

Holy Week

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Matthew 21:1-11;
26:14—27:66

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Palm Sunday

Lesson Focus
Jesus died and rose for us.



Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Center Time Kids decorate a cross with colored tissue paper, set the table, and color Bible story pictures.</p>	<p>Coloring Pages </p>	<p>Whistle, black paper, colored tissue paper cut into small squares, glue, paper plate, toy dishes, placemats, napkins, toy food, blank paper, crayons or markers</p>
<p>Circle Time Kids find a cross in the Holy Spirit Surprise Sack, hear about the church season, and wave bandanas.</p>	<p>Leaflet</p>	<p>Gift bag, cross, bandanas</p>
<p>Prayer Time Kids pray with fingers making a cross shape.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Holy Week Storytelling Leader reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible.</p>	<p>Spark Story Bible</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Move around Holy Week Kids move around to stations of Holy Week.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Palm branch, dishes, cross, butterfly</p>
<p>Jesus Rides Kids attach fabric, Easter grass, and stickers to their leaflets.</p>	<p>Leaflets, Lesson Stickers</p>	<p>Piece of soft fabric, Easter grass, glue sticks</p>

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Feelings Faces Kids match the feelings to the faces.	Spark Story Bible, Leaflets	Crayons or markers
Jesus Kids make the ASL sign for <i>Jesus</i> .	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	None
Jesus Chant Kids chant and use the ASL sign for <i>Jesus</i> .	Leaflets	None

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids share a closing rhyme.	Leaflets	None
Prayer Time Kids make fingerprints while they pray.	Family Pages 	Inkpad, wet wipes, white paper



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Director's CD-Rom contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Spark Online annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Director's CD-Rom and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.

Gather (10 minutes)

Center Time

You may choose to set up all or some of these learning centers for kids to play in as they arrive in your classroom. Have helpers in each center to help kids with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

When all kids have arrived and have had time to participate in at least one center, blow your whistle. **When you hear my whistle blow, you know it is time to clean up your toys and get ready for Circle Time.** Make sure all the kids can hear the whistle.

Tissue Cross

Cut the black paper into cross shapes. Let the kids put a little glue on the paper plate. Have them crumple the tissue squares, dip them in the glue and push them onto the cross. **Our crosses will remind us that Jesus died on a cross for us.**

Set the Table

Set the toy dishes and food where the kids can play. Encourage the kids to get ready for a meal. **What do we do to get ready for a party or dinner with friends? Jesus served a special meal with special food for his friends before he died.**

Coloring Center

Have coloring supplies and copies of the Spark Coloring Page available at a table for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Whistle
Black paper
Colored tissue paper cut into small squares
Glue
Paper plate
Toy dishes
Placemats
Napkins
Toy food
Blank paper
Crayons or markers

Circle Time

Welcome, friends! We are all here to learn about God. Let's sing our welcome song and see who is here today. Sing to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush".

**Now it's time for Spark Time,
For Spark Time, for Spark Time.
Now it's time for Spark Time,
We hear about God's love.**

**Our friends are here for Spark Time,
For Spark Time, for Spark Time.
Our friends are here for Spark Time,
We hear about God's love.**

**[Name] is here for Spark Time,
For Spark Time, for Spark Time.
[Name] is here for Spark Time,
We hear about God's love.**

Continue until all kids and adults are named.

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

Gift bag
Cross
Bandanas, 1 per kid

Reach into the gift bag. **Let's see what's in our Holy Spirit Surprise Sack. It's a cross. A cross makes us think about the day Jesus died. It was a very sad day. But Jesus was not alone. The Holy Spirit was around Jesus when he died. The Holy Spirit is around us all the time, too. Let's pass the cross around our circle and we'll all tell each other a place where the Holy Spirit is with us. It won't be hard because the Holy Spirit is with us wherever we go!**

Let's say, "Welcome, [Name]. The Holy Spirit is with you."

Continue around the circle until everyone has been welcomed.

Hold the leaflet up for everyone to see. **Let's see what's on our leaflet. I see a purple road. Purple is for the season of Lent, and the road reminds us of the road that Jesus followed on his way to die on the cross.**

Pass everyone a bandana. **We're going to get ready for our story today by waving bandanas. The people at the beginning of our story wave their coats and palm branches as Jesus rides by on a donkey. They are so happy to see him, they shout and cheer and wave palm branches.** Let the kids wave their bandanas for a minute or two.

Prayer Time

Show the kids how to cross their two index fingers to make a cross shape. **Put your fingers like this. We're going to pray with our hands shaped like a cross to help us remember that Jesus died for us.**

**Dear God,
Thank you for sending Jesus who lived and died and rose again. We love him.
Amen.**

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Holy Week Storytelling

Take out your Spark Story Bible and open to Palm Sunday on pages 454-459. Read the story out loud and point to the corresponding pictures. Look for Squiggles the caterpillar in each picture. Ask kids what they think Squiggles is feeling or doing. Encourage them to make a face like Squiggles.

Ask the following questions, allowing time for kids to answer.

What do the people do when they see Jesus riding into town on the donkey?

(They wave palm branches, shout hosanna and sing, and lay down their coats.)

Who would like to tell us about a parade they have seen?

If you wish and time allows, you can also read The Day Jesus Died, pages 476-481, and The Empty Tomb, pages 483-487 out loud.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bible

Supplies
None

Move Around Holy Week

Set the four symbols around the classroom. Carry your Spark Story Bible with you as you walk around to the different symbols. Show the kids illustrations from the Bible that apply to each symbol. **We're going to go for a little walk around our room to see some symbols from Holy Week.** Walk over to the palm branch. **This is a palm branch like the ones the people waved when Jesus came into town on a donkey. Let's wave our hands and pretend that we are cheering for Jesus, too.** Move to the dishes. **Jesus served a special meal to his friends. Jesus wanted them to remember him always. Let's bow our heads and pray like Jesus does to thank God for the food.** Move to the cross. **This is a cross that reminds us of Jesus dying on a cross. Let's put our fingers in a cross shape like we did for Prayer Time.** Move to the butterfly. **We know that Jesus did not stay dead. We know he came back to life. Let's fly like butterflies back to the table to work on our leaflets.**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible

Supplies

Palm branch
Dishes
Cross
Butterfly

Jesus Rides

Cut the fabric into squares to make blankets for Jesus to sit on in the illustration in the leaflets. Pass out the leaflets, fabric squares, and Easter grass. **Look at Jesus riding on a donkey. Let's glue a blanket on our leaflets so Jesus has a soft place to sit. We'll glue some grass onto our leaflets so he has a nice place to walk. Our glue sticks will hold those things down nicely. Now we can add these palm branch stickers to our leaflet. We have made a special parade for Jesus. Hosanna!**

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Piece of soft fabric
Easter grass
Glue sticks

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Feelings Faces

Pass out the crayons or markers. **Let's take a look at the other side of our leaflets. Some of the faces are from our story.** Show the kids the drawings in the Spark Story Bible from pages 457-459 and 479. **Let's see if we can match the drawings with the feelings that the kids in the pictures are showing. Use your crayon to draw a line between the story pictures and the kids' pictures. Let's make our faces match the kids' faces, too.**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible
Leaflets

Supplies

Crayons or markers

Jesus

Pass out the Jesus stickers. **Look at the other part of our leaflets. The boy is making a sign. We have a sticker that matches that sign. Look at your stickers to see if you can figure out what the sign is for. It is the sign for Jesus. Jesus has his own special sign. We point to one of our hands first, and then we point to the other hand. Doing this reminds us of the places on Jesus' hands where the nails went in when the soldiers put him on the cross.**

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

None

Jesus Chant

We're going to use the sign we learned from our leaflet in our chant. Divide the group in half. **This half of the group will sign and say the word *Jesus!* The other half of the group will say the second part of the chant.**

Jesus . . . loves us!

Jesus . . . died for us!

Jesus . . . rose again!

Switch sides and do the chant again. Make up other phrases for the chant.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

It's time for our blessing. The blessing song is sung to the tune of "Good Night Ladies."

God bless [Name]. ASL *bless* sign.

God bless [Name]. ASL *bless* sign.

God bless [Name], ASL *bless* sign.

God bless me! Point to self.

Repeat the blessing song until everyone has been blessed. At the end of the blessing song, shout out today's lesson focus. **Jesus is our savior! Jesus is our savior! Jesus is our savior!**

Hold up the leaflet and point to Faith on the Go! on the back. **Be sure to take your leaflet home, because it has one more fun activity you can do with your family.**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None



Bless

Prayer Time

Write "Jesus died and rose for us" on the paper. **The words on my paper say, "Jesus died and rose for us." While we pray to thank Jesus, we're going to make our fingerprints on the paper. We'll write our names when we're done.**

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for dying and rising again for us.

Amen.

Help the kids ink and print their fingers on the paper. Wipe their hands with the wet wipes when they are done.

Be sure to send leaflets home with the kids, and give each of them a Family Page to take home.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Inkpad

Wet wipes

White paper