

**Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion Cycle B**  
**TEEN GROUPS**

**Materials:** Copies of the Stations of the Cross, pencils, and paper

**OPENING PRAYER:** O God, as we come together this week, we contemplate the Passion and death of your Son, Jesus. We thank you for gathering us to read the Bible and discuss how we should live each day. We love you and praise you. Amen.

**READING SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 50:4-7, Psalm 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24, Philippians 2:6-11  
Mark 14:1-15:47

**LET'S REFLECT:** *What was Jesus' response to those who mocked and crucified him?*

**Leader:** This Sunday is called Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion because in the Gospel we read about how Jesus had to suffer and die before he rose from the dead. The Gospel story tells us that Jesus was arrested, beaten, and whipped. The Roman soldiers and many of the people in the crowd mocked and made fun of Jesus, but he did not fight back. His friends left him, and they even denied knowing him. Jesus remained faithful and stood up for what he believed. Like Jesus, we must not give in to the temptation to strike back when others hurt us through their words and actions.

**LET'S EXPLORE**

*Provide copies of the Stations of the Cross. Divide into groups, assigning each group one or more stations with which to work. The group will study the station/s and describe the way Jesus was treated and his response.*

**LET'S TALK!** *Form small groups and discuss the following.*

1. Jesus did not respond to violence with violence. What do you think about Jesus' response to being put down and hurt? Discuss.
2. What can you learn from the way Jesus responded to those who were hurting him? What is your response when others hurt you?
3. Who are other people who have responded to violence with non-violence? What happened?
4. Jesus was taunted, made fun of, and bullied. Have you ever seen anyone treated in that way? What did you do? How did others react? Discuss.
5. Why do some people bully others? Are they jealous, insecure, hurt? What are the effects on the bully and the one who is bullied? Discuss.

**LET'S LIVE IT!**

*Select one or more actions.*

1. Participate in the Stations of the Cross.
2. Attend the liturgical services of the Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil/Easter.
3. Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week or sometime before Easter.
4. Take time this week to meditate on the Passion of Jesus and his great love for you.
5. Stand up for someone you know who is being picked on or bullied by others.
6. Pray the “Memory Verse” each day.

**LET’S PRAY!**

*Gather around a small table with a candle, Bible, and a crucifix. Play soft music.*

**All:** Jesus, thank you for teaching us by example how we should treat others - those who disagree with us, do not like us, or even treat us unkindly. We want to become more like you, a person who cares about everyone. Amen.

**Reader 1:** For all those who live on the margins of society, let us pray...

**All Respond (R/):** Be with them Lord.

**Reader 2:** For the poor and those who struggle every day to feed their families, let us pray... **(R/)**

**Reader 3:** For the outcasts and those that others ridicule or put down, let us pray... **(R/)**

**Reader 1:** For the sick and elderly, let us pray... **(R/)**

**Reader 2:** For those who are physically or mentally challenged, let us pray... **(R/)**

**Reader 3:** For those without jobs, let us pray... **(R/)**

**All:** Lord, every person is made in your image and likeness. You have told us that whatever we do to the least of our brothers or sisters, we do to you. Help us be your disciples and, like you, to respond to violence with peace, to hate with love, and to injury with forgiveness. Amen.