

God's Story Our Story



Triumphal Entry
(Palm/Passion Sunday)

March 20, 2016

Devotion: Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone, as a couple, as a family; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

God of great and small, use every occasion to teach us. In all the places we journey, the public square and own dwelling places, grant us sacred encounters with you. Amen.

Reflect: Reflect on the key verses from Sunday's reading.

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Mark 11:8-10

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

The road, at last, has taken Jesus and the disciples to Jerusalem. The dance with the powers of the world has been going on for a while. But now matters begin to come to a head. They enter the city to great acclaim amid a public spectacle. Although things would change quickly, in this moment there is hope, and joy, and love.

Read: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday, Mark 11:1-11, *Triumphal Entry*

Monday, Mark 14:3-9, *Woman Anoints Jesus*

Tuesday, Mark 14:43-65, *The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus*

Wednesday, Mark 14:66-72, *Peter Denies Jesus*

Thursday, Mark 14:12-42, *The Lord's Supper*

Friday, Mark 15:16-39, *Crucifixion*

Saturday, Mark 15:40-47, *The Death and Burial of Jesus*

Notice and discuss the high points and low points of this emotional and eventful week.

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

How does your life reflect shifting views or emotions toward Jesus? When in your life have you felt close to Jesus? When have you felt a distance?

How might you explain the events of Holy Week to someone who has never learned of Jesus before? What do these events mean to you?

Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Make a timeline of your life. Mark events that signify high points and low points. Mark also where Jesus was during those times. How were your faith practices during those times? See if you notice any patterns. What do you learn about yourself and about Jesus?

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God walk with you on your Holy Week journey. Amen.