

Holy Week with Jesus

The seven days from Palm Sunday through Holy Saturday are called Holy Week. We invite you to use this guide to “walk in Jesus’ shoes” and reflect on the events in his last week on earth. If possible, invite loved ones to read together. Put yourself in the moment each day, and take the place of the disciples, of Jesus, of the Roman soldiers, of by-standers....

SATURDAY

Jesus and the disciples were heading to Jerusalem; they passed by Jericho on the way. Several things happened: Jesus predicted his death a third time, the disciples were taught an important lesson about following Jesus, Zacchaeus the chief tax collector became a Christian, blind Bartimaeus received sight.

- *Read Mark 10:32-45*
- *Read Mark 10:46-52*
- *Read Luke 19:1-10*
- *Reflection: What does following Jesus mean to you? In what area(s) is God asking you to turn control over to him?*

SUNDAY

On Palm Sunday, Jesus with his disciples entered Jerusalem riding a borrowed donkey. It was the fulfillment of a prophecy from long ago. He arrived to much celebration, but it was the beginning of the end of his human life. This is traditionally known as Palm Sunday because people laid the branches in his path.

- *Read Luke 19:28-42*
- *Read Zechariah 9:9*
- *Reflection: How often do you praise God for coming into your life? Are you afraid to acknowledge God in front of people?*

MONDAY

On Holy Monday, Jesus asserted his authority by throwing out anyone and everyone who was doing business inside the temple complex. They perverted the purpose of the temple. The Jewish leaders were less than impressed with the display of power.

- *Read Luke 19:41-20:8*
- *Read Isaiah 56:1-8*
- *Reflection: Think about your body as the temple. What does Jesus need to clean to be truly honored in you?*

TUESDAY

On Holy Tuesday, temple leaders challenged Jesus by putting him to the test. They raised a number of theological debates with him and questioned both his teaching and his God-given authority. Sounding pious they were accusing Jesus of the most blasphemous wrongdoing.

- *Read Psalm 118:19-27*
- *Read Psalm 110*
- *Read Luke 20:1-40*
- *Reflection: Have there been times when Jesus’ truth has seemed harsh to you or hard to follow? Did you grumble and back away? Did you question him? How can you cultivate obedience?*

WEDNESDAY

On Holy Wednesday, Jesus continued his teaching. He openly asserted his credentials. That only riled up the Jewish leaders, who looked for another way to nail him. They found their man in Judas, one of the twelve, who offered to deliver Jesus into their hands. Holy Wednesday is also called Spy Wednesday because of the actions of Judas.

- *Read Luke 20:41-47*
- *Read Luke 21*
- *Read Luke 22:1-6.*
- *Read Mark 14:1-11*
- *Reflection: It is sometimes hard to be a disciple of the truth and the way? Sometimes we want Jesus to do what we want or act the way we feel he should. Think on this and how that led Judas astray.*

THURSDAY

This is Maundy Thursday and the Day of the Last Supper. Maundy is an old English word for washing, so it reminds us how Jesus lowered himself — literally and figuratively — to wash his disciples' feet. Then they celebrated Passover, recalling when God through Moses delivered their ancestors out of slavery in Egypt. The night before, ancient Jews put the blood of a lamb on the door mantle so the angel of death would pass them by. This foreshadows how Jesus will deliver us from the slavery of sin through his death on the cross as the Lamb of God. After celebrating the Passover with his disciples, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, where Judas betrayed him. He was arrested and tortured while Peter denied him.

- *Read Isaiah 50:4-10*
- *Read Luke 22:7-65*
- *Reflection: Jesus told us when we break bread (eat a meal) to remember Him. Do you say "grace" before you eat? Think of the disciples. His disciples couldn't keep awake even one hour to pray with Him. Tonight see if you can spend one hour praying with Jesus. Scripture tells us he prays for us unceasingly.*

FRIDAY

Holy Friday is also called Good Friday. The Jewish leaders, with the help of Pilate, subjected Jesus to a mock trial that resulted in a death sentence for the one who would be called the King of the Jews. He was hastily crucified and quickly buried before the Sabbath began that evening. Today, sometime between 12:00 noon and 3:00 pm stop for a few moments to reflect on Jesus' death on the cross.

- *Read Luke 22:47-23:49*
- *Read John 19:1-37.*
- *Read Psalm 22:1-18*
- *Reflection: A stanza from the song "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" says this: Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see; The very dying form of One who suffered there for me; And from my smitten heart, with tears, two wonders I confess, The wonders of His glorious love, and my own worthlessness." Have you felt those two wonders in your life?*

SATURDAY

On Holy Saturday Jesus lies alone in the tomb. Scripture is basically silent about today. Some traditions believe Jesus descended into hell to preach salvation to the lost souls and defeat Satan's grip; there are no actual passages to support it though. Scripture does state the women left his body in a tomb and hurried away because their tradition said they had to wait to prepare his funeral until after the Sabbath was over.

- *Read Luke 23:50-56*
- *Read John 19:38-42*
- *Read Isaiah 53*
- *Reflection: Sometimes it seems like God is not doing much at all. The Bible says he is working actively all the time. Trust God to work on your behalf even though you can't see him. Pray for yourself, and some you know, that you will choose to rely on God, and believe that he is always sovereign and in charge.*

SUNDAY – EASTER!

On Easter Sunday, a couple of women went to Jesus' tomb to anoint him for burial, but when they arrived, he wasn't there. The tomb was empty, and an angel greeted them with the news that Jesus was alive. The women hurried back to tell the others, and Jesus surprised his grieving disciples by showing up in their midst.

- *Read Isaiah 52:7-10*
- *Read Luke 24*
- *Reflection: in the Resurrection of Jesus we find our hope of eternal life (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). This event in the life of the early disciples changed everything. Before the resurrection, they were cowering behind closed doors – hiding out in fear—but after the resurrection, their faith was renewed and strengthened. The resurrection of Jesus was given to us as proof for the Good News (Acts 17:31b). Build your faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ just as the early church did.*