

# Holy Week

## Lesson At-A-Glance

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

Lectionary Sunday/  
Church Season  
**Passion/Palm Sunday**

Lesson Focus  
**Jesus died on a cross.**



### Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Arrival Time</b> Kids work together to put letters in order, sing a song together, and do an Activity Page.	Activity Pages 	Markers, pencils, copy of Letter Tile Page on page 67, scissors, tape
<b>Circle Time</b> Kids greet each other with a class cheer, hear about the lectionary season, and learn about putting items in order—from beginning to ending.	Leaflet	ABC strip from Arrival Time
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids line up in order of the months they were born and receive a blessing.	None	None

### Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Holy Week Storytelling</b> Leader or kid reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible and kids use Holy Week Story Cards to show the story order.	Spark Story Bibles	Holy Week Story Cards on page 69, scissors
<b>A Holy Week for Jesus</b> Kids identify events from Palm Sunday and The Day Jesus Died and put them in order.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Pencils
<b>Welcome, Jesus!</b> Kids imagine themselves at the Palm Sunday parade and make choices about how to celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.	Leaflets	Pencils, markers

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Word Search</b> Kids find the word <i>Jesus</i> repeatedly in a puzzle.	Leaflets	Pencils, whiteboard, dry-erase marker
<b>Beautiful Crosses</b> Kids examine some beautiful and unusual crosses.	Leaflets	None
<b>Class Cross</b> Kids decorate a huge cross for their Sunday school wall.	None	Mural paper, markers, 2 in (5 cm) colorful tissue-paper squares, glue, masking tape, paper plates

## Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Good-bye Time</b> Kids select what they will do at home this week, say the lesson focus statement, and do a good-bye action rhyme.	Leaflets	Pencils, scissors
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids pray on their knees like Jesus did and repeat the prayer Jesus said to God.	Leaflets, Family Pages 	None



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit [wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS](http://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)

## Arrival Time

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Make a copy of the Letter Tile Page from page 67. Cut apart all of the letters to make 26 paper alphabet tiles. Scatter them all around your class area.

Set out markers, pencils, and copies of the Activity Page for this lesson.

**It's good to see you today! I'm happy to have you here because I need your help. Do you see the letters scattered all over our room? We need to find 26 letters and put them in order. What kind of order do you think we will put them in?**

Pause for responses. **Yes! We will put them in alphabetical order—the order of the ABCs. When you find a letter, place it on the table. After you've found 26 letters, then you can all put them together to make the ABCs.** Give kids time to find all of the letters and assemble them in order. If they can't remember the order, sing the ABC song with them. After all 26 letters are in order, tape them in a long strip together and tape the strip to a wall in your class area. **Great job everyone! Thanks for your help. Now let's sing our ABC song, but with a twist.**

**ABCDEFG**

**HIJK**

**LMNOP**

**QRS, TUV**

**WXYZ**

**Now I've said my ABCs**

**God loves you and God loves me!**

Invite kids to do the Activity Page. When all kids have arrived, invite them to join you in a circle or small group.

## Circle Time

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**Let's all stand in a circle and put one hand in the middle, so our hands stack on top of each other.** Place your hand in first to demonstrate. After everyone has a hand in the circle, shout together, **God loves everyone! God knows our names! Now, we'll each shout our own name out loud and lift up our hand starting with the person whose hand is on top.** Kids take turns saying their names, in the order their hands are stacked from top to bottom. After all names are said, tell everyone, **Raise both of your hands high and shout, "Praise God!"**

If the kids in your class tried the Faith on the Go! activities from last week's leaflet, be sure to invite kids to share what they did. Ask everyone how they showed love to someone or helped another person during the last week.

Hold up the leaflet, and point to the road on the purple background. **We have been traveling on this Lent road for many Sundays now. And guess what! Today we're**

### Spark Resources

Activity Pages



### Supplies

Markers

Pencils

Copy of the Letter Tile Page  
on page 67

Scissors

Tape

### Spark Resources

Leaflet

### Supplies

ABC strip from Arrival Time

reading two Bible stories, and both stories have roads in them! One road is a road Jesus travels into Jerusalem. The other road is a road Jesus walks to the cross. Let's stand up and pretend to walk on the Lent road with Jesus. The roads that Jesus walked were dusty roads. Let's shake the dust off our feet. We're almost ready to get to the end of our Lent road. Stop walking in place. At the end of the Lent road is Easter. What happens on Easter? (*Jesus rises from the dead to a new life.*)

Look at the letters of the alphabet that you put in order. How do we put things in order? We put numbers in order by arranging them from smallest to largest. Let's count to ten. Count to ten out loud with the kids. We put letters in order by arranging them from first to last, like we did when we put the letters together in alphabetical order. We put stories in order by finding the beginning, middle, and end of a story.

Today we're reading two smaller stories that are part of a big story called Holy Week. Holy Week has lots of smaller stories in it. The beginning of Holy Week is much different from the middle of Holy Week. The middle of Holy Week is much different from the end of Holy Week. We want to be sure to put the stories of Holy Week in order because Holy Week was one of the most important times in Jesus' life.

## Prayer Time

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Everyone stand up. When you came to class today, we put the letters in the order of the alphabet. Now I'm going to put you in order. I'm going to order you according to the months of your birthdays. If you have a birthday in January, stand right here. Arrange the kids, side by side, by birthday month. Now that you're in order, I'm going to place my hand on your head and give each one of you a special blessing. Place a hand on each kid's head and pray this blessing:

Dear God,  
Bless [Name] during Holy Week.  
Help [him/her] to walk with Jesus.  
Amen.

Spark Resources  
None

Supplies  
None

# Open the Bible (15 minutes)

## Holy Week Storytelling

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Make a copy of the Holy Week Story Cards on page 69. Cut the cards apart and arrange them in chronological order. Make a copy of the sheet for each kid to take home. Do not cut these sheets apart. The sheet has directions for families to follow on how to cut apart and use the cards for storytelling.

**Today we're going to read two stories from our Spark Story Bibles: Palm Sunday and The Day Jesus Died. Both of these stories are part of a big story about Holy Week. The story of Holy Week is made of lots of smaller stories. All of these stories tell about what happened to Jesus and his disciples on Jesus' last week on earth, before he died on the cross. Let's read our two stories to learn more about this week.**

Pass out the Spark Story Bibles and invite everyone to find Palm Sunday on pages 454–459. Wait until all kids have found the story, assisting those who may need help. Encourage kids to follow along as you read or ask for a volunteer to read aloud. Then read The Day Jesus Died on pages 476–481.

**When you came to class today you arranged 26 paper letter tiles in ABC order. Now we're going to arrange six story cards in order. These cards are little pictures from the two stories that we just read.** Give each kid a card. If you have a large class, let buddies share a card. If you have a small class, give kids more than one card. **Let's work together. I'm looking for a picture that shows Jesus riding a donkey on Palm Sunday. If you have that card place it on the table right here.** You will be arranging the cards in a line, so choose a starting point on the table to begin the line. **Who has the card that comes next?** Wait for responses. **I'm looking for a card with a picture of people who are cheering for Jesus. Can you place your card right next to the first one?** Have the kid(s) do this. **Our next picture is one of Jesus talking to some grumpy religious leaders. If you have that picture, add it next.** Continue in this way, having kids add the pictures of Jesus carrying the cross, people crying, and three crosses on a hill. Invite kids to tell that part of the story after they add each card.

Have a brief conversation about the stories. Ask the kids these questions:

1. **What happened at the beginning of Holy Week?** (*Jesus went to Jerusalem for Passover, Jesus asked someone to get him a donkey, Jesus rode in a parade.*)
2. **What happened at the end of Holy Week?** (*Jesus died on a cross.*)
3. **One way we get ready for Easter is to read the Bible stories about Holy Week. How does your family get ready for Easter?** Affirm all responses.

### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

### Supplies

Holy Week Story Cards on  
page 69  
Scissors

## A Holy Week for Jesus

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If kids are not already seated at a table, move to one for this activity. Give each kid a leaflet.

**Look at the Bible story pictures on the first page of our leaflets. Something from our story is missing. Can you guess what it is?** (*the crosses on the hill*) Hand out the large stickers to kids. Pause to give kids time to place their large sticker.

**At the beginning of Holy Week, people sang and shouted for Jesus: "Hosanna! Here comes God's king!" Jesus was their king! At the end of Holy Week, the people cried sad tears. Jesus died on a cross.**

**We've been practicing putting things in order today. Let's put these pictures in order to show what happened during Holy Week.** Kids identify each picture from the story and write the correct number under the picture, 1-4.

**Let's look at the bottom of this page and read about where we can find this story in the Bible. Today's Bible stories, Palm Sunday and The Day Jesus Died, are from the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew liked to write about things in twos. Today we read two stories in Matthew about two days in Holy Week, the week that leads up to Easter. Matthew also has two Ts in his name.**

Give kids the three word stickers. **Now look at the bottom of the third page in your leaflet. It has the same words that we just read, but it's missing some important words. Use the word stickers to fill in the blanks. Which word do you think goes where?** (*Matthew, twos, stories*) After attaching the stickers, read the statements together.

If you are interested in teaching your kids a Bible Memory Verse from this story, use this one. Teach it to them by inviting them to echo what you say, one phrase at a time.

**Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. Matthew 27:50**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets  
Lesson Stickers

### Supplies

Pencils

## Welcome, Jesus!

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Invite kids to open to the second page of their leaflets. **Jesus rode a donkey in a parade on Palm Sunday. People shouted, "Hosanna!" People took off their coats and pulled down palm branches to lay them on the ground for Jesus and the donkey to walk on. The crowd called out, "This is Jesus! God's king!"**

**Now imagine that you lived during Jesus' time and Jesus was riding a donkey in parade on Palm Sunday. How would you welcome him? First of all, choose which kind of branch you would wave. Olive trees, palm trees, and oak trees all grew where Jesus lived. Put a check mark beside the kind of branch that you would wave.**

**People laid down their coats on the path of the parade. This was one way people in Jesus' time welcomed kings. What would your coat look like, the one that you would lay on the ground for Jesus and the donkey to walk on? Would it have lots of colors, or stripes? Put a check mark beside the fabric of your coat.**

**What would you shout when Jesus passed by: "Hosanna!" "God's king!" or "This is Jesus!?" Check off the one that you like the best.**

**Now imagine that it is today, and Jesus is going to ride in a parade in our town. How would you welcome Jesus today?** Affirm responses. **Now draw your best idea inside the empty frame.** Invite kids to share their drawings and share your ideas too.

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
Pencils  
Markers

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

### Word Search

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**Let's look at the third page of the leaflet. Holy Week is all about Jesus. It begins with a story of people cheering as they welcome Jesus as God's king. It ends with a story of people crying as Jesus died on a cross. How many times can you find the word "Jesus" in this puzzle?**

Assign buddies for the kids to work with during this activity. You may use birthday months to create the pairs. **Hey, surprise! We have a few more story words hidden in the puzzle. I'll write them on the board, then work with your buddy to find them.** Write the words HAPPY, SAD, CROSS, and DONKEY on the board.

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
Pencils  
Whiteboard  
Dry-erase marker

## Beautiful Crosses

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**Turn to the back page of your leaflets. Christians around the world put crosses in their churches and homes. Many Christians wear beautiful crosses as jewelry. Crosses show others that we are Christians, followers of Christ Jesus. Crosses remind us that Jesus died on a cross. Jesus also rose from the dead. The cross is empty! Jesus is risen!**

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
None

**Let's look at some beautiful crosses.** Spend a moment discussing each cross, what kind of material it is made out of and its location (inside, outside). Ask the kids which one is their favorite one. If time permits, walk around inside and outside of your church to find your own church crosses.

## Class Cross

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Before the kids arrive, draw the outline of a large cross on mural paper and tape it on the wall of your classroom. **We're going to work together to make our own beautiful cross. Why is the empty cross beautiful to Christians?** (*Jesus died on the cross, but the empty cross reminds us that Jesus rose to a new life at Easter.*) **Let's cover our cross in flowers.** Pour a thin layer of glue on a paper plate. **Watch how I make a flower and glue it to the cross.** Demonstrate all of these steps. **First take a square of tissue paper. Put the tip of your pointer finger in the center of the square. Wrap the tissue paper around your finger. Dip the tissue paper covered tip of your finger into the glue. Then press the flower onto the cross. Hold your finger on the cross and count to ten before you remove it. Now it's your turn. Spread your little flowers all over the cross.** Join with the kids as all of you glue tissue paper flowers to the cross. Find a place in your building to hang up your cross throughout the season of Easter, removing it at Pentecost.

Spark Resources  
None

Supplies  
Mural paper  
Markers  
2 in (5 cm) colorful tissue-  
paper squares  
Glue  
Masking tape  
Paper plates

## Send (5 minutes)

### Good-bye Time

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**Thank you for coming to class today! We learned about Holy Week. Holy Week started with Palm Sunday. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, and the people shouted, "Hosanna!" Holy Week ended with Jesus dying on a cross.**

Direct attention to the back of the Faith on the Go! slip on the bottom of the back page of the leaflet. Kids can fill in the blanks with the name of someone they want to give this slip to, their own name, and today's date. Encourage them to mark one or more of the ideas or add their own. Have kids cut the slip off on the line, ready to give to someone else.

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
Pencils  
Scissors

**After class, give this slip to someone you want to do the activity with. It's like a coupon for time with you. Next week, we can tell each other what we did to share God's love and remember our Bible story!**

**It's time for our Go Out! circle.** Give kids time to stand with you in a circle. **Today we heard: Jesus died on a cross. Let's say it together: Jesus died on a cross. Let's go out with God's love!** Say this rhyme together while doing the motions:

**Put both hands in,  
Put both hands out,  
Put hands up high,  
And shake them all about.  
Spin around once,  
Spin again and shout:  
Go, God! Go, us! Let's go out!**

## Prayer Time

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**We can pray on our knees, like Jesus prayed before he went to the cross. We can say the prayer words that Jesus said to God. Let's all kneel. Repeat each line after me.**

**Please God,  
Make me strong.  
Help me trust you.  
Amen.**

Be sure to send the leaflets, Holy Week Story Cards sheets, and Family Pages home with kids.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Family Pages



Supplies

None



A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X
	Y	Z	



Dear Family, today we used these story cards in class to review the story of Holy Week. Please help your child to cut the sheet into six separate cards. Then invite your child to retell the Bible stories that he or she heard today in class. You can find these stories in the Spark Story Bible on pages 454 (Palm Sunday) and 476 (The Day Jesus Died).

