

Journey Through Holy Week

This is a multi-age educational event designed to reenact the events of Holy Week, a sort of “stages of the Cross” for children, so that they learn what Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter mean, and that they understand this most important week in the life of Jesus and in the life of our faith.

Little preparation is needed, and no line memorization ahead of time is required. For smaller churches, invite youth and adults to participate.

Remember that this is not a rehearsed play, but a participatory event of all abilities and all ages. Allow some time in each room to give some directions before beginning the scene.

Time

The entire journey takes about 45 minutes. It can be used as a Sunday school lesson on Palm Sunday or as a special event in the life of the church, such as on Good Friday as a children’s service.

Preparation

Costumes: you will need basic costumes to designate characters: homemade tunics such as pillowcases with holes for arms and head will work just fine, or scarves and shawls. One angel’s costume (a baptismal robe would work) is needed for the last scene.

Props:

- Palms from Palm Sunday, small jar and a bag of money
- Elements for communion (small Dixie cups of juice and pita bread or matzo)
- Plants or green cloth
- Lines for Peter and servant girls in Scene 4 written on index cards.
- King’s crown and a crown of thorns (pipe cleaners can be used)
- Wooden cross light enough for a child to carry
- White sheet for burial cloth
- Lines for the women for the end of Scene 6 written on index cards
- Balloons, streamers, etc. for Resurrection scene (to look like a celebration)

People: You will need three narrators to narrate the script throughout the event. Other characters will be chosen as you go. Try to choose a new “Jesus” “Judas” and other characters so that no one child gets to play the same person throughout—girls can play the parts of boys just fine.

Rooms: You will want seven different rooms in your church to use for this. At the top of each page of each scene, location is left blank so you can write in what room you are using in your church. If you don’t have as many rooms, corner off sections of your sanctuary or Fellowship hall for different scenes. The Empty Tomb/Resurrection Scene should be in secret so the children do not know what to expect, but it should be bright, cheerful and a place to celebrate!