



Sunday Gospel Background

Passion/Palm Sunday begins the celebration of the most important week in the Church year—Holy Week.

With reflections on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, this lesson speaks of what happens at the Holy Week liturgies as they teach and invite us into the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Your child will also make an Exodus book to help connect the Jewish Passover, from slavery to freedom, to Jesus' Passover, from death to life.

Share Experiences

- Pray together** Loving God, during this Holy Week, we will walk with your Son, Jesus, as he suffers and dies for our salvation. Give us the quiet space we need to meet you in the liturgies of these holy days. In your name, we pray. Amen.
- Cover Activity • The Holiest Days of the Christian Year (page 1)** Take turns reading aloud the paragraphs introducing the days of Holy Week. Check your parish schedule for Holy Week services and make plans for your family to attend in whatever way you are able—online or in person.
- Gathering Prayer-Hymn • All Glory, Laud, and Honor (page 3)** Read the instruction at upper right, and give your child time to find the words of praise, honor, and respect. *Glory, laud* (which means “praise”), *honor, and hosanna* (which means “God save your people”) are all in the refrain. Other words are *king, blessed one, anthems and hymns, exalted, source of love, Savior*. Give your child time to write these words on the palm fronds. Then read aloud the hymn together, alternating each stanza. Or, search the hymn online and listen to a recording.
- Holy Week • Palm/Passion Sunday (page 2)** Think about past Palm Sunday liturgies in your parish and invite your child to share any memories of them. Use the illustrations on page 2 to remind your child of the palms and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.
- Palm/Passion Sunday Gospel • Jesus Enters Jerusalem (page 2)** Proclaim the Gospel together by sharing the parts of Narrators 1–3, Jesus, Boy, and Girl.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 2.** *Answers: 1. They get a donkey for Jesus, spread their cloaks on the ground, cut and scatter leafy branches on the ground, and cry out, “Hosanna!” 2. Open-ended; talk about how you can do this at home with special music, prayers, blessings, flowers, a homemade banner or poster, etc. 3. The cross and palms as well as any modern symbols of welcome could express belief in Jesus.*

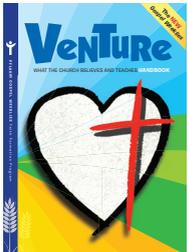
Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Good Friday Gospel • The Story of Jesus' Passion (page 4)** On Palm/Passion Sunday, we hear Jesus' Passion story according to Mark. On Good Friday, we read John's account. You can prepare the presentation of Jesus' passion as a family for the benefit of all. Choose one or more of the scenes to act out together and get your child involved (and perhaps taking the lead) in the studying and planning. This can help your child remember and appreciate Jesus' experience of where his love for us takes him. Your child might decide to present a scene totally in mime, or create simple speaking parts by having each person read a part of the account.
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Jesus Suffers and Dies for Us (page 3)** Read aloud this summary of the doctrine as it relates to the Holy Week readings, especially Palm/Passion Sunday and Good Friday.
- Turn to the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. This discussion is meant to be open-ended; try to lead toward answering the question of why Catholics make Lenten Commitments. Ask: How have your Lenten resolutions kept God in your heart and mind?*



Was it through prayer? Or perhaps you thought of the sacrifice of Jesus every time you remembered that you gave up something important to you? Do you feel changed? In what way(s)? 2. Open-ended.

- **Catholic Faith Word • Paschal Mystery (page 3)** Read aloud the definition. Remind your child that Jesus did not suffer and die only for the people who lived in his time; we, too, are saved through his suffering/Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. Explain that *mystery* means that we will not fully grasp or appreciate the weight of these events; they are beyond our full understanding.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 53. Remind your child that the Apostles' Creed is a statement of the beliefs of the Christian Church. It also includes a summary of the major events of the life of Jesus. It encompasses the entire Christian faith, which Catholics celebrate throughout the Liturgical Year. Then turn to the Church Year illustration on page 65 and point out the following Church Year connections:

- "Conceived by the Holy Spirit" – *The Annunciation (Advent)*
- "Suffered under Pontius Pilate" – *The Passion of the Lord (Lent, Palm/Passion Sunday)*
- "On the third day he rose again" – *The Resurrection (Easter Sunday)*
- "... seated at the right hand of God" – *The Ascension of the Lord*

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Venture pages 5–8.

Live the Gospel

- **Activity • Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil: Israel's Passover and Jesus' Passover (pages 5-8)** Have your child fold pages 5–8 together once to make a booklet with the map on the cover. Use the page numbers on the lower outside corners to make sure the booklet pages are in order.
- **Catholic Faith Word • Passover (page 5 of booklet)** Have your child read aloud this definition to introduce the discussion of the Israelites in the booklet.
- **The Israelites' Passover From Slavery to Freedom (booklet pages 1-6)** The booklet will take your child through the story of the Exodus, including the first Passover supper, and into the celebrations of Light, Word, and Baptism by which we celebrate Jesus' passover from Death to life at the Easter Vigil. Read through the first six pages of the booklet together.
- **Closing Prayer • Jesus' Passover From Death to Life (booklet pages 7-8)** If possible, gather the following supplies: a large candle, a Bible, and a bowl of water. Use the candle during the Service of the Light, the Bible during the Service of the Word, and the bowl of water during the Celebration of Baptism. Explain that Easter is the greatest celebration in our Church year; and encourage your child to help make the prayer service as joyful as possible. Your child might draw spring flowers, make decorations for the candle, or choose some music to add to your prayer celebration. Then share the reading parts among family members.



Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to pflaumweeklies.com/family
Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture.