

### Materials Needed

Bible, crucifix,  
candle

# Disciples on the Journey

## TEENS

### Palm Sunday – 2010

### Cycle C

### Palm Sunday Readings

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

**Let's Focus** *To love means to forgive.* **Let's Reflect** *Live a life of service and love.*

**Reader One:** The Prophet Isaiah speaks of a gift from God – a well-trained tongue to give encouragement to those who need it. He also tells us about the *suffering servant* who was beaten and spat upon, and yet he refused to retaliate.

**Reader Two:** St. Paul tells us that Jesus Christ, although he was the Son of God, willingly emptied himself becoming human, thereby experiencing the same fears and temptations that we have.

**Reader Three:** The last few hours of Jesus' life summarize well his entire life, one of service and love. At the Last Supper, Jesus offered the world the opportunity to forever remember his love by giving us the Eucharist, "his own Body and Blood," as food for the journey.

**Reader Four:** As we celebrate Holy Week, let us reflect how the Passion of Christ teaches us to surrender our lives to God and to be instruments of forgiveness and service to others.

**Let's Explore!** *Play soft music. Have everyone close their eyes and meditate on the following as it is read slowly:*

**Leader:** Place yourself in this scene: Jesus is in the garden and is in agony. You hear him say to his Father, "I don't want to do this." You even see blood and sweat dripping from his forehead. How do you feel when you see Jesus suffering? (Pause) How do you feel knowing he doesn't want to suffer, yet you hear him say, "Father, your will be done"? If you could say something to Jesus, what would you say to him? (Pause) You see the soldiers come with their swords, and Judas steps forward to betray Jesus. If you could talk to the soldiers or Judas, what would you say? (Pause) Now you are standing under the cross, and Jesus is dying. What is Jesus saying to you? (Pause) *Form small groups and talk about your thoughts in response to each of the meditative questions.*

**Let's Talk...** *Form groups of 5-7 and discuss the following:*

1. The *suffering servant* was mistreated but did not retaliate. When you have been mistreated or hurt, were you able to forgive, or were you tempted to retaliate? Share.
2. The prophet Isaiah faithfully proclaimed God's message. When someone asks you about your Catholic faith, are you able to answer and explain your beliefs? Share. Growing in our faith is life-long. Do you agree? Discuss.
3. Jesus loves everyone, and we are to be like Jesus. Does this present any difficulties for you? Discuss.
4. In the midst of great suffering, Jesus forgave everyone. We are challenged to practice forgiveness to all people. Discuss.
5. How important is food for life? Discuss. How important is the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist for your spiritual life? Discuss.

6. Reflect on the past six weeks of Lent. What have you been able to let go of and what changes have you made in order to better live as a disciple of Jesus? Share.

**Let's Live It!** *Select one of these actions to do this week.*

1. Make a commitment to participate in the Holy Week liturgies: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday/Easter Sunday.
2. Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Holy Thursday.

**Let's Pray!** *Gather around the prayer table with a Bible, crucifix, and a candle.*

**All:** Dear Jesus, thank you for becoming human. This Lent we have come to better understand your great love for us.

*Each person takes the crucifix in turn and prays, “Jesus, I love you, and I want to live as your disciple.” Conclude by holding hands and praying the Our Father. Share a sign of peace with one another.*

**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.