SCRIPTURES
Mark 11–16

STATION OBJECTIVES
Children will
• hear the events of Holy Week according to the timeline used in the Gospel of Mark;
• hear how the events of Holy Week teach us about God’s love for us;
• explore ways the events of Holy Week help us learn more about Jesus and what it means to follow God during this season of Lent.

STATION SETUP
All software must be installed well before the class begins. Leaders should practice with the software until they are familiar with it.

Have the computers turned on with the software running and cued to the place where the children will begin working.

Two children to a computer is ideal, but three to a computer is workable. An adult or teen helper with each group will help the children stay focused, but the mouse belongs in the hands of the learners. Adults should encourage and assist but not do the work. If it is not possible to have computers available for every two to three children, consider adding another station and splitting the class.

Important Note
Every computer needs its own set of software. It is illegal to copy software or to load one piece of software into several computers unless you have a license to do so.

Resources
pages 3–7
How will you use your computer station? Will you use it as a way for children to discover facts or as a way for children to be creative? Software is available for both kinds of learning. Where possible, choose word processing and design software that is already familiar to the children. Check your local school systems to see what they use.

If possible, set up your storytelling area away from the computers or have a screen saver running that will not distract the children from what you are doing during the Bible Story time.

Be sure that each leader and each shepherd has a copy of the Main Idea, Objectives, Bible Story, Bible Background, Check Your Facts, About the Children, Shepherd Tips, and Mission Project (pages 3-7). These photocopies may have been handed out at the Staff Meeting.

**WANT TO DO MORE?**

Several websites show pictures of Jerusalem (such as [http://freestockphotos.com/Israel.html](http://freestockphotos.com/Israel.html)). Download such pictures as Gethsemane, the Via Dolorosa, the Western Wall, Golgotha, and the Garden Tomb. Place them on the screensaver of each computer in such a way that they rotate frequently.

**SAFETY CHECK**

- The church should be a place of security—a place where children can count on things and people being reliable.

- Each shepherd should know the whereabouts of every child in his or her group and where to reach a parent in case of an emergency.

- The Internet can be dangerous for children who are unsupervised. Check all websites in advance and direct children to specific information.

- Make sure cords are out of the children’s way.

**BIBLE STORY**

**Prepare**

Make two large charts showing each day of the week plus a second Sunday at the end. Leave space to write in.

**With the Children**

Ask the children to describe, if they can remember, what they did each day in the last week. Start with the previous Sunday. Record their responses on one of the charts you prepared.

**Ask:** Does a week seem like a long time or a short time? Why?
Say: Jesus spent the last week of his life in Jerusalem. Something different happened every day. The Gospel of Mark tells us some of the things he did, although we do not always know which day it happened.

For Younger Children
Fill in the chart, starting with Palm Sunday. Place some events on each day leading up to Thursday. Add the Last Supper and Jesus’ arrest on Thursday and the Crucifixion on Friday. Leave Saturday blank and add the Resurrection on Sunday.

For Older Children
Have the children quickly browse through Mark 11–16 and fill in the chart. Explain that it is okay if they do not always know the day on which an activity took place. Then briefly review what they have discovered.

ACTIVITY OPTIONS
(45-50 minutes)

Choose from the following activities those that are appropriate for the age level of the children as your time, space, and resources allow.

For All Ages
Let’s Talk
Prepare
You can choose to prepare a lesson for the children to use or you can let them design their own lessons. If they design their own lessons, one set of children can invite another to use their computer, select the lesson, and follow the instructions.

If you choose to prepare a lesson, make certain that you design a lesson that is appropriate for the age and ability of the children. The sample information given here is designed for middle elementary children and older children.

1. Open the program.

2. Select “Create a Lesson.”

3. Fill in the information on the next screen. For example:
   Introduction: Mark 11-16
   Content: Jesus’ last week in Jerusalem began when he entered the city with people waving palm branches and shouting “Hosanna.” During the next several days, he spent time teaching in and around the Temple. Then he celebrated a

Note
Resources and websites are constantly changing. Check www.powerxpress.com for updates that may help you in planning.

Resources
Bibles
Let’s Talk CD-ROM

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Passover meal with his disciples. After that, he went to a garden filled with olive trees to pray. While he was there, soldiers came and arrested him. He was tried, convicted, sentenced to death, and crucified. Some friends buried him. Three days later, some women found that the stone that closed up the grave had been rolled away. Jesus was alive!

4. Click “Continue.” Add a voice, a character, and a background.

5. On the next screen create three questions based on the story.
   For example:

   What did Jesus do in the Temple that made people angry?
   **Correct answer:** He threw out people who were buying and selling.
   Wrong answer: He taught in parables.
   Wrong answer: He accused the high priest of being evil.

   Who brought a special offering to the Temple?
   **Correct answer:** A poor widow
   Wrong answer: Jesus’ disciples
   Wrong answer: A Samaritan leper

   Who condemned Jesus to death?
   **Correct answer:** Pilate
   Wrong answer: Herod
   Wrong answer: The high priest

6. Type in questions for the children to think about. For example:
   Which part of Jesus’ time in Jerusalem do you like the best?
   Why? What would you have done if you had been with Jesus in Jerusalem?

7. Save your work. Listen to the lesson and follow the instructions you have given to be sure that everything is easy for the children to follow.

**With the Children**

Have the children open the program. They will either select the lesson you created or create their own. They will need Bibles to find the answers to the questions.

At the end of the lesson, have the children go in pairs to “Talk Now.” Have each pair talk about Jesus’ time in Jerusalem. Give them some questions for conversation, if necessary. For example: Do you think you could have followed Jesus? Why or why not?
For All Ages

Word Search

Prepare
1. Open Word Search Studio.
2. Choose “Click Here.”
3. Click on “Create new puzzle.”
4. Add a file name, such as “Jesus in Jerusalem,” and save it.
5. Enter a word list. Double check your spelling for accuracy, then click “OK.”

Sample word list: Jerusalem, Hosanna, palmleaf, Temple, teach, taxes, scribe, widow, chiefpriest, Peter, Judas, LastSupper, Gethsemane, arrest, trial, Pilate, crucifixion, resurrection

Option: Instead of making a puzzle yourself, create a worksheet so the children can follow the guidelines above to create their own puzzles. You can also provide instructions that give the children the choice of doing a word search you prepared or creating their own.

With the Children
Tell the children how to open the puzzle you created or guide them through the instructions you have prepared to create their own puzzles.

To Play
1. Open the program.
2. Choose “Click Here.”
3. Open “Jesus in Jerusalem” (or whatever file name has been used).
4. Play the game.

For Younger Children
What Happened Next?

Review the chart of the days of Holy Week that the children made during Bible Story time.

Ask: What happened first in this story? What happened next?

Continue asking “What happened next?” until the story is completed.

Have the children use Kid Pix Deluxe 4 to draw pictures of scenes in the story. Have them give each picture a title.

Print the pictures and help the children bind their pictures into a book.
For Older Children

iLumina

Prepare
Make copies of the “iLumina” worksheet (page 31). Place one by each computer.

With the Children
Let the children follow the instructions on the worksheet as they tour Jerusalem and reflect on the last days of Jesus’ life.

For Older Children

Through an Artist’s Eyes

Prepare
If you have several computers with Internet access, place a worksheet (page 32) by each computer. If you have only one or two computers with Internet access, work together in a total group.

Option: Project the images on a large screen.

With the Children
Say: El Greco was a painter, sculptor, and architect who lived from 1541 until 1614. El Greco means “The Greek.” He was born in Crete but lived in Spain. His real name was Domenikos Theotokopoulos, and that is how he signed his paintings. El Greco’s style was unique, with long figures leaning forward. He also used color and light in a special way. El Greco painted many pictures of Jesus.

Let the children work in pairs or groups of three to explore the last week of Jesus’ life through the paintings of El Greco.

As the children work, encourage them to write down the groups’ observations about the paintings listed at the top of the worksheet.

CLOSING (5 minutes)

Gather the children to review what they have discovered.

Close With Prayer: Loving God, thank you for giving us Jesus to show us the way to life. Help us make this week a very special time as we continue to follow you wherever we are. Amen.
INTRODUCTION

- Open the iLumina program.
- Click on “The Bible.”
- In the “Bible passage” field, type in Mark 11 and then click “Go.”
- Read the story about Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week.

A TOUR OF JERUSALEM

MOUNT OF OLIVES

- Choose “Media Center” from the menu across the top of the screen. Select “Guided Tours” from the drop-down menu. A satellite map of the Holy Land will appear.
- Click on “Jerusalem.”
- Choose “Mount of Olives” in the lower right corner of the screen to get a close-up view.
- Click on the blue dot at “Mount of Olives.” Hold the mouse button down as you move around the picture to explore the scene.
- Do you think Jesus saw something like this when he entered Jerusalem? Why or why not?
- Use your Bible to read Mark 11 to discover what happened near the Mount of Olives before Jesus entered Jerusalem.

TEMPLE MOUNT

- Use the back arrow to return to the view of Jerusalem.
- Click on the “Temple Mount” to see a replica of the Temple of Jesus’ day.
- Browse through Mark 11–13. Name three things Jesus did in and around the Temple.
  1. 
  2. 
  3.

GETHSEMANE

- Use the return arrow to return to the view of Jerusalem again.
- Click on “Gethsemane.”
- Browse through the site using the blue markers.
- On one of the pictures move around the picture to explore the scene.
- What does “Gethsemane” mean?
- Read Mark 14:32-50. What happened in Gethsemane?

PALATIAL MANSION

- Use the return arrow to return to the view of Jerusalem again.
- Go to the “Palatial Mansion.”
- Use your mouse and the bubble in the picture to wander around the area.
- Read Mark 14:53-65. What might have happened in this building?

DAVID’S CITADEL

- Continue to David’s Citadel. Again, view the scene and take the video tour.

GOLGOTHA AND JESUS’ GARDEN TOMB

- Continue the tour as you go to Golgotha and Jesus’ Garden Tomb.
- Click on the bubble to see what Golgotha might have looked like when Jesus was there.
- Click on “Garden Tomb” and explore where Jesus may have been buried.

- What impressed you the most as you toured the ancient city of Jerusalem?
Through an Artist’s Eyes

View some El Greco paintings at the Web Gallery of Art (www.wga.hu).

- Click on “Search.”
- Type “El Greco” in the space marked “Author.” Then add the title of the painting. (You may find several pictures with the same title. Simply select one of them.)
- To enlarge the picture, click on the thumbnail and then click on a percentage at the top of the new page that opens.

Look for the following paintings:
- Christ as Saviour
- The Purification of the Temple (Mark 11:15-16)
- The Agony in the Garden (Mark 14:32-36)
- Christ Carrying the Cross (Mark 15:20)
- The Crucifixion (Mark 15:23-24)
- The Entombment of Christ (Mark 15:46-47)
- The Resurrection (Mark 16:1-7)

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<th>Paintings We Viewed</th>
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CREATIVE COOKERY STATION

STATION FOCUS

In his final days, Jesus went to Jerusalem to teach people through his words and actions just how much God loves us and to show people what it means to follow God. By remembering the events of Holy Week, we discover ways we can love God in return.

SCRIPTURES

Mark 11–16

STATION OBJECTIVES

Children will

• hear the events of Holy Week according to the Gospel of Mark;
• hear how the events of Holy Week teach us about God’s love for us;
• discover that part of Jesus’ plan all along was to return to Jerusalem and prove God’s love to the world;
• connect the stories from the Gospels with the traditional Holy Week celebrations in the church today.

STATION SETUP

Copy the palm symbol on green paper. Copy the donkey symbol and perfume bottle symbol on purple paper. Copy the money bag symbol and sunrise symbol on yellow paper. Copy the heart symbol and cup symbol on red paper. Copy the cross symbol on black paper.

Cut out a set of symbols and tape them around the station’s doorway.

Be sure that each leader and each shepherd has a copy of the Main Idea, Objectives, Bible Story, Bible Background, Check Your Facts, About the Children, Shepherd Tips, and Mission Project (pages 3-7). These photocopies may have been handed out at the Staff Meeting.
WANT TO DO MORE?

Copy and cut out another set of the symbol patterns as directed in Station Setup. Tape the symbols on a piece of mural paper to create a pathway showing Jesus’ journey through Jerusalem.

String brown yarn from one symbol to the next to create a path between the symbols, representing Jesus’ journey from place to place and day to day. Start with the palm leaf and donkey, then string a piece of yarn to the money bag. String yarn from the money bag to the heart, from the heart to the perfume bottle, from the perfume bottle to the cup, from the cup to the cross, and from the cross to the sunrise.

SAFETY CHECK

- The church should be a place of security—a place where children can count on things and people being reliable.
- Each shepherd should know the whereabouts of every child in his or her group and where to reach a parent in case of an emergency.
- If you use a stove, oven, or electric burner, take precautions that will ensure the children’s safety. However, let the children work with the ingredients as much as possible.
- Know your children’s food allergies before selecting foods to prepare.
- Be sure that children and adults wash their hands before working with food and that all foods and equipment are kept clean and sanitary.
- Make sure any electrical equipment being used is safe. Be sure all electrical cords and equipment are out of the way to avoid tripping.

BIBLE STORY

Prepare

Place each of the foods and items listed under Supplies in a separate basket. Cover each basket with a purple napkin.

Spread a purple tablecloth or a piece of purple cloth on the floor.

Cut hearts from red paper and place several hearts and a few palm leaves on the tablecloth.

With the Children

Invite the children to sit around the cloth.

Give each child a small plate.

Read “Jesus’ Journey and the Foods Along the Way.” Pass each basket as directed.
Jesus’ Journey and the Foods Along the Way

In the church, purple means “get ready for something big!” To get ready for Easter, let’s remember Holy Week and Jesus’ journey through Jerusalem. Palm leaves remind us of Palm Sunday, the day Jesus’ last week began. Red hearts remind us that Jesus taught about God’s love.

**On Palm Sunday** Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people shouted to Jesus as the Messiah, saying, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the Son of David!” As they shouted they waved palm branches from date trees. *(Pass the dates. Invite each child to try a piece of date.)* Dates remind us of Palm Sunday.

**On Monday** Jesus went to the Temple and saw something that made him furious. The courtyard was filled with sellers and moneychangers making lots of money by charging super-high prices for the animals and money people needed for their offerings to God. Jesus shouted that the Temple was a place to worship God, not a place to make money. *(Pass the basket with the coins. Invite each child to take one.)* Coin candy reminds us that worshiping God is not about money, it is giving thanks to God.

**On Tuesday** Jesus went to the Temple and taught against the hurtful things the religious leaders said. Jesus taught about God’s love and told people to love God and love others. *(Pass the basket with the candy hearts. Invite each child to take one.)* Heart candies remind us that Jesus taught about love.

**On Wednesday** Jesus was anointed by a woman while he ate at the house of a friend in Bethany. The woman anointed Jesus as the King of kings. Jesus praised her extravagant act of love. *(Pass the basket of fresh flower petals for the children to smell.)* Flowers remind us Jesus was the King of kings who shared the sweetness of God’s love with the world.

**On Thursday** Jesus shared the Last Supper with his friends. After the Passover meal where they remembered God’s love, Jesus took bread, passed it among the disciples, and told them to eat it to remember his love for them. *(Pass the basket of matzoh. Invite each child to take some.)* Then Jesus took a cup of wine and passed it among his followers to drink. He told them to remember all he had done for them. *(Pass the basket of grapes. Invite each child to take one.)* Bread and grapes remind us that Jesus loves us.

Later that night, Jesus and his disciples went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray. *(Pass the basket of twisted pretzels. Invite each child to take one.)* Pretzels shaped like crossed arms remind us that Jesus prayed to God for comfort and strength. We can pray to God for comfort and strength, too.

Not long before it was time for Jesus to be taken up to heaven, he made up his mind to go to Jerusalem. *(Luke 9:51, CEV)*
The next day was Friday, the day Jesus died. (Pass the basket with stick pretzels. Invite each child to take two pretzels.) Stick pretzels remind us of the cross. When Jesus died, the Temple curtain tore in two to show that nothing would ever separate us from God’s love again. Break your pretzels and eat them.

On Saturday the world waited.

On Sunday the women went to the tomb to prepare Jesus’ body, but the tomb was empty. Jesus was alive! (Pass the basket of meringue cookies. Invite each child to take one.) The empty cookies remind us of the empty tomb. Jesus is alive! Praise God for the journey of Jesus!

ACTIVITY OPTIONS
(45-50 minutes)

Choose from the following activities those that are appropriate for the age level of the children as your time, space, and resources allow.

For All Ages
Hot Cross Buns

Ingredients
1 egg white
6 teaspoons sugar
16 canned biscuits (large size works best)
cinnamon
sugar
raisins
1 cup powdered sugar
2 tablespoons soft butter
2 tablespoons milk

Help the children follow these directions.

Mix the Glaze (enough for twenty buns)
1. Beat 1 egg white with a fork until bubbles appear.
2. Add 6 teaspoons sugar to the egg white.
3. Set aside to use for glazing.

Prepare the Buns
1. Place a large biscuit on a piece of wax paper.
2. Flatten the biscuit into a circle.
3. Sprinkle the biscuit with cinnamon and sugar to taste.
4. If desired, place 8 raisins (one for each day of Holy Week) in the center of the biscuit.
5. Fold the edges up to the middle and pinch the dough closed.
6. Place each bun, pinched side down, on a cookie sheet sprayed with nonstick spray.
7. Use a new sponge brush to paint the glaze onto each bun.
8. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 12-15 minutes or until golden brown.
9. Let the buns cool.

**Decorate the Buns**
1. Place each bun on a small paper plate.
2. With a fork, cream together 2 tablespoons soft butter and 1 cup powdered sugar.
3. Add 2 tablespoons milk and stir until smooth.
4. Pour the mixture into a plastic sandwich bag.
5. Snip one corner of the bag to make a small opening.
6. Squeeze two lines of icing in a cross shape on the top of each bun.

---

**For All Ages**

**Jesus’ Journey Map**

**Prepare**
Copy the stencils (page 42) onto cardstock. Cut out the inside of the shapes along the cut lines.

**Ingredients**
prepackaged sugar cookie dough or dough sheets
vanilla frosting
sugar sprinkles in green, yellow, purple, red, orange, and rainbow colors

**With the Children**
1. Spray a cookie sheet with nonstick spray.
2. Spread sugar cookie dough in the bottom of the cookie sheet or line the cookie sheet with pre-made cookie dough sheets.
4. Let cool for 10-15 minutes.
5. Cover with vanilla frosting. Spread the frosting with plastic knives.
6. Place the stencil of a palm leaf and the stencil of a donkey at the top right corner of the cookie. Shake green colored sugar sprinkles into the open space of the stencils. Remove the stencils to reveal the green palm leaf and donkey.
7. Place the stencil of the circle on the middle right side of the cookie. Shake yellow colored sprinkles in the open space of the stencil to make a coin scattered when Jesus overturned the moneychangers’ tables at the Temple. Remove the stencil to reveal the coin.
8. Place the stencil of the heart at the bottom of the cookie just a little in from the right corner. Shake rainbow sprinkles inside the heart shape. Remove the stencil to reveal the heart.
9. Place the crown stencil along the bottom middle of the cookie. Shake purple sprinkles in the open crown shape. Remove the stencil to reveal the crown.
10. Place the cup stencil close to the bottom left corner of the cookie. Shake rainbow sprinkles in the cup shape. Remove the stencil to reveal the cup.

11. Place the cross stencil on the middle left side of the cookie. Shake red sprinkles in the middle of the cross shape. Remove the stencil to reveal the cross.

12. In the top left corner, use a brown or black icing writer to draw a 4-inch horizontal line about 4 inches from the top of the cookie. Centered on this line, draw a large half circle. Fill the half circle with yellow, red, and orange sprinkles to make a rising sun.

**Say:**

- Jesus started his week on Palm Sunday, riding on a donkey.
  (Use an icing writer to make a brown icing line from the donkey and palm leaf to the yellow coins.)

- On Monday, Jesus went to the Temple and overturned the tables of the moneychangers, scattering their money everywhere.
  (Make a brown icing line from the coins to the rainbow heart.)

- On Tuesday, Jesus taught about God’s love in the Temple.
  (Make a brown icing line from the heart to the purple crown.)

- On Wednesday, a woman anointed Jesus as the King of kings.
  (Make a brown icing line from the crown to the rainbow cup.)

- On Thursday, Jesus shared the Last Supper with his friends and gave us a way to remember Jesus’ great love for us.
  (Make a brown icing line from the cup to the red cross.)

- On Friday, Jesus gave his life on a cross to show the world that there are no limits to God’s great love.
  (Make a brown icing line from the cross to the rising sun.)

- On the third day after his death, the women went to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body at sunrise and discovered that the tomb was empty. Jesus was alive again!

**Ask:** What do the events of Jesus’ last week teach us about God’s love?

Cut the cookie into small squares and serve on paper plates.

**For All Ages**

**Following Jesus, the Bread of Life**

**Prepare**

Cube the breads to be used into bite-size pieces. Put the pieces of each bread type in a different plastic storage bag.

Place a sticky note on each bag.

- On the bag of French or Italian bread write: “Jesus rode into the city from the Mount of Olives.”

- On the bag of jalapeno bread write: “Jesus got angry with the people in the Temple who took advantage of others.”
• On the bag of pumpernickel or dark rye bread write: “Jesus taught against the harsh teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”
• On the bag of Hawaiian sweet bread write: “Jesus taught people the sweet truth about God’s love and told people to love God and others.”
• On the bag of pita bread or other flat bread write: “Jesus gave the disciples a way to remember his love and teachings by sharing bread and juice at the Last Supper.”
• On the bag of pretzel twists write: “Jesus prayed to God and committed to doing God’s will at the garden of Gethsemane.”
• On the bag of sourdough bread write: “Jesus was given vinegar to quench his thirst when he died on the cross at Golgotha.”

Hide the plastic bags of bread around the room.

With the Children
Tell the children there are seven bags around the room that will help to remind them of the events of Jesus’ last days in Jerusalem. Invite the children to go on a hunt to find the bags.

Once the children have found all the bags, gather around a table with the children.

Give each child a cup of water or lemonade to have with their breads. Then pass the bag of French bread around the table, invite each child to take a piece, and let a child read the note on the bag.

Say: Remember Palm Sunday.

Pass the bag of jalapeno bread around the table, invite each child to take a piece, and let a child read the note.

Say: Taste the spice. Remember how Jesus got angry with the moneychangers and sellers in the Temple on Monday.

Pass the pumpernickel, invite each child to take a piece, and have a child read the note.

Say: Taste the bitterness. Remember how Jesus used harsh words to teach the bitter truth about the hurtful teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Pass the Hawaiian sweet bread, invite each child to take a piece, and have a child read the note.

Say: Taste the sweetness of this bread. Remember that Jesus taught sweet truths about God’s love for all people.

Pass the flat bread, invite each child to take a piece, and let a child read the note.

Say: Taste the flat bread and remember the Last Supper.

Pass the pretzel twists, invite each child to take one, and let a child read the note.
Say: Look at the shape of the pretzel and remember that Jesus prayed to God for strength.

Pass the sourdough bread, invite each child to take a piece, and let a child read the note. Pour a small pool of balsamic vinegar on a plate.

Say: Dip your bread in vinegar and remember that Jesus was given vinegar when he gave his life.

Ask: Why do you think Jesus went to Jerusalem that week? What does Jesus want us to tell other people about that week?

For All Ages

Bread Crosses

Ingredients (to make 8 bread crosses)

- 4 1/2 cups flour
- 2 cups warm water
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 package or 4 tablespoons active dry yeast
- 4 tablespoons cooking oil

With the Children

1. Spray baking sheets with nonstick spray.
2. Sift together the flour, salt, and yeast in a large mixing bowl.
3. Use a wooden spoon to make a hole in the middle of the flour mixture.
4. Pour the warm water in the hole and stir with the wooden spoon to get a soft, non-sticky dough. Add flour if dough is too sticky. Add water if dough is too crumbly.
5. Cover a piece of wax paper with a thin layer of flour.
6. Place the dough on the floured paper and fold it over on itself again and again to knead the dough. Repeat this process of kneading the dough several times for 5 minutes.
7. Let an adult use a knife to cut the dough into 8 sections.
8. Roll each section of dough into a tube about 1 foot long.
9. Cut a 4-inch section off of each tube of dough.
10. The longer section of dough is the post of the cross and the shorter section is the cross bar. Near the top of the longer section of dough, where the cross bar will lie across the post, use scissors to snip a V-shape out of the dough.
11. Snip a mirroring V-shape from the middle of the shorter dough tube.
12. Place the shorter tube of dough—with its V-shape cut facing down—on top of the longer tube of dough so that the two V-shape cutouts align and the dough fits together snugly to form a cross.
13. Place the crosses on the sprayed baking sheets.
14. Brush each cross with oil.
15. Let the crosses rise for 15 minutes.
16. Bake in a preheated 450-degree oven for 15 minutes.
Enjoy the crosses in class or give them away as thank-you treats to the nursery workers or others in your church who give their time each week to show love and care to others.

**For All Ages**

**Jesus Showed Love Tablecloth**

**Say:** Jesus spent his last days in Jerusalem doing things to teach people just how much God loves us.

**Ask:** What are some ways that Jesus showed love that week?

Invite the children to write poems or draw pictures on a tablecloth showing ways that Jesus showed love to the world during his final days in Jerusalem.

Encourage the children to look through the stories found in Mark 11–16 if they need help remembering stories from Jesus’ final days.

When you gather to eat the treats today, use the tablecloth to cover the table or area of the floor where you will gather.

**CLOSING** (5 minutes)

Place the foods prepared in the Station on the tablecloth the children made. Gather with the children around the foods. Give each child a small plate and napkin.

**Say:** Today we made food to help us remember the events of Jesus’ journey through Jerusalem during his final days in Holy Week.

**Ask:** What did you learn about Holy Week, the last week of Jesus’ life?

Serve the foods the children prepared and visit with the children as you continue to talk about the Holy Week events from the lesson.

Close with prayer.
The donkey stencil will require careful cutting. However, the other stencils can be cut following these directions:

1. Place the dotted line with each shape on the fold of a sheet of heavy paper.
2. Cut on the dotted line inside the shape. (The outside requires no special cutting.)
3. Unfold the shape. Lift the cut shape from the center and discard it.
4. Sprinkle colored sugar inside the shape to decorate the cookie.
STATION FOCUS
In his final days, Jesus went to Jerusalem to teach people through his words and actions just how much God loves us and to show people what it means to follow God. By remembering the events of Holy Week, we discover ways we can love God in return.

SCRIPTURES
Mark 11–16

STATION OBJECTIVES
Children will
- hear the events of Holy Week according to the Gospel of Mark;
- hear how the events of Holy Week teach us about God’s love for us;
- examine ways to follow God according to the lessons Jesus taught;
- discover that part of Jesus’ plan all along was to return to Jerusalem and prove God’s love to the world.

STATION SETUP
Copy the palm symbol on green paper. Copy the donkey symbol and perfume bottle symbol on purple paper. Copy the money bag symbol and sunrise symbol on yellow paper. Copy the heart symbol and cup symbol on red paper. Copy the cross symbol on black paper.

Cut out the symbols and tape a set of symbols around the doorway of the station.

Be sure that each leader and each shepherd has a copy of the Main Idea, Objectives, Bible Story, Bible Background, Check Your Facts, About the Children, Shepherd Tips, and Mission Project (pages 3-7). These photocopies may have been handed out at the Staff Meeting.
WANT TO DO MORE?

Copy and cut out another set of the symbol patterns as directed in Station Setup. Tape the symbols on a piece of mural paper to create a pathway showing Jesus’ journey through Jerusalem.

String brown yarn from one symbol to the next to create a path between the symbols, representing Jesus’ journey from place to place and day to day. Start with the palm leaf and donkey, then string a piece of yarn to the money bag. String yarn from the money bag to the heart, from the heart to the perfume bottle, from the perfume bottle to the cup, from the cup to the cross, and from the cross to the sunrise.

SAFETY CHECK

- The church should be a place of security—a place where children can count on things and people being reliable.
- Each shepherd should know the whereabouts of every child in his or her group and where to reach a parent in case of an emergency.
- Make sure the children have plenty of space to play games. Remove any obstacles.
- Make sure children follow instructions in a safe manner. Invite extra adult help, if needed, for the number of children in this station.
- Monitor the difference between high energy levels and rowdiness.

BIBLE STORY

Read pages 6-25 of The Story of Easter. At the end of each two-page spread, ask:

Ask: What happened during this part of Jesus’ journey?

After page 25:

Ask: What happened when Mary Magdalene went to the tomb?

Ask: Before Jesus’ resurrection, what happened during Jesus’ last week on earth? If you could have been there, which event would you have chosen to see? Why?

ACTIVITY OPTIONS

(45–50 minutes)

Choose from the following activities those that are appropriate for the age level of the children as your time, space, and resources allow.
For All Ages
Scavenger Hunt

Prepare
Make 2 or 3 copies of the symbol patterns (page 13).

With the Children
Divide the class into 2 or 3 groups. Assign an adult leader to each group.

Give each group a copy of the symbol patterns.

Invite the groups to search around the church for items, pictures, or symbols that remind them of the symbols on the handout. Have each group write down each item or picture they find and where they found it.

Set a designated time for the groups to return to the room. Then, invite each group to talk about all the items or pictures that they found around the church.

Ask: Why do we have symbols from the stories of Jesus’ last days in our church? How do the symbols, pictures, and items in our church help us to remember the stories about Jesus? How do the symbols you found remind you of God’s love?

For All Ages
Holy Week Hopscotch

Prepare
Use sidewalk chalk to draw a hopscotch board like this one. (If you are unable to go outside, draw on a sheet or tarp with permanent markers.)

Review the events of Holy Week as summarized on this unit’s Bible Story page (page 4).

With the Children
1. Invite a child to toss a toy donkey onto the hopscotch board.
2. The child says the day of the week shown on the square where the donkey lands and then says something that happened on that day from the final week of Jesus’ life.
3. The child hops to the spot on the board, picks up the donkey, and then hops back to the beginning of the board.

Have each child take a turn at hopscotch.

Ask: What are some of the things that happened to Jesus during his last journey through Jerusalem?
For All Ages
Jerusalem Pebble Race

The Gospel of Luke says that as Jesus entered Jerusalem at the beginning of his final week (on the day we celebrate as Palm Sunday), his followers cried out to him, welcoming him as the Messiah. The Pharisees told Jesus to tell his followers to stop saying such things. But Jesus answered, “If they keep quiet, these stones will start shouting” (Luke 19:40, CEV).

Play the following game and think about the stories the stones of Jerusalem might tell about the final days of Jesus.

Prepare
Copy the “Pebble Race” gameboard (page 51) on cardstock for every two children.

With the Children
To Make Pebble Bags
1. Cut away the toe end of a sock. Cut close under the heel to leave the toe pouch as big as possible. Discard the top part of the sock.
2. Cut eight small lacing holes just below the top of the toe pouch.
3. Thread a 12-inch shoelace in and out of the holes in the sock pouch and pull the lacing tight to cinch the pouch closed.
4. Invite the children to use permanent markers to decorate their pouches with symbols that remind them of the stories from Jesus’ last week in Jerusalem.

To Play
1. Divide the class into pairs.
2. Give each pair a copy of the “Pebble Race” gameboard.
3. Invite each child to color his or her end of the gameboard with a different color to mark the home base areas.
4. Give one child in each pair six flat, dark-colored stones.
5. Give the other child in the pair six flat, light-colored stones.
6. Each player places his or her stones on the home base dots on his or her end of the gameboard.
7. Players move the pebbles forward or sideways along the lines on the board to move across to the other home base.
8. Players can only move or jump one space each turn.
9. Players can jump other pebbles on the board, including their own.
10. When jumping, the player must continue to move in a straight line. If a player jumps his or her own pebble, the pebble being jumped is left on the board. If a player jumps the pebble of another player, the pebble is captured and removed from the board.
11. A player can get his or her pebble back by telling the other player one thing that happened to Jesus during his last week in Jerusalem. Each time a player chooses to do this, he or she must say something that happened to Jesus that neither partner has said before.
12. **For Older Children:** Encourage older children to look in Mark 11–16 to find the events they want to say as well as the Bible reference for each event.

**Ask:** What are some of the things that you remembered that happened during the last week of Jesus’ life? What was Jesus trying to show people about God and God’s love during the last week of his life? How do the stories you remembered while playing the game help us to see what Jesus was trying to teach about God?


**Ask:** What do you think Jesus meant when he said that if his followers were silent and did not call out to him as Messiah, the pebbles and stones of the city would come to life and cry out?

---

### For Younger Children

#### Ways to Follow God

Play a “Follow the Leader” game. Once the leader has led the class around the room once, he or she stops and pantomimes a way to follow God. The other children mimic the pantomime.

The first child to guess the way to follow God that is being pantomimed becomes the new leader. Play until every child has a chance to be the leader.

**Ask:** What are some ways we can follow God and do things that God wants us to do? How did Jesus use the last days of his life to teach people about God and how God wants us to live?

---

### For Younger Children

#### Bible Verse

**Prepare**

Copy a set of Bible verse cards (page 52) onto cardstock for each child. Cut apart and shuffle each set.

**With the Children**

Give each child a mixed-up set of cards.

Have the children put the events from the last week of Jesus’ life in order as a way to put the words of the Bible verse in order on the bottom of the cards.

Or let the children put the words of the verse in the correct order to put the events in order too.

**Ask:** What is the Bible verse? Why do you think Jesus went to Jerusalem?
Jesus in Jerusalem

For Older Children

Pebbles and Stones

Note: Pay attention to safety. Show the children that the stones are easier to catch the more gently they are tossed.

Have the children practice the following pebble toss moves:
• Have each child sit on the floor and gently toss a stone in the air and try to catch it in the palm of his or her hand.
• Have each child toss a stone gently up in the air and try to catch it on the back of his or her hand.
• As the child tosses the stone up in the air, have the child say, “Hear the stones cry out!” As the child catches the stone, have the child say “Hallelujah!” or “Praise God!”
• Repeat these moves with two stones at once, then with three stones, and then finally with six stones at once.

Let the children practice until they feel confident tossing and catching the stones.

Now, divide the class into pairs.
1. Invite one partner in the pair to go first.
2. Have the child place all of his or her stones and the partner’s stones on the back of his or her hands.
3. Have the child gently toss the stones in the air and say, “Hear the stones cry out!”
4. Have the child use the back of his or her hand or his or her palm to catch as many of the stones as he or she can.
5. For each stone the child catches, the child then says, “Hallelujah!” or “Praise God!”
6. Have the children lay the caught stones to the side.
7. The child then picks up the remaining stones and tries again, saying, “Hear the stones cry out!” as he or she tosses the stones and saying, “Hallelujah!” or “Praise God!” for each caught stone.
8. Any caught stones are placed to the side, and the process is repeated again until all the stones have been caught.
9. Once the first child has caught all the stones once, it is the other child’s turn to try.

The goal of the game is to toss and catch all the stones in as few tosses as possible. Let the children play in pairs until each child has had at least two turns or as long as time and interest allow.

As the children continue to play, encourage them to think of other words of praise the stones might have cried out to Jesus at different points along the way of his last week in Jerusalem (see Luke 19:40).

Ask: If you had a chance to see Jesus in person, what would you cry out to Jesus?

Supplies
6 pebbles or small stones for each child

GAME
Guess the Story

This game will help the children review the events of the last week of Jesus’ life in Jerusalem. Make this a cooperative game by letting the whole group race the clock to see how quickly they can review the stories.

Rules
1. The teacher whispers a word or phrase to a chosen player.
2. The player cannot speak and has to act out the word or phrase.
3. Children in the class guess what is being acted. Then the child who guesses has to tell the story about the event that happened in the last week of Jesus’ life that relates to the acted-out word or phrase.

Suggested Words
palm leaf, donkey, tables, money, perfume or oil, bread, cup, prayer, garden, kiss, arrested, washed hands, cross, empty tomb

Option: To make the game easier, write the words in a random order on a piece of paper where the class can see them.

Jerusalem Day by Day

Divide the class into groups of six to eight. Give each group a large piece of paper.

Have the groups divide their papers into eight columns and write the following headings at the top of the columns: Palm Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Easter Sunday.

Give Bibles to each group. Have the groups skim over the events found in Mark 11–16.

Using Mark 11–16 as a guide, have the children write in the columns what happened during Jesus’ final days in Jerusalem, with at least one event for each day of the week. Some days, such as Thursday or Friday, will have many events; others, such as Saturday, will only have one (Jesus lay buried in the tomb).

Assign each group a color of paper.

Have each group draw a set of 8 crosses on their color of paper.

Have the group write on each of the eight crosses an event from a different day and then cut the crosses apart.

Then have the group hide their crosses around the room.

Assign each group a different color of cross to find. No group should look for their own color.
Have the groups put their found crosses in order from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday based on the events written on each cross.

**Ask:** Did the other group use the same events from each day of the week that your group did? How do all of these events help teach us about God and God’s great love for us? What are some other events from the week that you could have included on your crosses?

**Ask:** If you knew you only had one week left to teach people everything you knew about God, what would you do?

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**Talk Tip**

Encourage the children to think of other times in Jesus’ life when he went out of his way to teach people about God’s great love for the world.

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**CLOSING (5 minutes)**

**Say:** Jesus knew it was dangerous to go to Jerusalem, but he had an important job to do. Jesus wanted to tell people that God’s way was a way of peace. He wanted people to know about God’s powerful love. So he rode into Jerusalem. He taught people in the Jerusalem Temple. He prayed for strength to do what God needed him to do.

We are also on a journey. Our journey is not so dangerous. But our journey also should show God’s love.

**Ask:** Where will you journey this week? *(school, team practice, scouts, and so on)*

**Close With Prayer:** Holy God, we know your love is awesome. We know your love can guide us this week. These are the places we need you to help us. *(Name the places where the children will journey.)* Please hear our prayers, those we speak aloud and those we pray silently. *(Pause to let the children offer spoken or silent prayers.)* Thank you for hearing our prayers. Amen.
Jesus in Jerusalem

Not long before

Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey.

it was time for

Jesus taught about God in the Temple.

Jesus got angry in the Temple.

Jesus to be taken

Jesus taught about God in the Temple.

up to heaven,

Jesus shared bread and wine with his followers.

A woman in Bethany anointed Jesus.

he made up

Jesus prayed to God at Gethsemane.

he made up

Jesus shared bread and wine with his followers.

Jesus prayed to God at Gethsemane.

to Jerusalem.

Jesus died on the cross and was buried.

Luke 9:51, CEV

Jesus rose from the dead on the third day.

Art: Paige Easter
MUSIC MOVEMENT STATION

STATION FOCUS
In his final days, Jesus went to Jerusalem to teach people through his words and actions just how much God loves us and to show people what it means to follow God. By remembering the events of Holy Week, we discover ways we can love God in return.

SCRIPTURES
Mark 11–16

STATION OBJECTIVES
Children will
- hear the stories of Jesus’ last week in Jerusalem;
- sing and dance praises as they remember the events of Holy Week;
- remember how the stories of Jesus’ last days in Jerusalem teach us about God’s love for us.

STATION SETUP
Copy the palm symbol on green paper. Copy the donkey symbol and perfume bottle symbol on purple paper. Copy the money bag symbol and sunrise symbol on yellow paper. Copy the heart symbol and cup symbol on red paper. Copy the cross symbol on black paper.

Cut out the symbols and tape a set of symbols around the doorway of the station.

Be sure that each leader and each shepherd has a copy of the Main Idea, Objectives, Bible Story, Bible Background, Check Your Facts, About the Children, Shepherd Tips, and Mission Project (pages 3–7). These photocopies may have been handed out at the Staff Meeting.

Resources
- pages 3–7
- symbol patterns (page 13)
- Supplies
  - green, purple, red, black, and yellow paper
  - scissors
  - tape
WANT TO DO MORE?

Construct a large wooden cross and place it opposite the entrance. Drape the cross with purple cloth and attach a crown of thorns.

SAFETY CHECK

- The church should be a place of security—a place where children can count on things and people being reliable.
- Each shepherd should know the whereabouts of every child in his or her group and where to reach a parent in case of an emergency.
- Be sure the room is large enough for the activities selected, with furniture safely pushed out of the way for the movement activities.

BIBLE STORY

Fill a large wicker basket with brightly colored scarfs. (Tulle cut into 24-inch squares makes inexpensive scarfs.) Place the basket of scarfs on the floor.

Have the children sit in a circle around the basket.

For Younger Children


For Older Children

Have the children open their Bibles to Matthew 21:1-9. Ask a strong reader to read aloud while other children follow along in their Bibles.

For All Ages

Ask: Is this a happy story or a sad story?
What colors are happy colors for you? What colors are sad colors?

Note: Accept all answers when you ask children questions that involve an emotional response.

Let each child choose a “happy-colored” scarf from the wicker basket.

Say: Hold your scarf in your hands while I tell a story. When you think the story is happy, hold the scarf so that you can see the happy color. When you think the story is sad, scrunch up your scarf and hide it between your hands so that the joyful color cannot be seen.

Read “Joy and Sorrow” on pages 59-60 or tell about the Holy Week events in your own words.
ACTIVITY OPTIONS
(45–50 minutes)

Choose from the following activities those that are appropriate for the age level of the children as your time, space, and resources allow.

For All Ages
Let Us Break Bread

Have the children sit in a circle on the floor. Play “Let Us Break Bread Together” *(Jesus in Jerusalem CD)*. Pass a loaf of bread during the first stanza. Have each child take a small piece of the bread.

Pass a plastic goblet around the circle in rhythm as the children sing the second stanza.

Pass a tambourine around the circle in rhythm on the third stanza.

Ask: What did Jesus say when he gave the bread to his disciples? *(This is my body broken for you.)* What did Jesus say when he gave the wine to his disciples? *(This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.)*

For All Ages
Filled With Excitement

Prepare

Make a Palm Pom for Each Child
1. Cut 18-inch streamers from green crepe paper.
2. Stack 12 streamers (no need to be neat).
3. Twist a 12-inch chenille stem around the middle of the stack of streamers to make a palm pom.

If you hang the palm poms from a free-standing coat tree, you will have a palm pom tree.

With the Children

Give These Instructions
1. Form two lines facing each other.
2. Take two steps backward.
3. Spread your arms at shoulder height and move apart so that you touch the fingertips of the neighbor on your left and on your right.
4. Strike a pose and freeze in that position.
5. I am placing a palm pom in your hand. Remain frozen. *(Give everyone a palm pom.)*

Say: Jesus is riding into Jerusalem. You are a part of the crowd. Unfreeze when the music starts and create a palm dance to the music. Each time the music stops, you must freeze in position.
Play “Mantos y Palmas (Filled with Excitement)” (*Jesus in Jerusalem* CD). Pause the music several times for four beats only.

Ask one child to trade his or her palm pom for a tambourine. Once again, ask everyone to freeze when the music stops. The tambourine player has four beats to trade the tambourine for someone's palm pom. Play the recording again, pausing several times for four-beat interludes.

Use the lyric sheet and the CD to sing the song together. Use body percussion (finger snaps, hand claps, thigh slaps) while singing.

### For Younger Children

**Jesus Came to Town**

Join hands and walk in a circle while singing “Oh, Jesus Came to Town.” The song is to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

**Say:** Every time you sing “Hosanna to the Son of God,” drop hands and wave your arms high as you continue walking in the circle.

**Oh, Jesus Came to Town**

Oh, Jesus came to town.  
Oh, Jesus came to town.  
Hosanna to the Son of God,  
Oh, Jesus came to town.  

He rode upon a colt.  
He rode upon a colt.  
Hosanna to the Son of God,  
He rode upon a colt.  

The people gathered round.  
The people gathered round.  
Hosanna to the Son of God,  
The people gathered round.  

They waved their palms with joy.  
They waved their palms with joy.  
Hosanna to the Son of God,  
They waved their palms with joy.  

They laid their mantles down.  
They laid their mantles down.  
Hosanna to the Son of God,  
They laid their mantles down.  

Oh, blessed is the king.  
Oh, blessed is the king.  
Hosanna to the Son of God,  
Oh, blessed is the king.

by LeeDell Stickler  
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_Talk Tip_  
What city did Jesus enter while riding a donkey? (*Jerusalem*)  
What is a mantle? (*a cloak or coat*)
For Younger Children

Palms and Praise

Play “Palms and Praise Music” (*Jesus in Jerusalem CD*). Let the children wave scarfs and enjoy moving to the music.

For Older Children

Hosanna Hop

Have the children line up one behind another as if they were going to do the bunny hop. Teach the children these movements:

1. Move right foot out and back twice.
2. Move left foot out and back twice.
3. Hop forward once.
4. Hop back once.
5. Hop forward four times.

Play “Hosanna! Hosanna!” (*Jesus in Jerusalem CD*). Start the steps when the singer starts. Repeat the steps as the children move in a line around the room.

For Older Children

Were You There?

Divide the children into three groups. Give each group art materials such as construction paper, scissors, markers, glue, clay, and so forth. Assign one verse of the song “Were You There” (*Jesus in Jerusalem CD*) to each group.

Have the group do a visual portrayal of their verse using the art materials. Sing the song and have the children show their art.

Say: “Were You There?” is an African American spiritual. African American slaves experienced great sorrow and suffering. Slaves were often forbidden to read and write. They learned the Bible stories from memory. Many of their songs reflect stories from the Bible.
CLOSING (10 minutes)

Have the children sit in a circle on the floor. Divide the circle into four groups.

Assign portions of Matthew 21:9 as follows:
- Group 1 — Hosanna to the Son of David!
- Group 2 — Blessed is the one who comes
- Group 3 — in the name of the Lord!
- Group 4 — Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Lead the children in a “wave Scripture.” As your hand moves in front of each group, that group is to raise their hands and say their assigned words.

Repeat this “wave Scripture” several times. (For variety, have them use a speaking voice, a shout, and a whisper.)

Say: “Hosanna” means “save us.” Jesus came to Jerusalem in God’s name. He came to share God’s message of love and forgiveness. He came to save people from sin.

The last week Jesus lived on earth was a week filled with emotions. There was excitement, joy, anger, frustration, disappointment, and much sadness.

The songs we sang this morning reflected the different emotions of Holy Week.

Ask: Which songs seemed joyful? Which songs seemed sad? Which songs made you feel both joyful and sad?

Say: We feel sadness when we remember what happened the last week Jesus lived on earth, but we also feel joy. (Light a candle.)

Invite the children to watch the candle and remember that Jesus is the light of the world. Close with a prayer.
Bright sunlight, a cooling breeze—how much better could a day be? There was joy in Jerusalem. Thousands had come to celebrate Passover. They came from villages far away. The streets were crowded with happy people.

Then someone saw him. “Look, that man riding the little donkey! Isn’t that Jesus? The one who heals the sick and raises the dead?”

The news spread quickly. People lined the roadside, hoping to get a glimpse of Jesus. Some took off their cloaks and laid them on the cobbled road. “Hosanna! Hosanna!” they shouted.

Others tore palm branches from the trees and waved the branches. Excitement filled the air. People remembered that God had promised to send a Messiah to help them. They remembered that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David.

The shouts grew louder. “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

But even on that joyful Sunday, some in Jerusalem were already plotting against Jesus.

It was almost sunset on Thursday. Glowing colors painted the sky. A light breeze cooled the air. Jesus and his twelve disciples were ready to celebrate the Passover supper.

During the meal they remembered how God had saved the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. This was a special night. Jesus served as head of the family, offering the blessing over the special foods.

During supper Jesus said, “One of you will betray me.” Everyone at the table was surprised and troubled. “Surely not I, Lord?” they asked. Even the one who had promised to lead Jesus’ enemies to Jesus asked the question, “Surely not I, Rabbi?”

Moments later Jesus blessed the special Passover bread, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said, “This is my body.” Then Jesus gave thanks over the Passover wine and said, “This is my blood, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

After Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn, they walked out into the dark night. Carefully they made their way to a quiet garden on the Mount of Olives.

In the quiet of that garden, while his disciples fell asleep, Jesus prayed. “Please, Father, I don’t want to go through what is about to happen to me. But I want to do what you need me to do. I know you will be with me. So, whatever you need me to do, I will do.”

Suddenly danger filled the garden. Led by Judas, a crowd came out of the darkness. Judas greeted Jesus with a kiss, and the crowd rushed forward to arrest Jesus.
They led him from the dark garden to the home of the high priest. The leaders of the Jewish people were there. The high priest said to Jesus, “Under oath, before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.” Jesus said to him, “You have said so.”

The Jewish leaders decided Jesus deserved to die, but the country was ruled by Rome. Only Roman officials could sentence Jesus to death.

Early Friday morning they led Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate listened to the charges against Jesus, but he did not believe that Jesus should be killed.

“I have an idea,” said Pilate. “It is my custom at Passover time to release a prisoner. Which prisoner do you want me to set free—the notorious prisoner Jesus Barabbas or this Jesus who is called the Messiah?”

“Release Barabbas!” cried the crowd.

“Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?”

“Crucify him!” they shouted.

So Jesus began the agonizing walk to Golgotha, the hill where he was crucified. Pilate ordered the soldiers to make a sign that said: “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” They nailed the sign to the cross above Jesus’ head. Everyone who passed could read it because the sign was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek.

By afternoon, darkness covered the city. In agony Jesus died. The ground trembled, and the curtain in the Temple ripped from top to bottom. In the darkness women stood at a distance, looking toward their crucified Messiah. In the darkness Roman soldiers stood at the foot of the cross and whispered, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

by Joyce Brown
Hosanna! Hosanna!

Leader

Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Hosanna! Hosanna!

Ev'rybody brought their hopes and dreams. Hosanna! Hosanna!

All

Leader

Hosanna! All the people sang their praise to him. Hosanna!

Hosanna! Life just isn't always what it seems. Hosanna!

All

Leader

Hosanna! Hosanna! Came to town upon a donkey's back; Hosanna! Hosanna!

Leader

Hosanna! Hosanna! Seemed so lowly, but he's Lord in fact. Hosanna! Hosanna!

Refrain

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! Hear the people say Hosanna!

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! Save us today. Hosanna! It's a faithful song. Hosanna! Sing it all night long! all night long! Hosanna!

WORDS: Cathy Townley (Matt. 21:6-16; Mark 11:7-10; Luke 19:35-38)
MUSIC: Cathy Townley

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Jesus in Jerusalem

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Mantos y Palmas  
(Filled with Excitement)

C                      F6/C                        Fdim/C  
Filled with excitement, all the happy throng spread cloaks and branches on the
As in that entrance to Jerusalem, we sing hosannas to the

C                      C                        F6/C  
city streets. There in the distance they begin to see, Christ, our King, to the living Savior who still calls today,

Fdim/C  
Refrain

C                      F                        F
riding on a donkey, comes the Son of God. From every corner a
asking us to follow him with love and faith.

Em                      F                        C  
thousand voices sing praises to him who comes in the name of God.
suenan por doquier; hosanna al que viene en el nombre del Señor.

F                      Em                      D7  
With one great shout of acclamation loud triumphant song breaks
Con un a liento de gran exclamation pro rrum pen con voz triun-

G                      C                        F6                        G                        C
forth: "Hosanna, hosanna to the King!" fal: "¡Hosanna! ¡Hosanna al Rey!"

C                      F6                        G                        C  
"¡Hosanna! ¡Hosanna al Rey!"

WORDS: Rubén Ruiz Avila; trans. by Gertrude C. Suppe  
MUSIC: Rubén Ruiz Avila; arr. by Alvin Schutmaat  
Let Us Break Bread Together

1. Let us break bread together on our knees. Let us
2. Let us drink wine together on our knees. Let us
3. Let us praise God together on our knees. Let us

break bread together on our knees. When I
drink wine together on our knees. When I
praise God together on our knees. When I

fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O
fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O
fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O

Lord have mercy on me.
Lord have mercy on me.
Lord have mercy on me.

WORDS: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual
ARRANGEMENT: William Farley Smith
Arr. © The United Methodist Publishing House
Were You There

* D G A7 D G D

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

* Chords have been simplified for classroom use.

REFRAIN

D G A A A Refrain D G

there when they crucified my Lord? there when they nailed him to the tree? there when they laid him in the tomb?

some times it causes me to tremble, tremble.

G D D D G G

tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

* D G D D G G

WORDS: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith
Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

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Hosanna! Hosanna!

Jesus rode into Jerusalem.
Hosanna! Hosanna!
All the people sang their praise to him.
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Came to town upon a donkey’s back;
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Seemed so lowly, but he’s Lord in fact.
Hosanna! Hosanna!

Hosanna! Hear the people say
Hosanna! Save us today.
Hosanna! It’s a faithful song.
Hosanna! Sing it all night long!

Everybody brought their hopes and dreams.
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Life just isn’t always what it seems.
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Need somebody who can help us be
Hosanna! Hosanna!
liberated from captivity.
Hosanna! Hosanna!

Hosanna! Hear the people say
Hosanna! Save us today.
Hosanna! It’s a faithful song.
Hosanna! Sing it all night long!

Hosanna! Hear the people say
Hosanna! Save us today.
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WORDS: Cathy Townley (Matthew 21:6-16; Mark 11:7-10; Luke 19:35-38)
MUSIC: Cathy Townley
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Mantos y Palmas  
(Filled with Excitement)

Filled with excitement, all the happy throng spread cloaks and branches on the city streets. There in the distance they begin to see, riding on a donkey, comes the Son of God.

Refrain:
From every corner a thousand voices sing praises to him who comes in the name of God. With one great shout of acclamation loud triumphant song breaks forth: “Hosanna, hosanna to the King! Hosanna, hosanna to the King!”

As in that entrance to Jerusalem, we sing hosannas to the Christ, our King, to the living Savior who still calls today, asking us to follow him with love and faith.

Refrain

Refrain

WORDS: Rubén Ruiz Avila; trans. by Gertrude C. Suppe  
MUSIC: Rubén Ruiz Avila; arr. by Alvin Schutmaat  
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Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees.
Let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees.
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees.
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.
O Lord have mercy on me.

WORDS and MUSIC: African American spiritual
ARRANGEMENT: William Farley Smith
Arrangement © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
Were You There

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

WORDS: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith
Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
STATION FOCUS
In his final days, Jesus went to Jerusalem to teach people through his words and actions just how much God loves us and to show people what it means to follow God. By remembering the events of Holy Week, we discover ways we can love God in return.

SCRIPTURES
Mark 11–16

STATION OBJECTIVES
Children will

• hear the events of Holy Week according to the timeline used in the Gospel of Mark;

• hear how the events of Holy Week teach us about God’s love for us;

• discover that part of Jesus’ plan all along was to return to Jerusalem and prove God’s love to the world;

• explore the places and events that are a part of the journey story that we call Holy Week, leading from Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to his death on Friday and the Resurrection that followed on Sunday.

STATION SETUP
Copy the palm symbol on green paper. Copy the donkey symbol and perfume bottle symbol on purple paper. Copy the money bag symbol and sunrise symbol on yellow paper. Copy the heart symbol and cup symbol on red paper. Copy the cross symbol on black paper.

Cut out the symbols and tape a set of symbols around the doorway of the station.
Be sure that each leader and each shepherd has a copy of the Main Idea, Objectives, Bible Story, Bible Background, Check Your Facts, About the Children, Shepherd Tips, and Mission Project (pages 3-7). These photocopies may have been handed out at the Staff Meeting.

WANT TO DO MORE?

Copy and cut out another set of the symbol patterns as directed in Station Setup. Tape the symbols on a piece of mural paper to create a pathway showing Jesus’ journey through Jerusalem.

String brown yarn from one symbol to the next to create a path between the symbols, representing Jesus’ journey from place to place and day to day. Start with the palm leaf and donkey, then string a piece of yarn to the money bag. String yarn from the money bag to the heart, from the heart to the perfume bottle, from the perfume bottle to the cup, from the cup to the cross, and from the cross to the sunrise.

SAFETY CHECK

- The church should be a place of security—a place where children can count on things and people being reliable.
- Each shepherd should know the whereabouts of every child in his or her group and where to reach a parent in case of an emergency.
- Make sure children use equipment in a safe manner.
- Invite extra adult help, if necessary, for the number of children in this station.

BIBLE STORY

Prepare

Place the suggested spices in small bowls. Pour a small amount of olive oil in another bowl. If you do not have the spices listed, choose your own.

Assemble a potpourri bag before class so that you will know how large to make the pieces.

With the Children

For Younger Children

Hold your Bible open to Mark 14:32-36. Read or tell the Bible story.

For Older Children

Have the children open their Bibles to Mark 14:32-36 and ask a volunteer to read aloud.
For All Ages

Tell the story “Smell the Sweetness of God’s Love.” As you tell the story, assemble your own bag of potpourri. Let the children copy your actions and assemble their own. At the end, show the children how to gather the sides of the tulle to make a sachet and tie it with the white ribbon.

Smell the Sweetness of God’s Love

Jesus made up his mind to go to Jerusalem, knowing he would almost certainly die while he was there. He wanted the world to see God’s great love. Jesus laid down his life to show that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God.

Today, we will make potpourri, or a mixture of spices, to remember Jesus’ final journey in Jerusalem. The smell of these spices will remind us of God’s love. As the spices are passed, take one, smell it, and place it on your square of tulle.

On the Sunday of that last week, Jesus entered Jerusalem like a king riding on the back of a donkey. (Give each child a square of purple tulle.) The purple reminds us of royalty. Jesus came as the King of kings, a king of peace. He did not ride into Jerusalem on a horse, like a king seeking to make war. Instead, Jesus rode a donkey, like a king letting the people know he came in peace.

The people were overjoyed. They took off their cloaks and laid them on the road in front of Jesus. Some tore the branches off trees to place before Jesus. People shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Pass a bowl of bay leaves and invite each child to take one.) Bay leaves remind us of the leaves the people placed before Jesus.

The next day, Jesus returned ready to teach the people about God’s love. When he arrived at the Temple, however, he was outraged to see the outer porches filled with moneychangers and salesmen making huge profits off the desires of the people to worship God. Jesus shouted, turned over tables, and set the animals free. He chased the profiteers from the Temple, calling them robbers and thieves. (Pass the bowl of dried dill and invite each child to take a piece.) Dill reminds us to give appropriately. Jesus wanted the people to know God’s love could not be bought or sold.

The following day, Jesus returned to the Temple. Jesus told the people that the time had come to abandon wrong teachings and to follow God’s truth: Love God and love others. (Pass the bowl of dried thyme.) Thyme reminds us that Jesus helped the people see that the time had come to follow God’s truths themselves.

On Wednesday, Jesus stayed in Bethany to be with his followers and friends. While he was eating at the house of a man he had healed, Jesus was approached by a woman who anointed his head with expensive oil, as a prophet would anoint God’s chosen king.

Not long before it was time for Jesus to be taken up to heaven, he made up his mind to go to Jerusalem. (Luke 9:51, CEV)
(Pass the bowl of dried rosemary.) Rosemary reminds us of the woman who saw the truth about Jesus. (Pass the bowl of olive oil.) Dip your finger lightly in the oil. Rub a small amount of oil on the rosemary sprig. Remember the woman who was willing to face ridicule to show the truth about Jesus. Remember Jesus, who faced death to show the world the truth about God. What would you be willing to do to show others the truth about God?

On Thursday, which was Passover, Jesus shared his last meal with his disciples. After the meal, he gave them bread and wine to remember him. Then he went to the garden with his disciples to pray. Jesus was afraid and turned to God in prayer. God gave Jesus the strength to face the dark day ahead. (Pass the bowl of lemon balm.) Lemon balm reminds us of the balm used to heal and comfort wounds. When Jesus was hurting, he prayed to God and showed us that God offers us comfort and strength even in the darkest, scariest times of our lives.

On Friday, Jesus was tried and sentenced to die on the cross by the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. Jesus was handed over to Roman soldiers, who took him to the hill called Golgotha, where he was crucified. (Pass the bowl of clove studs and the bowl of cinnamon sticks.) Cloves remind us of the nails. Cinnamon sticks remind us of the cross.

Jesus died and was buried. His friends and followers were sad, and they mourned. (Pass the bowl of dried rue.) Rue reminds us of the sadness that the followers of Jesus felt.

However, the story was not over. Jesus had not finished teaching the world the truth about God. On Sunday, when Mary Magdalene and the other women went to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body for burial, the stone had been rolled away, and the tomb was empty. Jesus was alive! Jesus showed the world that nothing, not even death, is bigger than God’s love for all people!

(Pass around the white ribbons.) White reminds us of the Resurrection. No matter how dark things are, the Resurrection shows us that nothing is bigger than God’s love for us. In the end, the love of God always wins!

**ACTIVITY OPTIONS**

(45-50 minutes)

Choose from the following activities those that are appropriate for the age level of the children as your time, space, and resources allow.

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**Note**

Resources and websites are constantly changing. Check www.powerxpress.com for updates that may help you in planning.
For All Ages
Jerusalem Geography

Prepare
Locate East in your room. Divide the eastern third of the room from
the western two-thirds by laying a masking tape strip on the floor from
north to south.

Gather all the needed supplies and stack them on the south side of
the room.

With the Children
Have the children use a compass to determine the northeast corner of
the room. (Have the children carry the pillows, palm fronds, and stuffed
donkey from the area of gathered items as they search.)

Say: On Sunday, Jesus came from the Mount of Olives, northeast of
Jerusalem. Let’s make a Mount of Olives. (Have the children
create a mountain of pillows in the northeast corner of the room.)

Show the children the masking tape strip.

Say: This is the city wall around Jerusalem. Jesus rode from the
Mount of Olives to the Golden Gate by the Temple. The Temple
was located on the city wall, southwest of the Mount of Olives.
(Have the children walk south on the tape four paces and draw an
X on the tape to mark the northeast corner of the Temple. Have the
children use shoeboxes or cardboard building bricks to make a
rectangle two boxes wide by four boxes long representing the
Temple, with the city wall tape serving as the long side of the
Temple on the east. Have the children create a path with the palm
fronds going from the Mount of Olives to the Temple. Place the
donkey on the fronds.)

Say: On Monday, Jesus went to the Temple to teach. He found the
Temple had become a place where for many people making
money was more important than worshiping God. (Pour the bag
of pennies or coins inside the Temple rectangle.) So Jesus cleared
the moneychangers and their coins out of the Temple. (Have the
children take the coins out of the Temple.)

Say: On Tuesday, Jesus returned to the Temple to teach about God.
(Invite children or adults to read one or more of these passages by

Say: On Wednesday, Jesus stayed outside of Jerusalem in the town of
Bethany east of Jerusalem. (Have the children walk to the eastern
wall of the room. Invite the children to bring the flat bread and the
perfume. Give each child a piece of bread.)

Say: Jesus was eating with his friends in Bethany when a woman came
and anointed his head with perfume to show she knew he was

Resources

Supplies
compass
masking tape
several floor pillows
stuffed donkey
palm fronds
marker
shoeboxes or large
cardboard building
blocks
bag of pennies or
play coins
flat bread
perfume bottle
chalice
several large rocks or
small boulders (see
Note below to make
them if necessary)
cross
appliance box
sheet

Note
To Make Boulders
Turn several paper
grocery bags inside
out. Stuff the grocery
bags with other paper
bags or with small
pillows. Tape the
boulder closed with the
taped side as the
bottom.
the Messiah and that he would suffer because of it. *(Invite a girl to spray some of the perfume in the room.)*

**Say:** On Thursday, it was Passover, so Jesus and his disciples gathered at a house in the city for the Passover meal. No one knows exactly where the house was, but many people say it was in the lower city, south of the Temple. *(Have the children lead you to where this would be. Give each child another piece of bread.)*

**Say:** Jesus told his followers to eat bread and drink wine to remember him. *(Have a child place a chalice in this area of the lower city.)*

**Say:** Later that night, Jesus and the disciples went out of the city to the garden of Gethsemane—located south and a little west of the Mount of Olives. There he taught his disciples and prayed. *(Have the children use the boulders or rocks to create a garden area in this part of the room. Invite a child or an adult to say a short prayer of thanks to Jesus for all he did during his final week.)*

**Say:** At the garden, Jesus was arrested and taken all the way across the city to the house of Caiaphas, the High Priest. *(Have the children go to the southwest corner of the room and walk three or four paces northeast to find about where Caiaphas’s house would have been. Have the children place a shoebox or large building block there.)*

**Say:** Friday morning, Jesus was taken to the Fortress Antonia, where the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, stayed in Jerusalem. This fortress was on the northwest corner of the Temple. *(Have the children place a shoebox or building block just above the west corner of the northern edge of the Temple.)*

**Say:** Later that day, at a place called Golgotha, Jesus was crucified and died. No one knows for sure where this was, but some scholars say it happened north of the city not far from the road leading to Damascus. *(Have the children walk two or three paces west of the Fortress Antonia and then to the North wall of the room to place a boulder and a cross to show where Jesus may have been crucified.)*

**Say:** Just before sundown, Jesus’ body was placed in a nearby garden tomb. *(Have the children put the empty appliance box just west of the spot marked for Golgotha. Have the children tape a sheet to the top of the box so that the sheet drapes down over the opening.)*

**Say:** The following Sunday, when some women went to the tomb to prepare the body, the stone covering the tomb had been rolled away, and the tomb was empty. Jesus was alive! *(Let the children move the sheet away to reveal the empty tomb.)*

**Ask:** How does this help you understand what happened to Jesus?

Review the places the children have built and what happened in those places.
For All Ages

Magnetic Pull of God’s Love

Say: Jesus knew before going to Jerusalem that he would probably die while he was there. In spite of this, Jesus went. Jesus wanted to use his life and his death to show the world one thing: God loves and forgives us. Jesus was drawn to the cross as a way to show that nothing, not even death, is greater than God’s unending love.

Give each child a nail.

Say: Remember the cross.

Have each child drag the nail across the magnet several times, always dragging the nail the same direction.

Say: Jesus used his week in Jerusalem and the cross to show the love of God.

Have each child hold her or his nail over a pile of paper clips. The magnetized nail will pick up the paper clips.

For All Ages

The Legend of the Dogwood

Note: If you do not have real dogwood blossoms, use silk blossoms.

Place several dogwood blossoms on a table.

Say: Legend says that long ago when Jesus lived on earth, the dogwood tree grew tall and straight. Because it was also strong, the dogwood tree was chosen to be made into a cross. The tree was horrified to be used for such a purpose.

As Jesus carried the cross to Calvary, he could feel the tree’s pain. “You will never again be used for a cross,” he said. “From this day on, you will no longer stand straight and strong, instead you will grow crooked and slender.”

“You will be covered with blossoms shaped like crosses. The center of each flower will look like the crown of thorns I wore today. The tip of each petal will be stained in the shape of a nail print. People will look at your flowers and will remember that I died for them on the cross.”

Let the children examine the blossoms with a magnifying glass.

Talk Tip

Explain what is happening: Metals such as the nail are made of tiny parts called domains. Each domain has a magnetic force field. Rubbing the nail on the magnet causes the magnetic force fields to line up in the same direction, making the nail magnetized.

Supplies

- large magnet
- nails
- paper clips

Supplies

- dogwood blossoms
- magnifying glass

Talk Tip

Emphasize with the children that legends are stories made up to explain things that people see in nature. This legend probably was created when someone noticed the shapes and colors of the dogwood flower.
For Younger Children

Jesus Came to Shine God’s Light

Prepare
Fill two pie plates half full with water and prop a pocket mirror at a 45-degree angle against the inside edge of one pie plate.

Darken the room as much as possible.

With the Children
Say: God’s love and forgiveness were always there for people.

Help a child shine a flashlight at a 45-degree angle into the water in the pie plate without the mirror.

Let the class look at how the light shines in the water.

Say: People had a hard time seeing the light of God’s love clearly. So God decided to send Jesus to show the world in an unforgettable way just how great God’s love is.

Help a child shine a flashlight at a 45-degree angle toward the mirror resting against the side of the second pie plate.

Ask: What was different about the light from the pie plate with a mirror? How did the light shining in the room change?

Say: Jesus came to earth and went to Jerusalem to show the world once and for all how much God loves us.

For Older Children

Learn More About It

Prepare
Gather several age-appropriate Bible resource books.

With the Children
Help the children look through Mark 11–16 and together make a list of events that happened in Jerusalem during the last week of Jesus’ life. Circle words on the list that would be easy to look up in a dictionary, such as temple, moneychangers, anointing, palm, and cross.

Make a second list of the people who are named during Holy Week, such as Peter, Mary Magdalene, Judas, Caiaphas, and Pontius Pilate.

Divide the class into groups of three or four. Give each group two or three circled words from your first list as well as one or two names from your second list. Invite the group to look in the Bible resource books for information on their assigned subjects.
Let the groups write what they find on index cards.

Invite each group to share what they wrote on the index cards.

**Ask:** If you wanted to learn more about anything from the Bible, how could the books we have used today help you do that?

### For Older Children

#### Charting the Days of Holy Week

**Prepare**
Copy “Charting the Days of Holy Week” (page 70) for each child.

**With the Children**
Let the children work in small groups to use their Bibles to find what happened on each day of Holy Week. Have the children write these events on their charts.

Let the children create a symbol for each event of Holy Week.

**Ask:** Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem that week?

**Ask:** What are some of the things Jesus did that week to show that God’s love is for everyone and not just for the rich and powerful?

**Ask:** If you could have been with Jesus to witness first-hand any day of Holy Week, which day would you choose? Why?

**Ask:** What can we do to remember and honor what Jesus did for us?

### CLOSING  (5 minutes)

If you did the “Jerusalem Geography” activity, gather with the children in the area of the room where you constructed the Mount of Olives and the garden of Gethsemane.

**Close With Prayer:** Thank you, God, for loving us so much that you sent your Son, Jesus, to teach us all about you and your unending love. Help us to be willing to take risks to show others your love the same way Jesus took risks to show us. Show us how to teach others about you like Jesus did. We love you, God. Amen.
### Charting the Days of Holy Week

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STORYTELLING STATION

STATION FOCUS
In his final days, Jesus went to Jerusalem to teach people through his words and actions just how much God loves us and to show people what it means to follow God. By remembering the events of Holy Week, we discover ways we can love God in return.

SCRIPTURES
Mark 11–16

STATION OBJECTIVES
Children will

• hear the events of Holy Week according to the timeline used in the Gospel of Mark;

• examine ways that we can follow God according to the lessons Jesus taught during Holy Week;

• explore ways we can study the events of Holy Week to learn more about Jesus and what it means to follow God;

• connect the stories from the Gospels with the traditional Holy Week celebrations in the church today.

STATION SETUP
Copy the palm symbol on green paper. Copy the donkey symbol and perfume bottle symbol on purple paper. Copy the money bag symbol and sunrise symbol on yellow paper. Copy the heart symbol and cup symbol on red paper. Copy the cross symbol on black paper.

Cut out the symbols and tape a set of symbols around the doorway of the station.
Be sure that each leader and each shepherd has a copy of the Main Idea, Objectives, Bible Story, Bible Background, Check Your Facts, About the Children, Shepherd Tips, and Mission Project (pages 3-7). These photocopies may have been handed out at the Staff Meeting.

**WANT TO DO MORE?**

Copy and cut out another set of the symbol patterns as directed in Station Setup. Tape the symbols on a piece of mural paper to create a pathway showing Jesus’ journey through Jerusalem.

String brown yarn from one symbol to the next to create a path between the symbols, representing Jesus’ journey from place to place and day to day. Start with the palm leaf and donkey, then string a piece of yarn to the money bag. String yarn from the money bag to the heart, from the heart to the perfume bottle, from the perfume bottle to the cup, from the cup to the cross, and from the cross to the sunrise.

**SAFETY CHECK**

- The church should be a place of security—a place where children can count on things and people being reliable.
- Each shepherd should know the whereabouts of every child in his or her group and where to reach a parent in case of an emergency.
- Make sure the room is large enough for the activities selected, with furniture safely pushed out of the way for drama activities.
- Create a safe environment in which children feel able to share or not share during discussions.

**BIBLE STORY**

**Ask:** What do you think Jesus wanted to teach the world about God during his last days?

**Ask:** Of all the things that happened to Jesus during his last week in Jerusalem, which event do you like the most? Why?

**Ask:** What did the disciples do after they learned the whole story about what Jesus did that last week in Jerusalem? What should we do now that we know the story of all the great things Jesus did for us that week?

If you can find a copy of *Love One Another: The Last Days of Jesus* by Lauren Thompson at your public library, read it to the children.

**Ask:** Why do you think Lauren Thompson chose to call her book *Love One Another*?
ACTIVITY OPTIONS
(45-50 minutes)
Choose from the following activities those that are appropriate for the age level of the children as your time, space, and resources allow.

For All Ages
Dangerous Journey—A Story in a Suitcase

Prepare

Prepare the Story Suitcase
1. Line the bottom of the case with gold tissue paper.
2. Cover the gold paper with black tissue paper.
3. Place a cross on top of the black tissue paper.
4. Cover the cross with red tissue paper.
5. Place a toy sword on top of the red tissue paper.
6. Cover the sword with dark blue tissue paper.
7. Place a picture of praying hands on top of the blue tissue paper.
8. Cover the praying hands with purple tissue paper.
9. Place a round loaf of bread (wrapped in clear plastic) on top of the purple tissue paper.
10. Cover the bread with white tissue paper.
11. Place a small jar of olive oil or blessing oil on the white tissue paper. (Put the oil jar in a plastic bag to keep it from leaking on other things in the suitcase.)
12. Cover the oil jar with yellow tissue paper.
13. Fill a plastic sandwich bag with coins or play money and place it on top of the yellow tissue paper.
14. Cover the coins with green tissue paper.
15. Place a palm frond on top of the green tissue paper.
16. Cover the palm frond with red tissue paper and close the suitcase.

With the Children
Use the items from the suitcase as you tell the story “Dangerous Journey.”

Dangerous Journey

Jesus knew it was dangerous to go to Jerusalem. (Open the suitcase, revealing the red tissue paper.) But God had a job for Jesus to do. Danger did not stop Jesus from making the journey. Jesus was willing to go to Jerusalem because he wanted to carry God’s message of love and forgiveness to the people.

Jerusalem was filled with Jewish people who had come from many places to celebrate Passover. At Passover, they remembered that God had led their people out of slavery in Egypt.
It was springtime. The weather was beautiful. The city of Jerusalem was filled with excitement. Can you remember what the people shouted as Jesus rode into Jerusalem? (Let the children look at Mark 11 if needed.)

When a king in Bible times rode into a city on a horse, the king came to make war. When a king rode into a city on a donkey, the king came to make peace. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Jesus was bringing the message that God's way is a way of peace, not war.

The next day, Jesus went to the Temple to take part in the religious celebrations and to teach people about God's love. When he got to the Temple, Jesus became angry because he saw the porches filled with tables of moneychangers and vendors making money off the desire of the people to worship God. Jesus got so mad he threw over the tables and scattered the money and items being sold everywhere. (Open the bag of coins. Dump the money out on the floor.) How would you have felt if you had been in the crowd when Jesus got mad?

On Tuesday, Jesus returned to the Temple and spent the day teaching about God. Jesus told the people that God's love for them was filled with mercy and grace. He spoke harshly against those who took advantage of others in the name of God, and he showed the truth about things the Pharisees and Sadducees taught about God. Can you think of something Jesus taught about God's love?

On Wednesday, Jesus stayed in Bethany, a few miles from Jerusalem, and went to eat a meal with some friends. During the meal, a woman arrived with a jar of expensive oil and poured the oil on Jesus' head to anoint him like a prophet would anoint a king. (Remove the yellow tissue paper from the suitcase. Pass the oil around the circle and invite the children to smell the oil.) The woman used expensive oil and risked being put down by others because she wanted to show Jesus that she knew he was the King of kings. What would you be willing to do to show Jesus that you think he is the King of kings, too?

Some people in Jerusalem were plotting to get rid of Jesus. By Thursday night, Jesus knew that the situation in Jerusalem was growing more dangerous. His heart must have been almost breaking as he prepared to celebrate the Passover supper with his disciples. What do you remember about the Last Supper Jesus ate with his disciples? (Help the children recall the story of the Last Supper.)

Jesus was telling the disciples that his death would show how much God loved the world. Jesus shared bread and wine with
his disciples as a way to help them remember the great act of God’s love that brought Jesus to the world. (Remove the bread from the suitcase. Pass the bread among the children and invite them to take a piece to eat.)

(Remove the purple paper to reveal the praying hands.) After supper, Jesus and the disciples sang a hymn. Then they walked through the dark night to a quiet garden on the Mount of Olives. Can you remember what Jesus did in the garden? (Remove the praying hands and the dark blue paper.)

Jesus was arrested while they were still in the garden. He was taken into custody by the soldiers.

(Remove the toy sword from the suitcase.) Jesus was in extreme danger.

(Remove the red tissue paper from the suitcase.) Jesus was accused of claiming to be God’s Messiah. He was tried by a Jewish council, but this council did not have the authority to have Jesus killed. Only the Roman government could give someone the death penalty. So, early Friday morning, Jesus’ enemies took him to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate followed the will of Jesus’ enemies and turned Jesus over to the Roman guards to be crucified.

People did not understand that Jesus was a king of peace. Some expected him to lead the Jewish people in overthrowing the Roman government. Some thought his teachings would cause trouble for the Jewish people. Everyone thought the story of Jesus had ended on that terrible Friday when Jesus was crucified.

(Remove the cross and black paper from the suitcase.) But a Roman soldier standing at the foot of the cross when Jesus died whispered an amazing confession that hinted that the story was not truly over. (Read Mark 15:39.)

(Ask the children to say the words “Truly this man was God’s son!” in a speaking voice. Then have them repeat the words in a quieter tone three times until they are whispering, “Truly this man was God’s Son.”)

(Remove the gold paper from the suitcase and wave it as you say the last line:) And by Sunday there would be great joy in Jerusalem!

by Joyce Brown and Suzann Wade
For All Ages

Holy Week Acrostics

Give each child a piece of paper and some colored pencils.

Read this example of a Holy Week acrostic using the word JOURNEY.

Say: Listen to what Jesus’ JOURNEY to Jerusalem really showed!

Journey

Jesus as a King who came in peace.

Outrage over the ways people take advantage of each other.

Understanding about the depth of God’s love for all people.

Real ways to remember and celebrate God’s love.

Never stop praying for strength.

Even the darkest hour can be used to the glory of God.

You are a child of God. Jesus came to show you how much God loves you!

Invite the children to write an acrostic poem using words such as Journey, Jerusalem, or Holy Week to tell what happened during the final days of Jesus’ life or to show things Jesus taught during those final days.

Let the children illustrate their acrostics with colored pencils.

Let the children share their acrostics in class.

Ask: If someone asked you to say in a single sentence what Jesus wanted to show the world, what would you say?

For All Ages

The Pictures Speak

Prepare

Gather teaching pictures showing scenes from Holy Week. Look in copies of old curriculum you may have and use illustrations from books.

With the Children

Let the children look through the teaching pictures. Invite each child to pick a favorite teaching picture.

Have the child select a person in the picture to play.

Invite the child to dress in a Bible-times costume.
Encourage the children to get in character and think about how the people in the story would have felt.

Interview the child as the character. Have the child hold the teaching picture he or she selected as you do the interview. If desired, video the interviews you do with the children.

Ask: What were you thinking when this picture was made? What were you doing in this picture? How did you feel about what was happening in this picture? How did you feel about Jesus? What was the most important thing you learned from Jesus?

For Younger Children
Picture a Day

Invite each child to pick a day from the last week of Jesus’ life and draw a picture showing something that happened that day.

- **Sunday**—Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey.
- **Monday**—Jesus overturned the tables of the moneychangers.
- **Tuesday**—Jesus taught about God’s love in the Temple.
- **Wednesday**—Jesus was anointed by a woman while he was eating a meal with his friends.
- **Thursday**—Jesus shared the Last Supper with his disciples.
  - Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane.
  - Jesus was arrested.
  - Jesus was tried before the High Priest.
- **Friday**—Jesus was tried before the Roman governor, Pilate.
  - Jesus died on the cross.
  - Jesus was buried in a tomb.
- **Easter Sunday**—Jesus rose from the dead.

Let the children show their pictures to the class.

Ask: Which day did you draw? Why did you choose that day? What did Jesus teach the world about God that day?

For Older Children
Jesus Day by Day

Prepare
Make two copies of “Jesus’ Day-by-Day Planner” (page 79) for each child.

With the Children
Give each child a copy of “Jesus’ Day-by-Day Planner” and a Bible.

Invite the children to use Mark 11–16 to write what Jesus did each day of his final week in and around Jerusalem. Encourage the children to use their own words to write notes explaining what Jesus wanted to show the world about God on that day.
Invite the children to read aloud or talk about what they wrote.

Ask: Long before Jesus went to Jerusalem for this final week, he had made up his mind to show the world that God’s love for us has no limits. What did Jesus do during that last week to make that point? Why do you think Jesus was willing to do what he did that last week of his life? How can we follow the example of Jesus and live our lives in a way that teaches people about God’s great love for the world?

Give each child a second copy of “Jesus’ Day-by-Day Planner.”

Say: Use this planner to think of ways you can teach others about God’s love this week. For each day, write where you will go and what you will do to teach others about God’s love.

Let the children read or talk about what they wrote on their planners.

CLOSEING (5 minutes)

Prepare
Place seven candles in candle holders on a table.

With the Children
Gather around the table with the candles.

Say: The day Jesus was crucified is known as Good Friday, which means Holy Friday or God’s Friday. Christians can call this day Good Friday because we know Jesus’ death was not the end of the story. We know Jesus rose from the dead. All over the world Christians observe Good Friday with special worship services. Some churches hold a “Service of Shadows” or “Service of Darkness” on Good Friday.

Older children can volunteer to read the readings in the Service of Shadows. An adult will need to read the readings for younger children.

Have an adult light the seven candles.

Darken the room.

Guide the class through the Service of Shadows (page 80).
Reader One
Immediately, while [Jesus] was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” So when he came, [Judas] went up to [Jesus] at once and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. *(Mark 14:43-46)*

*Have an adult or an older child use a candle snuffer or spoon to extinguish the first candle.*

Reader Two
They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. *(Mark 14:53, 55-56)*

*Extinguish the second candle.*

Reader Three
The high priest asked [Jesus], “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” Jesus said, “I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,’ and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’ ” Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?” All of them condemned him as deserving death. *(Mark 14:61b-64)*

*Extinguish the third candle.*

Reader Four
As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. *(Mark 15:1)*

*Extinguish the fourth candle.*

Reader Five
Now at the festival [Pilate] used to release a prisoner for [the Jewish people], anyone for whom they asked. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” They shouted back, “Crucify him!” So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over [to the soldiers] to be crucified. *(Mark 15:6, 8-13, 15)*

*Extinguish the fifth candle.*

Reader Six
It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified [Jesus]. The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” *(Mark 15:25-26)*

*Extinguish the sixth candle.*

Reader Seven
Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!” *(Mark 15:37-39)*

*Extinguish the seventh candle.*

Prayer
Dear God, thank you for the gift of Jesus. We are overwhelmed by the greatness of your love for all people. Help us remember that the death of Jesus was not the end of the story, but the beginning of a new life for us all.

*Have an adult light the candles again.*

Teach us to live as Jesus lived and help us to share the good news that the true light and love of God will never end. Amen.
VIDEO STATION

STATION FOCUS
In his final days, Jesus went to Jerusalem to teach people through his words and actions just how much God loves us and to show people what it means to follow God. By remembering the events of Holy Week, we discover ways we can love God in return.

SCRIPTURES
Mark 11–16

STATION OBJECTIVES
Children will
• hear how the events of Holy Week teach us about God’s love for us;
• discover that part of Jesus’ plan all along was to return to Jerusalem and prove God’s love to the world;
• hear how Jesus taught his followers and the people during his final days.

STATION SETUP
Copy the palm symbol on green paper. Copy the donkey symbol and perfume bottle symbol on purple paper. Copy the money bag symbol and sunrise symbol on yellow paper. Copy the heart symbol and cup symbol on red paper. Copy the cross symbol on black paper.

Cut out the symbols and tape a set of symbols around the doorway of the station.

Be sure that each leader and each shepherd has a copy of the Main Idea, Objectives, Bible Story, Bible Background, Check Your Facts, About the Children, Shepherd Tips, and Mission Project (pages 3–7). These photocopies may have been handed out at the Staff Meeting.

Note
Preview any video you will use with the children. Make sure it is age appropriate and that the theology does not conflict with the theology of your church. You will need a public performance license to show copyrighted videos.

Resources
symbol patterns (page 13)
Supplies
green, purple, red, black, and yellow paper
scissors
tape
WANT TO DO MORE?

Copy and cut out another set of the symbol patterns as directed in Station Setup. Tape the symbols on a piece of mural paper to create a pathway showing Jesus’ journey through Jerusalem.

String brown yarn from one symbol to the next to create a path between the symbols, representing Jesus’ journey from place to place and day to day. Start with the palm leaf and donkey, then string a piece of yarn to the money bag. String yarn from the money bag to the heart, from the heart to the perfume bottle, from the perfume bottle to the cup, from the cup to the cross, and from the cross to the sunrise.

SAFETY CHECK

- The church should be a place of security—a place where children can count on things and people being reliable.
- Each shepherd should know the whereabouts of every child in his or her group and where to reach a parent in case of an emergency.
- Teach the children how to use safely any equipment they may handle.
- Be sure all equipment is working safely and any exposed cords are placed where children will not trip over them.
- Create a safe environment in which children feel able to share or not share during discussions.

BIBLE STORY

Prepare

Make six copies of “Chapter by Chapter of Mark” (page 87).

With the Children

Divide the class into six groups.

Give each group a copy of “Chapter by Chapter of Mark.” Assign each group one of the sections of Mark.

Have each group think of a way to retell the events from their assigned section in a video.

Note: Groups can act out the events, take turns retelling the events, interview group members to retell the events, or any other thing they decide to do to communicate the events that happened in their assigned chapters.

Record each group presenting the events that happened in their assigned segment.
Watch the video as a class.

**Ask:** How do all of these events together tell the story of what happened the last week in Jesus’ life? When you hear all the events together, why do you think Jesus did all the things he did during his final journey through Jerusalem? What do you think was the main message about God that Jesus wanted the world to hear?

**ACTIVITY OPTIONS**

(45-50 minutes)

Choose from the following activities those that are appropriate for the age level of the children as your time, space, and resources allow.

**For All Ages**

**Stations Tableaus**

**Prepare**

Paint a large brown cross on mural paper and cut it out.

Collect large brown paper bags.

**With the Children**

**Say:** The stations of the cross represent the path that Jesus walked to the cross. At each station along the way, people stop to remember an event that happened as Jesus walked from where he was arrested to where he died. Today, we will create a series of video tableaus called “Stations of the Journey.” A tableau is a frozen scene that a group of actors creates to show a snapshot of a story. The tableaus will show different parts of Jesus’ journey through Jerusalem during his final week. At the beginning of each tableau, you will act out the scene. Then a narrator will call “freeze,” and you will freeze in character in one position to create the tableau. We will video the tableaus and then watch them.

Choose several children to take turns as the narrator and as Jesus.

Invite the children to dress in Bible-times costumes.

Have the children stage each scene described in the “Stations of the Journey” script (page 88).

Have the children set the stage for the first scene. Then begin recording.

The children begin by acting out the first scene. When the narrator says “freeze,” the children freeze in position, creating a tableau of the scene while the narrator speaks about the event being shown. Once that event is filmed, stop the video.

**Resources**

“Stations of the Journey” narration script (page 88)

**Supplies**

video camera
video playback equipment
television
Bible-times costumes
mural paper
brown paint
paintbrush
scissors
large brown paper bags
palm leaves
tables
baskets
boxes, steps, or stools
perfume bottle
wooden or brown plates
loaf of flat bread
large cup with foot
masking tape

**Note**

Resources and websites are constantly changing. Check www.powerexpress.com for updates that may help you in planning.
The group then sets the next scene and the process is repeated. Continue until every station or scene has been filmed.

After the last scene is filmed, watch the video as a class.

For All Ages
Finding Nemo

Select Scene 15, “The Filter,” from the menu.

The scene starts at 47 minutes and 50 seconds. Nemo is staring out at the city through the window near the fish tank. Gill swims into view and says to Nemo, “You miss your dad, don’t you, shark bait?”

Watch Scenes 15, 16, and 17.

Stop at 1 hour, 31 seconds, just after Nemo stops the filter and Gill says, “That took guts, kid!”

Ask:
- What happened to Nemo when he first tried to stop the filter?
- What are some challenges Marlin faced on his journey? What did Nemo do once he heard about the great journey his dad was on to save him?
- How is Marlin’s journey to save Nemo like Jesus’ journey? What are some challenges Jesus faced on his journey? Why was Jesus willing to take on the challenges he did? How do we hear the good news about Jesus’ journey to save us? How can hearing about what Jesus did for us help us to have the courage to face the challenges in our lives?

For All Ages
The Miracle Maker

*The Miracle Maker: The Story of Jesus* is a claymation movie depicting the life of Jesus. The events happening as the action unfolds are shown with clay characters. Regular animation is used for events that are being remembered, told to others as a story about Jesus, or dreamed.

Select Scene 15, “A Den of Thieves.”

The scene starts at about 52 minutes. Jesus and the disciples are among a group of people waving palm branches and walking toward the city.

Watch from Scene 15 through Scene 24.

Stop at about 1 hour, 19 minutes, after Mary Magdalene says, “I have seen the Lord” the first time after seeing Jesus.

This section lasts 27 minutes and includes the events of Holy Week and the first accounting of the Resurrection.
Say: The part of the movie we watched started on Palm Sunday, one week before Jesus was resurrected from the dead on Easter Sunday, as we saw at the end of what we watched.

Ask: What happened to Jesus during that final week in Jerusalem? What did Jesus teach the world about God’s love that week?

For All Ages
Video Scavenger Hunt

Prepare
Make a copy of the symbol patterns (page 13).

You may wish to coordinate this activity with the “Scavenger Hunt” activity in the Game Station.

With the Children
Say: The story of Jesus’ final days is a story filled with many events that we continue to remember in the life of the church today.

Have an adult go with the children searching for symbols similar to those found on the symbol patterns page (page 13).

When the class finds a similar symbol, video the symbol and then video a child telling which symbol from the page is most like the one the class found.

Video a second child telling which event from Jesus’ final journey through Jerusalem is represented by that symbol.

Rotate the children who are filmed so every child is included.

Note: Some symbols, such as the cross, may be more easily found than others; film multiple examples of these if needed.

When you have finished, return to the room and watch the video.

For Older Children
A City Touched by God

Select “Jerusalem: The City Touched by God” from the main menu.

When the movie starts to play, press the skip button on the DVD remote to skip ahead to Scene 5, which starts at 18 minutes and 28 seconds. The narrator is standing in an area of ruins and says, “In the first century BC, a new force was rising on the world scene, the Roman Empire.”

Watch Scenes 5, 6, and 7. This section lasts twelve minutes. Stop at 30 minutes, 15 seconds, just after the narrator says, “A new faith was born in Jerusalem.”
Jesus in Jerusalem

Ask: Why is Jerusalem so important to Christians? What did you see that surprised you? some of the places Jesus went his last week? some of the things he did? If you went to Jerusalem, what spot from Jesus’ final week would you want to see? Why?

Ask: How was Jerusalem touched by God in the last week of Jesus’ life? How do you think it would feel to live in Jerusalem and see the places Jesus saw every day?

For All Ages
Select Your Own Video

Many appropriate videos are available through libraries or local Christian resource centers. Your pastor or Christian education coordinator can tell you how to contact them. Videos may also be found through public libraries or video rental stores.

Be sure the video you choose reflects the true meaning of Jesus’ last week and is appropriate for the age level viewing it.

Preview the video. Then prepare at least three questions based on the video that will help children better understand what Jesus did, why he did it, or how much God loves us.

CLOSING (5 minutes)

Gather with the children in a circle.

Say: Today, we watched movies and saw symbols that remind us of the final journey that Jesus made through Jerusalem to show the world just how much God loves us.

Ask: If you had to pick one symbol to represent the last week of Jesus’ life, what symbol would you choose? Why? (Be sure that leaders respond as well as children.)

After each person has answered, close with prayer.
Chapter by Chapter of Mark

Each chapter of Mark 11–16 tells part of the story of Jesus’ final journey through Jerusalem. Read the summary of the major events for the section assigned to your group and think of a creative way to retell those events for a video telling the story of Jesus’ final days.

Chapter 11: On the first day of the week, Jesus rode down from the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem on a donkey. People gathered around him shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the Son of David!”

On Monday, Jesus went to the Temple. In a rage of holy anger, he chased the moneychangers and sellers out of the Temple. He threw over their tables and shouted at them, “My house shall be a place of prayer, but you have made it a den of robbers!”

Chapter 14A: On Wednesday, while the religious leaders plotted to kill Jesus, Jesus stayed in the town of Bethany for a meal. During the meal, a woman poured expensive perfume on Jesus’ head to anoint him just as a prophet would anoint a king and to prepare him for the suffering he would soon face. While some thought the woman had wasted money, Jesus praised her extra-big act of love. Later that day, Judas agreed to betray Jesus.

Chapter 14B: On Thursday, Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples. He told them that one of them would betray him. During the meal, he passed bread and wine as signs of the new promise God was making to save them. After the meal, Jesus went with his disciples to pray in the garden of Gethsemane. Judas brought the armed men looking for Jesus to the garden to find him. Jesus was arrested, taken before the high priest, and put on trial.

Chapter 15: On Friday, Jesus was questioned by Pilate, the Roman governor. He was beaten and sentenced to die. He died on the cross. That evening, he was taken down from the cross and buried in a garden tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea.

Chapter 16: On Sunday, the third day since his death, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went to the tomb to prepare Jesus’ body with spices as was the custom. When they got to the tomb, the tomb was empty. Jesus was alive!
**Station 1: Palm Sunday Parade**

**Setup and Action:** The children surround Jesus, waving palm branches and shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!”

**Narrator:** Freeze! On the day called Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. Crowds came to welcome him as the Messiah.

**Station 2: Moneychangers**

**Setup and Action:** Turn one table over on its side as if it has been turned over and scatter empty baskets across the floor. Jesus and a disciple lift one end of another table as if getting ready to turn it over. The children react as people in the Temple may have reacted.

**Narrator:** Freeze! On Monday, Jesus went to the Temple. There, he overturned the tables of the moneychangers and sellers who were taking advantage of others.

**Station 3: Jesus Teaches**

**Setup and Action:** The children gather around Jesus, who is sitting on a box, step, or stool. Some sit on the floor; some sit on boxes; others stand to the side. Jesus says, “The greatest commandment is to love God with your heart, mind, soul, and strength. The second is like it: love your neighbor as yourself.”

**Narrator:** Freeze! On Tuesday, Jesus taught people in the Temple the truth about God’s love for the world.

**Station 4: Jesus Is Anointed**

**Setup and Action:** A table is flat on the floor, with wooden or brown plates on it. Jesus sits closest to the camera. Most of the children sit around the table. A girl enters with a perfume bottle and pours the perfume on Jesus’ head. The children at the table act upset.

**Narrator:** Freeze! On Wednesday, a woman anointed Jesus’ head with perfume like kings were anointed. The woman did a loving thing to help prepare Jesus for the suffering to come. Jesus was thankful.

**Station 5: A Way to Remember**

**Setup and Action:** The children gather around the table with wood or brown plates. Jesus sits on the far side with a large cup and a loaf of flat bread. Jesus lifts the cup and bread and says, “Whenever you eat this bread and drink this wine, remember my love for you.”

**Narrator:** Freeze! On the night he was betrayed, Jesus gave his disciples bread and wine as a way to remember his love for them and think of him when he was gone.

**Station 6: Jesus Prays**

**Setup and Action:** Make boulders by crumpling up paper bags and taping them together. Jesus and the children walk through the area with the rocks. Jesus talks to the children about God. Jesus tells most of the children to stay in one place. Jesus takes three of the children to one side of the rocky area. Jesus kneels and prays for God to protect his disciples. Jesus prays for God to help him to do God’s will.

**Narrator:** Freeze! On the night before he died, Jesus prayed to ask God to help his disciples and help him face the trials and suffering to come.

**Station 7: Jesus Dies**

**Setup and Action:** Tape a brown cross cut from mural paper to a wall in the room. Film the cross on the wall.

**Narrator:** On Friday, Jesus died to save the world from sin and death. His followers were sad, but we know that the cross was not the end of the story. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus is alive! Now it is our turn to share the good news about Jesus with the world.

**Modern-Day Action**

Children (now out of Bible-times costumes) enter shouting good news proclamations of joy such as “Hear the good news!” and “Thanks be to God!” and “Jesus is alive!”