



Sunday Gospel Background

Passion/Palm Sunday begins the celebration of the most important week in the Church year—Holy Week. During this time, the liturgies teach us and invite us into the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. This week, the lesson guides you through a dramatic presentation of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus. It's meant to help you and your child encounter the emotions—fear, joy, betrayal, anger, and disbelief—that Jesus and his friends experienced during this most holy time in the Church.

Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

- Pray together** On the Cross, Jesus cries out to his Father, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34). Together, share about times you have felt alone or discouraged. Listen to your child’s response. Pause and pray the Lord’s Prayer with these experiences in mind.
- Cover Activity • Holy Week Calendar** Take turns reading aloud the descriptions of the days of Holy Week. Explain that the Paschal Triduum (also called the Holy Triduum or Easter Triduum) is the period of three days that begins with the liturgy on the evening of Holy Thursday, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes with evening prayer on Easter Sunday. Check your parish schedule for Holy Week services and make plans to attend in whatever way your family is able—online or in person.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Passion Play • The Road to the Cross and Beyond (pages 2–7)** Although this play is written for a classroom of several students, you can adjust it for home use in several ways. You can invite additional family members to take parts, if available. Or you might ask your parish about joining other families to put on the play, either live or remotely. You might even consider inviting extended family members to participate online. Page 2 includes a cast list and a possible stage layout you can use as a basis from which to improvise a “stage” in your home.

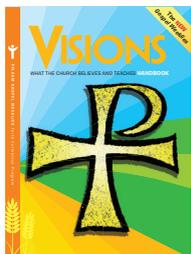
Props are optional, but can add to the experience. Use whatever you have on hand. You can make a cross using panels from a cardboard mailing box or poster board. Some fabric, a rug, or sheets of paper, could work for the white road, and brown paper bags or mailing paper could be used for the brown road. (Be sure to reuse or recycle any paper you use!)

Read through the play before acting it out. Note how it picks up where the Advent play, *The Road from Beginning to End*, (*Visions*, December 6, 2020) left off. You might want to record and share your family’s dramatization.

- Discuss the Talk questions on page 7.** *Answers: 1–2. These are open-ended, discussion-based questions. Talk about how we can “crucify” people with our words—especially a text or group chat shared in anger, or when we like or forward an unkind or untrue post.*
- Catholic Faith Word • Hosanna (page 8)** Call attention to the definition. Read it aloud. Point out how “hosanna” is a prayer and “Jesus” is the answer to prayer. Challenge your family to memorize this definition.
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • We Celebrate the Paschal Mystery (page 8)** Read aloud the doctrine, which addresses both the opening Gospel (Mark 11:1–10) and the Passion story (Mark 14:1—15:47). Emphasize how Jesus’ ride into Jerusalem is similar to our journey into Lent—it’s both emotional and spiritual.



- Turn to the **Talk questions on page 8**. **Answers: 1.** This is an open-ended question; but it's a good time to check in on your Lenten commitments together and discuss how you have both worked to meet them. Remind your child (and yourself!) that Lent is not the end. If your Lenten resolutions were less successful than you would like, you can—and should—continue to work on them beyond Lent. **2.** You might work together with your child to ask and answer questions. Consider taking the journalist's role and have your child play Jesus. Then switch roles.



- Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 20. As you read the page aloud, pause to discuss the meaning of words such as Resurrection, Incarnation, Ascension, and Pentecost. Use the handbook's glossary to find the meaning of any words your child is unsure of.

Turn to page 65 (inside back cover), and identify the season the Church is currently observing (*Lent*); the shorter, three-day period it will enter this week (*the Triduum*); and the one it will pass into next week (*Easter*).

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to *Visions* page 8.

Live the Gospel

- **Closing Prayer • Journey of the Cross Prayer** (If you have a cross, place it in your prayer space.) Invite all family members to place their hands on the cross. Pray the following and have everyone respond "Amen" after each line:
 Sign of Jesus' Death and Resurrection, we accept and follow you. **Amen.**
 Sign of our own dying and rising, we accept and follow you. **Amen.**
 Sign of the struggle against sin, we accept and follow you. **Amen.**
 Sign of God's great love for us, we accept and follow you. **Amen.**
 Thank you, loving God, for the Cross of Jesus, which has become for us the tree of life. May it be always a sign of your faithful love. May we never falter as we follow it to the joy of Easter. **Amen.**



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.