

Holy Week Holidays

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The church year includes several holidays during Holy Week, which begins on Palm Sunday. Take a few minutes on each of these special days to help children grow in understanding why each of these days is important and why Christians observe them.

For

Young Family

Season

Spring



[Zyllan FotografÄ-a](#)

Needed

Bible or children's Bible, calendar, Internet-connected device, construction paper or colored copier paper, pen or pencils, stapler, crayons, scissors, glue sticks

Prepare in Advance

- Mark your Bible or a children's Bible to Matthew 26:17-20, 26-30 and Matthew 27:32-37, 50.
- Preview [Video of the Palm Sunday Story](#) and [Video of the Easter Story](#).
- Make a copy of these activity pages for each person: [Maundy Thursday Crossword Puzzle](#); [Maundy Thursday Word Search](#).
- Make a copy of [Passion Story Booklet](#) for each child. Assemble the booklets as described.
- Plan to meet for a few minutes on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday (also called Holy Thursday), Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Activity Plan

1. Each day you gather during Holy Week, begin by praying aloud:

Dear God, help us to learn more about your Son, Jesus, during these days of Holy Week. Amen.

2. When you gather on Palm Sunday, show the calendar and point out the holidays during Holy Week. First, there's Palm Sunday (which is the Sunday before Easter). Then there's Maundy Thursday (also known as Holy Thursday). Then Good Friday. Then Holy Sunday. Explain that your family will celebrate each day. If you will be attending special worship services on these days, mark the times on your calendar.
3. On Palm Sunday, watch [Video of the Palm Sunday Story](#). Wonder together about why some people were happy to see Jesus and some weren't.
4. On Maundy Thursday, read aloud Matthew 26:17-20, 26-30 from your Bible or from a children's Bible, or see the text at the end of this activity. Consider how the way your church celebrates Holy Communion is connected with this story in the Bible. Work together on the puzzles [Maundy Thursday Crossword Puzzle](#) and [Maundy Thursday Word Search](#).
5. On Good Friday, read aloud Matthew 27:32-37, 50 from your Bible or from a children's Bible, or see the text at the end of this activity. Wonder together about why Christians call this day Good Friday. Give children the [Passion Story Booklet](#) booklets you made and provide crayons for coloring them. You may want to play quiet music while they work.



6. On Holy Saturday, watch [Video of the Easter Story](#). Take turns telling your favorite parts of this story. Discuss your plans for Easter Sunday.

Matthew 26:17-20, 26-30

¹⁷ Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" ¹⁸ He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" ¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

²⁰ When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve.

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." ³⁰ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 27:32-37, 50

³² As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵ And when they had crucified him [Jesus], they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶ Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷ And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

