

Palm Sunday Readings

Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24
Philippians 2:6-11
Luke 22:14-23:56

Materials Needed

Construction paper or poster board, scissors, pencils, colors or markers

Disciples on the Journey FAMILY

Palm Sunday of Lent 2010 Cycle C

Listening *Luke 23:1-49 (Shorter version) One family member reads the Gospel while everyone else listens quietly.*

Making Connections

Reader: In Luke's Gospel, Jesus shows us how important it is to be faithful to God. Many people hurt Jesus, but he still loved and forgave them. Jesus showed us how to act when people hurt us. It is when we are hurting that we find it the hardest to act in a good way.

When Jesus talked to his disciples at the Last Supper, he told them how important it was to be faithful, to serve others, and to never give up. Later, he lived those words by being faithful to God and his mission, even to the point of dying on the cross.

Jesus is a model for all disciples; this includes our family because we are his disciples, too. When we are hurting, we need to think about what Jesus would do and then follow his example.

Family Sharing Time *Use the questions below to guide your family discussion.*

Preschool children: Whom do you look up to? Is there someone that you want to be like? Who? Why? What are some of the good things he/she does? Do you look up to Jesus? Why?

Primary-grade children: Jesus told his disciples how important it is to be faithful, to serve others, and to never give up. Give some examples of how you have been faithful to Jesus and his teachings. What can we do as a family to serve others? Do you ask Jesus for help when you feel like giving up? Share.

Preteens: God came to earth as a human being (Jesus) to show us his love and how we should live (forgiveness, mercy, and compassion). He was even willing to die for us. Are you willing to live as a disciple of Jesus? Explain. Name someone whom you think is living as a disciple of Jesus. What makes you think this?

Family Activity

Preparation: Have three pieces of construction paper, white tag board, or poster board. Also, have pencils, colors, or markers.

Leader: This Holy Week, we Catholic Christians celebrate three very important events in Jesus' life: his Last Supper, his death on the cross, and his Resurrection.

Have family members draw a picture for each day of the Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Label each picture. Display these pictures on your family prayer table or any other prominent place in your home.

Praying Together

Gather around the table with a crucifix and your Holy Week display. Individually, each family member will kiss the crucifix and say, "I love you, Jesus."

All: Jesus, thank you for coming to earth and giving us an example of how we should live. We want to be your disciples and love one another as you loved us. Amen.

Memory Verse "At the name of Jesus, every knee should bend..." (Philippians 2:10)

Saint of the Week

(to be) **Blessed John Paul II** (Feast Day: April 2)

Today's Scriptures speak of the Suffering Servant, the Self-Emptying Christ, and the Surrendering Son of the Father. All of these titles could be applied to our Saint of the Week, Pope John Paul II, who is scheduled to be beatified on April 2, the fifth anniversary of his death. He was born in 1920 in Poland. By the time he was 20 years of age, his father, mother, and only brother had died. He wanted to become a priest, and so he studied in a secret seminary in the archbishop's house. When the German soldiers came to his uncle's house looking for him, he hid in the basement while the soldiers searched the house and escaped to the archbishop's house until the soldiers left. After he finished his studies, he was ordained a priest, then a bishop, and later was elected Pope where he served the Church for nearly 27 years. He knew ten languages and traveled to 129 countries. Pope John Paul II was a great spiritual world leader and helped overcome communism in Eastern Europe. He reached out to the Jews, the Eastern Orthodox Church, and other Christian groups. He taught that every person is called to holiness. As examples, he beatified 1340 people and canonized 483 saints. Let us ask him to help us become holy by following Jesus, who suffered and died for us.