

# Holy Week Ups & Downs

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A lot happens within a short amount of time during Holy Week. From the crowds cheering as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to the crowds jeering at Jesus' trial and crucifixion, Holy Week is a case study in how quickly public opinion can change and influence events.

**For**  
Teen Family

## Season

Spring

## Needed

Bible

## Prepare in Advance

Mark your Bible at Luke 19:28-40, Luke 23:13-25, and Luke 23:44-49, or plan to use the text on the last page.

## Activity Plan

1. Pray aloud to begin:

*God, open our hearts and minds to learning more about the events of Holy Week. Amen.*

2. Ask someone to read aloud Luke 19:28-40 from your Bible or the text on the last page. As a family, talk about Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey:
  - What do we learn about Jesus from this story?
  - Why do you think Jesus rode a donkey and not something else?
  - What was the mood of the crowd in this passage? Why?
3. Ask someone to read aloud Luke 23:13-25 from your Bible or the text on the last page. As a family, discuss Jesus' trial:
  - Why was Jesus brought to Pilate?
  - Why did Pilate want to free Jesus?
  - What was the mood of the crowd in this passage?
  - Why do you think the crowd's mood changed so dramatically between Palm Sunday (the Luke 19) and the following Friday (this passage)?
4. Ask someone to read aloud Luke 23:44-49 from your Bible or the text on the last page. As a family, talk about Jesus' crucifixion:
  - What did the army officer say after Jesus died? Why?
  - What did the people who had gathered at the site of the crucifixion do after Jesus died? Why?
  - What was the mood of people present at the crucifixion?
  - Do you think anybody had any regrets after Jesus died? If so, whom? Why?



5. As a family, talk about current events in the news, your community, or your teen's school:
  - When have you seen the mood in a group of people change quickly? What happened when the group's mood changed?
  - Why do you think people's moods affect what happens?
  - How do you know when it's wise to have the same mood as others in a group and when it's wise not to?
6. Review that Holy Week is the term used for the week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Plan to worship together at one or more of the special Holy Week observances in your church or another church in your community, such as: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday (or Holy Thursday), Good Friday, Easter Vigil.

## The Triumphal Entry

### Luke 19:28-40

<sup>28</sup> And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup> saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here." <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" you shall say this: "The Lord has need of it." <sup>32</sup> So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup> And they said, "The Lord has need of it." <sup>35</sup> And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" <sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." <sup>40</sup> He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

## Pilate Delivers Jesus to be Crucified

### Luke 23:13-25

<sup>13</sup> Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. <sup>16</sup> I will therefore punish and release him." <sup>18</sup> But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas"—<sup>19</sup> a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. <sup>20</sup> Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, <sup>21</sup> but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" <sup>22</sup> A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him." <sup>23</sup> But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. <sup>25</sup> He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

## The Death of Jesus

### Luke 23:44-49

<sup>44</sup> It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, <sup>45</sup> while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup> Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" <sup>48</sup> And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. <sup>49</sup> And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

