



HOLY  
WEEK

*for families*

The image features three white paper crosses of varying sizes and orientations, scattered across a light-colored burlap fabric background. Overlaid on the burlap are several large, green palm fronds, some in sharp focus and others blurred, creating a layered, naturalistic effect. The text 'DAY 1' is centered in a simple, black, sans-serif font, with a thin red horizontal line positioned directly below it.

DAY 1

# Palm Sunday




# What is Palm Sunday?

On Palm Sunday, Christians celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, an event that took place the week before Jesus' death and resurrection. Palm Sunday is a moveable feast, meaning the date changes every year based on the liturgical calendar. Palm Sunday always falls one week before Easter Sunday. The people greeted Jesus enthusiastically, waving palm branches and covering his path with palm branches: The crowds shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21:9, NIV) The shouts of "Hosanna" meant "save now," and the palm branches symbolized goodness and victory.

## What should we do?

On Palm Sunday we remember His entry and how humbly Jesus submitted to God's plan for His life. Palm Sunday also marks the beginning of Holy Week, a solemn week focusing on the final days of Jesus' life. On Palm Sunday we should remember His submission and ask God to show us ways we can be more like Jesus as we walk through each day of Holy week, preparing our hearts and souls to remember His death and His resurrection.





# Activities

1

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Read through the Palm Sunday scriptures: Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; and John 12:12-19.

2

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Make a simple Palm leaf out of paper and reenact how the people praised Jesus

3

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Write a list of ways your family can walk through Holy Week humbly and prepare your hearts of Jesus' death and resurrection.

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DAY 2

# Holy Monday



# What is Holy Monday?

Holy Monday is the day that Jesus flipped tables and cleared the money changers out of the temple. We see an example of Jesus' righteous anger at the misuse of God's church. Read more here [Matthew 21:23–27](#)

Holy Monday is a great time to understand the purpose of God's church before the death of Jesus and how that changes after. Before Jesus died and rose again God lived in the temple, it was a holy place and was to be treated as such. After Jesus died the veil was torn (Matthew 27:51) and God no longer lived in the temple (Acts 7:48) but can be accessed by whoever whenever.





# Activities

1

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Read through the Holy Monday scriptures: Matthew 21:18–27

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Spend time in prayer for the church today – for the leadership and people of your church, but also for the global Church. Pray that we would shine the light and hope of Jesus into our communities and our world.

3

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Decide on a small project you can do together as a family to BE the church in your community today. Deliver some treats, pick up some trash.

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DAY 3

# Holy Tuesday



# Holy Tuesday



Holy Tuesday follows Christ's return to Jerusalem from Bethany, not to be confused with his triumphant return to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday after being tested in the desert. After Palm Sunday Jesus goes to Bethany, and on Tuesday he returns to Jerusalem, to go onwards to the Mount of Olives. On his return to Jerusalem, Jesus passes a fig tree that he has cursed on his way to Bethany on Monday. Jesus uses the opportunity to teach his disciples about faith and informs them that with faith they will have the power to curse or bless the world around them, just as he did. This is why the day is also known as Fig Tuesday



# Activities

1

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Read through the Holy Tuesday scriptures: Mark 11:12-14 + Matthew 21:18-22

2

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Our words have the power to cure and bless. Talk about ways that you can use your words to bless and how we can control our tongues.

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Write a note to someone in your family or a neighbour. Use your words to bless today!



DAY 4

# Holy Wednesday



# What is Holy Wednesday?

On the Wednesday before his death, Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the Leper. As he sat at the supper table with his disciples, a woman named Mary anointed Jesus' head and feet with a costly oil of spikenard. The disciples were indignant, asking why the oil was not instead sold and the money given to the poor.

But Judas Iscariot wanted to keep the money for himself. Then Judas went to the Sanhedrin and offered to deliver Jesus to them in exchange for money. From this moment on, Judas sought an opportunity to betray Jesus. In some countries and traditions, Wednesday of Holy Week has been a traditional day for housecleaning, stemming from the Jewish custom of cleaning and preparing before Passover.





# Activities

1

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Read through the Holy Wednesday scriptures: Matthew 26:6-13.

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Talk about what it means to serve each other in your family, your community and your church.

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Make a little pile of toys or items that you can give to someone in need.



DAY 5

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# Holy Thursday



# Holy Thursday

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper. At the Last Supper with his disciples, Jesus breaks bread, saying, "This is my body," and pours wine, saying, "This is my blood." He then asks the disciples to "Do this in remembrance of me." The Last Supper is derived from Jesus' Jewish heritage and his observance of a Jewish holiday. The Last Supper was a Passover Seder, the feast of unleavened bread. Jesus and the disciples are eating unleavened bread. Maundy Thursday is also associated with foot-washing. Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, an act described in the Gospel of John, chapter 13, as Jesus teaching them to be servants. It's the ultimate act of "servant leadership." Jesus instructs his followers to love and to serve.



# Activities

1

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Read through the Holy Wednesday scriptures: Matthew 26:17–29; Mark 14:12–25; Luke 22:7–38; and I Corinthians 11:23–25.

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Wash your families feet. Teach your family in the same way that Jesus taught His disciples to love one another.

3

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Eat a special family meal tonight and remember Jesus' body and blood that was broken for you.



