

Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday



Gospel accounts of Holy Week; Zechariah 9:9;
Matthew 21:18-22; Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 14:12-26

The Bassline Guide to Easter takes the young people through the events of Holy Week. In Session One we'll start with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, watch as he turns the tables in the Temple, observe the betrayal of a close friend, and listen as he sings with his disciples. Each moment will lead us through the events of Holy Week, pausing on Thursday before concluding our journey in next week's session.

You will need:

- Holy Week Planner handout
- Paper for cross activity
- Scissors



Beat

Say:

Over the next two sessions we will look at the events of Holy Week. Before we do, let's see how much you know about the most important week in the Christian calendar.

Leader's notes:

Ask the group to write down what they know about the events on each day of Holy Week. You could use an enlarged version of the Holy Week handout to record their ideas, or just plain paper. When the group has had sufficient time, discuss their responses and find out which days they want to know more about.



Bridge

Ask:

Why is Holy Week such an important week in the Christian calendar?

 **Amplify****Leader's notes:**

Using the information below, and with the Holy Week Planner handout, guide the group through the events of Holy Week. The Beat activity should have given you a good idea of the events the young people are less familiar with. You may want to spend more time discussing and diving into these moments and less time on those more familiar. There will not be time in this session to look at every Bible reference for each event. Encourage the group to take the handout home at the end of the session and use the references as a reading plan. We will cover Good Friday to Easter Sunday in the next session, so the sections on the handout can be completed at home as they follow the reading plan. The Sound Check section is a shorter, craft-based activity that allows you to spend more time on the Amplify section this week.

Say:

Holy Week is a special time in the Christian calendar. Approximately 30% of the Gospels are dedicated to Jesus' last week. In John's Gospel this figure jumps to 43%. The Gospel writers want us to know what happened from Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem through his death and resurrection. We can barely scratch the surface in one Bassline session, so we encourage you to follow the reading plan on your handout this week to discover more.

Watch:

Easter Explained: An 8-Day Guide to Celebrating Holy Week (10:45)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MzStX_bYyM

Leader's notes:

Watch the video in parts for each day of Holy Week (timings below). As you work through each day of Holy Week, encourage the group to jot down the key events and any personal reflections on their handout.

Palm Sunday**Watch 0:00-1:36**

Bible references – Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-22

Ask:

- What was the significance of Jesus arriving in Jerusalem as a King?
- How was Jesus different from the kind of king they were expecting?
- How does Jesus' entry into Jerusalem fulfil the ancient prophecy found in Zechariah 9:9?

Read:

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,

**righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

– (Zechariah 9:9)

Say:

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem set in motion events prophesied for hundreds of years.

Holy Monday

Watch 1:37-2:35

Bible references – Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:43-48; John 2:13-22

Ask:

- The Temple was meant to be a holy place where humanity met with God. What did Jesus discover when he walked into the Temple courtyard?
- Why did it anger him so much?

Holy Tuesday

Bible references – Matthew 21:18 to 22:46; Mark 11:20 to 13:37; Luke 20:1-47; John 12:23-50

Say:

On Holy Tuesday, an unusual event took place. Jesus appeared to curse a fig tree just because it did not produce fruit.

Read:

¹⁸ Early in the morning, as Jesus was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. ¹⁹ Seeing a fig-tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, 'May you never bear fruit again!' Immediately the tree withered. ²⁰ When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. 'How did the fig-tree wither so quickly?' they asked. ²¹ Jesus replied, 'Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig-tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. ²² If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.'

– (Matthew 21:18-22)

Ask:

What was Jesus trying to teach his disciples in this moment?

Watch 2:35 – 3:45

Say:

The clip described the incident with the fig-tree as a symbol of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus was not happy with the way the religious leaders and followers were living their lives.

Ask:

- Skim over the words of Matthew 23:13-36. What message does Jesus have for the teachers of the law and the Pharisees?

Holy Wednesday

Watch 3:46 – 4:54

Bible references – Matthew 26:3-16; Mark 14:1-11; Luke 22:1-6; John 13:21-30

Say:

On Holy Wednesday, we remember the moment Mary anointed Jesus' feet. The accounts of this event vary throughout the Gospels, placing it on different days and even questioning which Mary carried out the anointing. The important detail to note is the abundant love shown by the woman who anointed Jesus, and the symbolism attached to what would happen next.

Ask:

- Who is unhappy with Mary's generous offering?
- Why do you think Judas was so angry?

Say:

This event is presented in some of the Gospels as a tipping point for Judas.

Read:

¹⁴ Then one of the Twelve – the one called Judas Iscariot – went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and asked, 'What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?' So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

– (Matthew 26:14-16)

Say:

Holy Wednesday signifies the moment Judas decided to betray Jesus, continuing a chain of events that led to the cross.

Maundy Thursday

Bible references – Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-50; Luke 22:7-65; John 13:1-18,27

Read:

¹² On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, 'Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?'

¹³ So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, 'Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴ Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.'

¹⁶ The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷ When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸ While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me - one who is eating with me.'

¹⁹ They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, 'Surely you don't mean me?'

²⁰ 'It is one of the Twelve,' he replied, 'one who dips bread into the bowl with me. ²¹ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.'

²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take it; this is my body.'

²³ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

²⁴ 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,' he said to them. ²⁵ 'Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'

²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

— (Mark 14:12-26)

Ask:

- Why do you think there was so much secrecy surrounding the location of the Passover meal?
- What message did Jesus have for his disciples?

Watch 4:55-5:54

Ask:

- What new promise does Jesus bring his disciples through the sharing of the Lord's supper?

Say:

We have covered a lot of ground in the Amplify section today, but it has hopefully provided you with a Bassline guide to the first part of Holy Week.

 **Bridge**

Leader's notes:

Discuss with the group the reading plan provided on their handout. All four Gospels are covered on the handout, but they may like to follow the Easter story through the references for just one Gospel. Encourage the group to explore the Scriptures of Holy Week in more depth this Easter.



Sound Check

Leader's notes:

For today's Sound Check section, the group will make a small paper cross to carry throughout Holy Week. They can put it in a prominent place at home as a visual reminder of the events they have explored in today's Bassline. The clip provided can be used with the group.

Watch:

Palm Sunday Cross – How to make a paper palm cross (3:23)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCKXyiA4JiM>

 **Bridge****Ask:**

Throughout this session we have referred to Holy Week as a special week in the Christian calendar. In what way is Holy Week special to you?

 **Selah****Say:**

Earlier in the session, we read about the events of the Lord's Supper remembered on Maundy Thursday. We discovered that sung worship was an important part of Holy Week.

Read:

²⁶ **When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.**

– (Mark 14:26)

Say:

The Bible doesn't say which psalm they shared together, but with a little detective work we can identify a likely choice. It was tradition to sing from a group of Hallel psalms (113 through to 118) used during the Passover Festival. The one that most relates to the journey ahead of Jesus is Psalm 118.

For our time of Selah, we're going to listen to the words of Psalm 118. As you listen, imagine Jesus and his disciples singing these words together.



Watch:

Psalm 118 – ‘Give thanks to the Lord (For he is good)’ – Francesca LaRosa (Official Lyric Video) (3:54)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZ5CtayuRT4>

Leader’s notes:

When the music finishes, pray with the group.



Say:

In a piece of music, the coda brings the different aspects of the melody, harmonies and bassline to a conclusion. It pulls together the different themes and often, but not always, brings resolution to a piece of music.

Ask:

As you reflect on everything you have learned today, what is your coda?

What is the one thing you will take away from this session as you have reflected on the events of Holy Week?

Leader’s notes:

Give the young people a moment to think about your question and briefly share their coda with the group before the session comes to an end.

