

“Holy Week in a Box!” (adapted from <https://buildfaith.org/holy-week-in-a-box/>)

Here is an idea for you to do with children at home! It uses simple objects tucked into a small box, along with scripture, to tell the story of Holy Week. Each item in the box is a symbol, representing a piece of the gospel narrative: from Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, through the Last Supper, betrayal, burial, and finally the empty tomb on Easter morning. Then, there is a way to ‘go’ and live the story! I hope you consider journeying through Holy week by using this resource with your families.

Materials

Small box
Wooden figure
Green Paper
3 coins
Playdough
Marker
Pipe cleaner
Tealight
Piece of cloth



Palm Sunday: Paper Palm Fronds

It’s Palm Sunday. The people cut down palms and cheered as Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Do: Cut out a green leaf from paper and wave it like a flag in celebration!

Read: Mark 11:1-10.

Ask: How can we welcome Jesus into our lives and homes?

Can we have a parade? Can we sing? Can we walk with Jesus?

Go: on a Palm Sunday Peace march around your neighbourhood - walking, singing, and collecting branches/leaves

Holy Monday: Coin one

When Jesus came to Jerusalem, he went into the Temple. There were people cheating others out of their money. Jesus was very angry.

Do: Put a coin on the box.

Read: Mark 11:15-19.

Ask: How much money do you have? How can we use our money wisely?

Go: Using your hand to count to 5 on your fingers, pray 5 prayers of thanksgiving by finishing the sentence: “God, Thank you for giving me...”
Eat your chocolate coin!



Holy Tuesday: Coin two

The religious leaders asked Jesus if it was right to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor.

Do: Put a second coin on the box.

Read: Jesus’ answer in Mark 12:13-17.

Ask: I wonder how we can give to God?

Go: Choose someone to give your coin to, perhaps a family member or neighbour.



Holy Wednesday: Coin three

Jesus watched people in the Temple giving money to God. Some made a big show of giving lots of money. But one person didn’t. Read her story.

Do: Place the third coin on the box.

Read: Mark 12:41-44.

Ask: How can we give to God’s kingdom?

Go: See if you can give some money to the church via the online/direct debit offering. (Details on the church website or email)



Maundy Thursday: Table

Today we remember the last Passover meal Jesus had with his friends.

Do: Use the top of the box as a table. Draw a cup and plate on it, and make small balls of bread out of modelling clay. Place Jesus by the table.

Read: Mark 14:12-25.

Ask: In church, how do we remember this meal?

Go: Get some bread and drink, and together celebrate your own "Last Supper" at home.



Good Friday: Cross

The religious leaders wanted to get rid of Jesus. They told lies about him. Jesus was arrested. It was a very sad day, because the authorities put Jesus to death on a cross.

Do: Make a cross out of the pipe cleaner and place it with Jesus in front of the box.

Read: Mark 15:1, 15, 22-25, 37, 39.

Ask: Why did Jesus die? How do we see Jesus loving us through the cross?

Go: Watch one of these clips to learn of more of the story.

Max7: <https://www.max7.org/en/resource/795da39b-c639-42bd-bb97-58a9e36293ae>

Holy moly: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mjEe2MX1x4>

Saddleback kids:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL8R158Ujp4&t=15s>



Saturday: Cloth and Tomb, Stillness

When Jesus had died, his friends took his body down from the cross and wrapped it in linen cloth. They placed Jesus' body in a tomb.

Do: Wrap Jesus in the cloth. Place him in the box gently and put the lid on.

Read: Mark 15:40-43, 46, 47.

Ask: I wonder how his friends felt?

Go: Holy Saturday is a waiting day. On Saturday, everything was so still you could almost hear the earth breathe. There was nothing that could be done. Place a tea-light by your box and as a way of showing that you are waiting. Light the candle and wait awhile. "The light shines, even in the darkness".



Easter: Empty Tomb

Early on the Sunday morning, the women went to the tomb and had an amazing surprise.

Do: Open the box. Place Jesus at the side of it and the cloth neatly wrapped in the bottom of it.

Read: about Easter Sunday in Mark 16:1-8.

Ask: I wonder what difference it makes that God raised Jesus to life? I wonder if you know any symbols of new life?

Go: Decorate a "new life" symbol like an egg, a butterfly, a chicken, a love heart. Take a photo and send it to: frankstonucyouth@gmail.com

A **song** you could learn and sing at Easter is a classic piggyback song, sung to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?" (Brother John)

Here's the cross. Here's the cross. [make cross with your fingers]

Jesus died. Jesus died. [use finger to make tears fall from your eyes down your cheeks]

See the tomb. [cup hands together to make tomb]

Empty tomb. [open hands to reveal empty tomb]

He's alive! He's alive! [clap to the beat]