



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAN MATEO

HOLY WEEK AT HOME FOR KIDS

CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK WITH STORIES,
QUESTIONS, AND ACTIVITIES

PALM SUNDAY

Read: Matthew 21:1-11

Item Needed: Palm Branches

Listen: Today we remember when Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people cheered and celebrated by putting palm branches and coats on the road before him.

Do: Walk around your house or your yard with your palm branches and shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord"

Ask: What do you think it felt like to wave palm branches in front of Jesus that day? What would you shout at Jesus to tell him that you're excited?



HOLY MONDAY

Read: Matthew 22:34-40

Item Needed: Card

Listen: After Jesus' big, exciting entrance into Jerusalem, his next few days were kind of... boring! He went back to teaching people about God. There were so many rules that everyone had to follow, so Jesus helped them understand what all the rules are really about—loving God and loving our neighbors.

Do: Write a letter to someone who lives alone. If you need help thinking of someone, ask Sheryl for the name of someone at church!

Ask: Does life feel kind of boring right now? What do you think Jesus felt when life wasn't very exciting? How can you love your neighbors even when you can't be with them?



HOLY TUESDAY

Read: Matthew 21:12-13

Item Needed: Red Crayon

Listen: On Tuesday, Jesus went to the Holy Temple and saw that instead of worshipping God, people were using it as a store. They were selling things that made it seem like you had to have enough money to *really* worship God the right way. It made him so mad that he flipped over all the tables and cleared it for worship again.

Do: Color your paper as hard as you can with your red crayon. Cover as much of the paper as you can.

Ask: What does red make you feel? What do you do when you get angry? Do you sometimes feel more than one thing at the same time? What do you do with those feelings? Do you think that it was okay that Jesus was angry at the people at the temple?



HOLY WEDNESDAY

Read: Matthew 26:14-16

Item Needed: Coins

Listen: One of Jesus' best friends, Judas, did something terrible to Jesus. He took money from the people who wanted to hurt Jesus and in exchange, he handed Jesus over to them to be killed. He loved money more than he loved his friend and it destroyed him.

Do: Ask your parents about how you can give money to people who need it right now. When we give our money away to others, we use money to help instead of for greed, like Judas did.

Ask: Have you ever had a friend hurt your feelings? What did that feel like? Were you able to become friends again afterward? How do you think Jesus felt when his friend hurt him? How does it feel to give your allowance or birthday money away?



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Read: John 13:1-17,31b-35

Item Needed: Towel

Listen: Jesus shared a very special Passover meal with his friends. As they sat down, Jesus got up and got a bucket of water and towel to wash his disciples' dirty, dusty feet. They couldn't believe that their teacher would get so dirty for them.

Do: Decorate your towel with paints or markers as beautifully as you can. Washing his disciples was a generous gift that Jesus gave them. Your towel can be a symbol of that beautiful gift.

Ask: How have grown ups shown that they love you through their actions? Does it feel good to have someone wash your hair or give you a foot massage? What do you think Jesus' friends felt when Jesus washed their feet?



GOOD FRIDAY

Read: Psalm 22:1-11, 19-31

Item Needed: Cross (you can make one with paper!)

Listen: Today is the saddest day of our year. Even though Jesus had done nothing wrong, the people hurt him, laughed at and teased him, and put him on the cross to die. While he was dying, Jesus said some of the words from Psalm 22 about feeling like God had abandoned him. There on the cross, Jesus died.

Do: Hold on to your cross while you listen to the Bible story.

Ask: What does today's story make you feel? Sad? Angry? Confused? Why do we call it Good Friday if it is such a sad day? What makes you feel better when you are sad?



HOLY SATURDAY

Read: John 19:38-42

Item Needed Seeds

Listen: On Saturday, we remember that Jesus lay in the tomb this whole day. But the next day, the first person who saw him thought he was a gardener. For thousands of years, Christians have celebrated today by gardening.

Do: Plant your flower seeds in your yard or in a pot of dirt in your house. Remember to water them until they sprout up and produce beautiful flowers. While you're at it, ask your parents if it's okay to pull some weeds in your yard!

Ask: Do you like getting your hands dirty in the garden? Why do you think Mary thought Jesus was a gardener on Easter morning? what do you think he was wearing?



EASTER SUNDAY

Read: Matthew 28:1-10

Item Needed: Sidewalk Chalk

Listen: Christ Has Risen!! This is the best news of all-- death is not the most powerful thing in the world-- God's love is! We call this Good News "The Gospel" and it's the reason that we celebrate even when life seems like it is its very darkest. God's love has defeated sin and death and so today we celebrate!

Do: Decorate the sidewalk in front of your house with the Good News and Easter joy!

Ask: What is your favorite kind of celebration? How does this Easter feel different than other years? How can you go share the good news today?

