

## READ IT

This rotation's Bible story is

### **Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday**

from Luke 19:28-40; 22:14-23:56; 24:1-12.

#### **Sadness mingles with joy; God turns death into life.**

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Jerusalem
- Covenant
- Multitude
- Crucify
- Apostle
- Amaze
- Passover

Jesus waited for the colt at the Mount of Olives. Zechariah 14:4-9 prophesied that God would appear there on the day of the Lord.

#### **Read the whole story together in the Bible!**

*Spark Story Bible* pages 454-459, 462-467,  
476-487

*Spark Bible* pages 1159-1160, 1163-1168

#### **Family Prayer**

Lord God, the losses we experience in life could overwhelm us and fill us full of sadness, but your comforting strength keeps us close. When we turn to you, you are there, grieving with us. You help us find good in the midst of what is terrible. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## TALK ABOUT IT



### **Family Conversations**

- 1 What do you imagine Jerusalem looked and sounded like when Jesus rode in on Palm Sunday?
- 2 Timing can be crucial. Why would Passover in Jerusalem excite the Jewish people and make Pilate and Herod nervous? Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem at that time?
- 3 What would it have been like to be with the women who found the stone rolled away? What do you think you would have seen, heard, done, and remembered?
- 4 Take turns sharing memories about loved ones who have died, like grand- and great-grandparents. Give a prayer of thanks for the ways you have been blessed by them in person and/or in story.



#### **Eye Spark**

Watch for crosses. Where do you see them? Remember that God can even redeem Jesus' crucifixion.



#### **Ear Spark**

Listen for crowds cheering. Remember the crowds of disciples on Palm Sunday and imagine the stones and the earth and the water—all of creation cheering with them.

## LIVE IT

### **For families to do together**

If weather permits, visit the gravesite of loved ones. Leave a token or plant a flower. Think of the blessings and share stories about those who are gone. Give thanks that they are with God.

### **For younger kids**

Draw a colorful spring picture or put together a bouquet of flowers and deliver it to a neighbor.

### **For older kids**

Read up on the symbolic foods of the Jewish Passover meal. Prepare a Passover meal for your family. As you share it, tell them what the different foods represent. Remember that Jerusalem was preparing for Passover when Jesus rode in to town.

## Art

The angel rolled away the stone! Gather a collection of rocks that are small enough to fit in your hand, but large enough to paint a word or picture on them. Provide tempera paints, permanent markers, covered work-space, and paintbrushes. Kids and grownups can partner up to design and paint inspirational rocks. You can give them away or add them to the Sunday morning Easter garden where kids can have a “rock” hunt!

## Bible Skills and Games

Make your own Holy Week board game. Your family can create the board, figure out the rules and the game tokens, and then write questions about Holy Week. Be sure to include questions written by all the family members! Then play the game to help you remember the events of Holy Week.

## Computer Lab

Palm Sunday and Holy Week are celebrated in so many ways by different cultures around the world. Go online to take a closer look at Palm Sunday and Holy Week celebrations across the globe. If there’s a multi-cultural celebration taking place near you, make plans to check it out!

## Cooking

Make toasted palm branches for breakfast. Cut slices of bread into the shape of a palm branch. Put a few drops of green food coloring into some milk. Use a small new paintbrush and the milk to paint palm leaves on the bread. Toast the bread. Top the toast with butter, cinnamon, and sugar. Praise King Jesus!

## Creative Drama

Choose one person to be an angel who hides somewhere in the house. Everyone else pretends to be the women on Easter morning. Look for Jesus all around the house. Have the angel tell you, “Jesus is alive!” when you find him/her. How many people can you tell the Good News to before the day is over?

## Music

During Holy Week, invite your family to read a section of the Palm Sunday through Easter story from the Bible each day. Play music in the background that matches the emotions and actions of the story. Each day, say a prayer together at the end of the story and remember how much Jesus loves us all.

## Science

When people welcomed Jesus to town, they used what was available—palm leaves. What is available in your area? Go on a family leaf hunt. Which leaves make the best fans? Which ones provide the best shade? Do any leaves make noises when you wave them? Which leaf smells the best? What other ways can you use leaves?

## Video

What song makes you happy? With the members of your family, take turns sharing your favorite happy song with each other. Sing it or play it off a CD or MP3 player. What is it about the song that makes you happy? Record your answers on video so you remember.