

Journey Through Holy Week 2012
Based on the Gospel of Mark

**Scene 1: The Palm Parade (11:1-11),
The Betrayal, and the Anointing of Jesus (14:1-16)**

Location:

Props: *Palms, costumes, chair, small jar, bag of money, jug*

Characters: Jesus, disciples, woman (with jar), priests, Judas, and a man (with jug)

Narrator #1: Today we are going to remember the events in Jerusalem that happened a very, very long time ago. This story of Holy Week is at the center of our faith as Christians. Some of you are going to help tell this story! So let us have our palm parade. Everyone stand on either side of the aisle with our palms, and let us wave them as Jesus comes into Jerusalem! Shout Hosanna!

(Jesus parades from the back towards the front, while the crowds shout Hosanna!)

Narrator #2: Now we are in the great City of Jerusalem.

(Jesus sits on a chair at the front and the disciples sit at his feet. A woman pours ointment from a jar onto Jesus' head. The priests stand off at a distance)

Narrator #3: Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, "Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her.

Narrator #1: But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Leave her alone! She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish, but you will not always have me. By pouring ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

(Judas leaves the disciples and goes to the priests)

Narrator #2: Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

(priests pay Judas the money)

Narrator #3: On the first day of the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is the Passover, the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him to a house, and ask the owner of the house for the guest room. He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready." So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

(follow the disciples to the next room)

Scene 2: The Passover with the Disciples (Mark 14:17-31)

Location:

Props: *table set up with several chairs, cups, juice, and bread*

Characters: **Jesus, Judas, Peter, and Disciples**

(everyone sits around the table except Jesus who stands in the front. Judas and Peter sit close by)

Narrator #1: When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I?”

Narrator #2: He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.”

(Give Jesus the bread to break and hand out)

Narrator #3: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.”

Narrator #1: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.”

(Pour out the grape juice into the cups)

Narrator #2: Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

(Have the children sing a familiar hymn, such as “Amazing Grace” or “Blest Be the Tie that Binds” or any hymn used at Communion in your church)

Narrator #3: Then Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters. But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” Peter said to him, “Even though all become deserters, I will not.”

Narrator #1: Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And all of them said the same.

(everyone goes into the next room)

Scene 3: The Garden Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-50)

Location:

Characters: Jesus, Peter, James and John, Judas and the Crowd

(James, John and Peter sit down. Jesus sits a little ways away praying.)

Narrator #2: They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.”

(the three sitting down fall asleep)

Narrator #3: And going a little further, Jesus threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, “Abba, father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet not what I want, but what you want.” He came to the disciples and found them sleeping.

(Jesus wakes up the disciples)

Narrator #1: And he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.

(Disciples fall asleep again)

Narrator #2: And once more he found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

(Disciples wake up. Judas arrives with the crowd)

Narrator #1: Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.”

Narrator #2: So when he came, he went to Jesus at once and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. Then they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

Narrator #3: Then Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

(go to the next room)

Scene 4: Tthe Council and Courtyard (Mark 14:53-72)

Location:

Props: *lines to Peter and servant-girls—instruct the rest of the children that they are “roosters” when the time comes.*

Characters: Jesus, the High Priest, priests, Peter, Servant-girl

(Invite the children to practice their “cock-a-doodle-doo!” so they are ready)

Narrator #1: They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the scribes were assembled. Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself by the fire.

Narrator #2: Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him. Some stood up and said, “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy the temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” But even on this, their testimony did not agree

Narrator #3: Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?” But Jesus was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked Jesus, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” Jesus said, “I am; and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

Narrator #1: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?” They answered, “He deserves death.” Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying “Prophecy!” The guards also took him over and beat him.

Narrator #2: When Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. She stared at him and said, “You also were with Jesus from Nazareth.”

Narrator #3: But Peter denied it, saying,

Peter: “I do not know or understand what you are talking about.”

Narrator #1: Then the rooster crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” But again he denied it.

Narrator #2: Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for you are a Galilean.” Then Peter began to curse, and he swore an oath,

Peter: “I do not know this man you are talking about.”

Narrator #3: At that moment, the rooster crowed for the second time.

(Roosters crow)

Narrator #1: Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

(everyone follows Peter to the next room)

Scene 5: The Trial (Mark 15:1-22)

Location:

Props: *crown of thorns, purple cloak, cross, lines for the crowd*

Characters: **Jesus, Pilate, crowd, Barabbas, Soldiers, Simon of Cyrene**
(give the crowd their lines)

(Jesus stands with two soldiers, facing Pilate)

Narrator #2: As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.

Narrator #3: Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus answered him, “You say so.” Then the chief priests accused him of many things.

Narrator #1: Pilate asked him again, “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you?” But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Narrator #2: Now at the festival Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Pilate answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”

Narrator #3: For he realized it was out of jealousy that the chief priests handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead.

Narrator #1: Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” They shouted back,

Crowd: “Crucify Him!”

Narrator #2: Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more,

Crowd: “Crucify Him!”

Narrator #3: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barrabas for them, and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

(Soldiers place the crown of thorns and robe on Jesus)

Narrator #1: Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace and called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.

Narrator #2: And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of a skull.

(Simon picks up the cross and carries it behind Jesus. The soldiers lead the way to the next room).

Scene 6: The Crucifixion (Mark 15:23-47)

Location:

Props: *costumes for the two Mary's, lines for the women*

Characters: Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Joses, Salome

*(everyone sits down. Except for the women, everyone else takes off their costumes. The cross is placed against the wall. **Have everyone close their eyes and imagine this next scene.** Give instructions and lines to the women)*

Narrator #3: They crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews."

Narrator #1: And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

Narrator #2: In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Narrator #1: When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for the prophet Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Narrator #2: And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's son!"

Narrator #3: There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. They used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee, and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

(tell the women to leave the room, and wait for the signal to run in)

Narrator #1: When evening had come, and since it was the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

Narrator #2: Deep sadness filled the disciples. That was the saddest day of their whole lives.

(PAUSE for silence...the women come running in)

Women: Come and see! Something wonderful has happened! Come and see!

Scene 7: The Empty Tomb (Mark 16:1-8)

Location:

Props: *Angel costume--sheet for the burial, balloons and streamers for the party, etc!*
Sign that reads *“Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!”*

Character: Angel

Narrator #3: When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

Narrator #1: But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”

Narrator #2: So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Narrator #3: Later, Jesus did appear to his disciples, and Jesus told his disciples to go and tell the whole world the Good News!

Everyone: *Christ Is Risen! Hallelujah!*