

Holy Week



Video Opening



<https://bibleproject.com/videos/luke-ch-19-23/#!>

Small Group Check-in



❧ What is the most difficult thing you've ever done?

What is Holy Week?



- ✧ Holy Week is the week immediately before Easter Sunday.
- ✧ It was the last week of Jesus' life.
- ✧ It is the last week of lent.
- ✧ There are three important days within this week:
 - ✧ Palm Sunday
 - ✧ Maundy Thursday
 - ✧ Good Friday
- ✧ Open your Bibles to Mark chapter 11.

In today's lesson, we are going to briefly walk through Holy Week, paying special attention to the Big three, but also noting that Monday-Wednesday were full days too.

Palm Sunday



- ✧ Mark 11:1-11
- ✧ Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter Sunday. It celebrates the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem.
- ✧ What were the people shouting as Jesus entered the city?
- ✧ What does Mark say Jesus did after he entered Jerusalem?

Jesus was heading to Jerusalem for the Passover – as were many other Jewish people.

Point out that he arrives on a donkey rather than by foot – this sets him apart from others

The answer to the question is in Mark 11:9-10, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

After Jesus enters Jerusalem, he heads to the temple then out to Bethany (a village about 1.5 miles from Jerusalem) – Mark 11:11

Monday



- ☞ Mark 11:12-19
- ☞ Jesus curses the fig tree
- ☞ Jesus cleanses the temple

Monday is a dramatic day for Jesus.

In the morning on the way back into Jerusalem, Jesus curses a fig tree that has no fruit on it, saying that it will no longer bear fruit. This is significant because all throughout the Old Testament, the fig tree is often used as a symbol for Israel.

Jesus cleanses the temple – When Jesus entered the temple and saw the moneychangers and salespeople all over the outer court, he was horrified. He knew about all of the corruption that was happening there – inaccurate scales, bribes, and likely price gouging – but also the introduction of things that were unclean into the temple. All of this went against God's intention for the temple and so Jesus threw the people out. This made the chief priests and scribes fear Jesus.

Tuesday



- ❧ Mark 11:20-Mark 13
- ❧ The fig tree withers
- ❧ The Scribes, elders, and chief priests try to trap Jesus
- ❧ The Widows Mite
- ❧ Jesus teaches the disciples

Fig tree withers – just as Jesus cursed the tree the morning before, it has withered overnight.

Attempt to trap Jesus:

The leaders attempt to catch Jesus here through a variety of means, and each failure or teaching of Jesus only serves to enrage them more.

Jesus' Authority

Parable of the Wicked Tenants

Paying taxes

The Great Commandment

The Widows Mite – the Widow gave all that she had- placed her trust in God

Jesus teaches the disciples – Jesus spends some time teaching the disciples about what is to come – persecution, false teachers, and more.

Wednesday



- ☞ Mark 14:1-11
- ☞ Scribes and chief priests plot to kill Jesus
- ☞ Jesus anointed at Bethany
- ☞ Judas meets with the Chief Priests

Scribes and chief priests plot to kill Jesus

Jesus anointed at Bethany – Jesus is anointed with very expensive ointment – the ointment is most commonly used in preparing bodies for burial.

Judas meets with the Chief Priests

Maundy Thursday



- ✧ Mark 14:12-72
- ✧ Passover with the disciples
- ✧ Institution of the Lord's Supper
- ✧ Jesus Prays in Gethsemane
- ✧ Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus
- ✧ Jesus before the Council
- ✧ Peter denies Jesus

We assume a general familiarity with most of these events. If time allows, for both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, allow youth to share what they know about some of the events.

We do have a lesson about Communion separately, so don't feel like you need to explain this here.

Passover Celebration – celebrating the Passover was (and is) essential in the Jewish Faith. Passover celebrated when God freed the Israelites from slavery by sending the angel of death who passed over the homes of the Israelites but struck down the first born children of the Egyptians. The celebration included many ceremonial elements. It makes great sense that Jesus would journey to Jerusalem to celebrate with his disciples and that the city was so full of others doing the same.

Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus – One of Jesus' own disciples betrays him with, of all things, a kiss. He goes willingly with the soldiers knowing what must be done and what is to come.

Jesus before the Council- The time at the council was a confusing time – they had assembled people to testify against Jesus, but none of their testimonies agreed. Jesus remained silent when asked to respond. Finally Jesus is asked if he is the Christ. When he replies that he is, he is charged with Blasphemy and taken away.

Good Friday



- ✧ Mark 15
- ✧ Jesus delivered to Pilate
- ✧ Jesus to be crucified
- ✧ The Crucifixion
- ✧ The death of Jesus
- ✧ Jesus placed in a tomb

Teach good Friday much the same way you did Maundy Thursday.

If there's no time for students to share what they know, briefly summarize the events of Good Friday focusing on:

Pilate condemns him even though he knows he's done nothing wrong

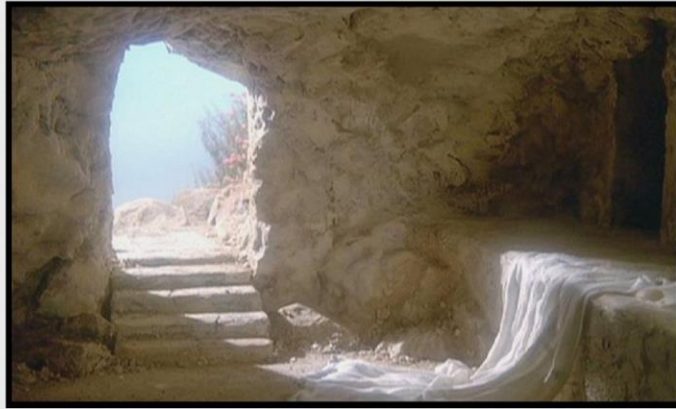
Jesus is whipped and beaten

He's hung on the cross – one of the most shameful ways to die in those times

As he dies, the curtain in the temple which separates the people from the holy of holies rips

Once the soldiers ensure that Jesus is dead, Joseph of Arimathea – a follower of Christ who sat on the Council Jesus appeared in front of the night before – provides a tomb for him and takes his body to be buried.

But that's not the end...



Small Groups



- ✧ Play 2 truths and a lie

Each student needs to tell 2 facts and 1 lie about themselves. The other participants try to figure out the lie.

When finished discuss how lies are a form of betrayal. Whether they are lies we tell ourselves or lies we listen to from others.

Small Group



Jesus was betrayed by one of his closest friends. We have all felt betrayed at one time or another.

Have students get a piece of paper and divide it in half down the middle of the page. Put the title 'My Story' at the top of one column and 'Jesus' Story' at the top of the other. Write about how Jesus was betrayed and try to predict how you think he felt. Write about a time in your life when you have felt betrayed by a friend. Describe the event and your feelings.

As a small group, pray together asking God to help you forgive those who have betrayed you.