

Holy Week Fair

For use with "[Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible](#)"

- Best for kids 3- 12 years old
- Written with multiple stations that are best set up in different rooms, but can be adapted for a single space. Can also be done outdoors. It really depends on your space. Be creative.
- All page numbers refer to *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible*

Pre-Event, Opening Set Up

In largest room, gym, fellowship hall, etc.

- We recommend you set up a few crafts that kids/families can do as they arrive. There are a myriad of pre-packaged crafts you can purchase from retailers. You can also construct your own that tend to be better quality and less money.
 - Craft bags – always helpful to have something to carry your other crafts in. You can buy bags with Easter coloring pages printed on them, or you can offer various stickers and markers for decoration
- Holy Week Passport – Here's a free passport from Build Faith. You can put a stamp or sticker in each one as kids travel through the fair, or you can save it for the actual event/services at your church - <https://buildfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Holy-Week-Passport-Generic.pdf>
- Game – Palm Branch Pick Up
 - Construction Paper with Palm printed on one side and numbers on the other. Or just Green paper with numbers 1-10 on one side.
 - Scatter Palms in the game area, number side down.
 - Divide kids into 2 teams and give each kid a number.
 - Call out a number and they have 5 second to gather as many squares as they can. Then they add up the numbers, and the team with the highest number wins and has to call out a reason to praise Jesus.
- We divided kids into smaller groups for 7-12 to travel through stations. It helped to have multiple crafts and games in the main room for those who were waiting or finished.

First Station - Palm Sunday Obstacle Course

this works best in a hallway leading to a room or gathering area at the end

Set up

- Hobby horse
- Rubber discs about one hop apart going down the hallways
- Green streamers taped at various angles to create a “laser maze” in the hallway [like this](#)
- Plastic eggs, rice, and tape in gathering area/room at the end

Obstacle Course

- Read P. 270 “Jesus Visits Jerusalem” (based on Luke 19:29-40). Stop at “they expected great things from this teacher from Galilee.”
- Explain the obstacle course and send kids down one at a time
 - First, get the “Donkey” (hobby horse) (you may choose to hold the donkey and not straddle or “ride” it)
 - Then ride it, stepping only on the “cloaks” (rubber discs, carpet squares, tape marks, etc) put on the floor.
 - Dodge the Palm Fronds maze.
 - You may decide to have them come back or stop at the end.
- Once all the kids have completed the obstacle course, read the rest of the story on P. 270, beginning with “some teachers of the law (called the Pharisees) were in the crowd.”
 - Make Fill an Egg with rice/beans to make a “shaker” because “Even the Stones will Shout”
 - Fill the egg with rice/beans.
 - Tape it close.
 - Read the final line on p. 271 again, and have all kids shout and shake their eggs “I tell you the truth, if they were silent and did not sing praises, the very stone on the earth beneath us would shout out!”

Second Station - Maundy Thursday

could be kitchen or classroom near the palm Sunday obstacle course hallway

Set -up

- Grape Juice
- Hawaiian rolls, or bread
- Cups, plates
- Soap, paper towels

Snack Time

- You may start out by reading selections from p. 272 "A Passover Meal" or tell the story in your own words.
- First – Everyone Washes hands – Remember that Jesus washed his disciples feet and said, "whoever would be first among you must be the servant of all." (If there is not a sink in the room, you can use hand sanitizer or wipes)
- Ask a child to say a prayer to bless the meal – "Jesus started by blessing the food, can one of you offer a blessing for our snack?"
- Read from p. 326 "seeing Jesus" from "I want you to remember four things:"
 - The first
 - The second
 - The third
 - The fourth
 - Use the "see" activity to create a circle of love.

Third Station – Gethsemane and Good Friday

Classroom, garden, tent, sanctuary

Set up

- Places for the children to sit and hear a story, carpet, carpet squares, chairs, blanket, etc.

Garden of Gethsemane

- Have children get comfy, sit, lie down, be ready for a story.
- Talk about Jesus going to the Garden of Gethsemane to Pray with his friends.
- Then, hard things started to happen. (you can tell in your own words, using this outline, or you can use p. 274 starting at the end of the second paragraph “The temple guards grabbed Jesus and arrested him”)
- Jesus was arrested.
- He was taken to court and tried, first before Pilate like a judge, and then before the people, like a jury. Even though he hadn’t done anything wrong, he was found guilty and sentence to death.

Good Friday

- Then, the very worst thing happened. The soldiers led Jesus up a hill to a cross. And Jesus died.
- Have another adult turn off the light in the room at this point. If you’re outdoors, you might drape yourself in a black cloth, or hold the cloth over the children to create shade. (this would need four adults and some coordination.)
- His followers were so sad. They couldn’t imagine living without Jesus. They went home to cry.

Fourth Station – Easter

classroom (can be the same classroom as good Friday), tent outside, garden

Set-up

- Video and speakers (optional)
- Resurrections Cross Craft / Sun Catcher

Easter

- Jesus' followers were very scared and sad, but we know that's not the end of the story.
- We showed [a video we created](#) of our Church folks telling the Easter Story from Mark. You are welcome to use our video, or create your own.
- OR read P. 276 "Women at the Tomb"
- Resurrection Crosses Craft
 - Have the kids turn something that is about death (the cross) into something beautiful and full of life – stained glass.
 - You can buy kits to make cross sun catchers using paint or stained glass.
 - You can print or draw your own crosses on transparency paper and let kids use permanent markers to fill them in like stained glass.

Closing, Egg Hunt

- Gather back in main room. Kids can do other crafts or play the palm game while waiting for all to finish.
- Have the kids help you review the key parts of the story.
- Close with shouts of praise telling the good news OR egg hunt.
- You can say something like,
 - "Jesus's disciples were really surprised that he was alive. We aren't surprised because we know the story, but they were so shocked and happy. We search for eggs because it's a happy surprise to see what's inside." OR
 - "we search for eggs because we are always looking for Jesus. He's not on the cross. He's alive!"