

10 APRIL - 17 APRIL 2022

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# Holy Week in the Home

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Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, continues through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and ends with Holy Saturday. It is the most solemn and holy time of the church year. Tenebrae services are traditionally held during this week, and involve the gradual extinguishing of candles ending in total darkness near the end of the service.

One way to help us not lose the significance of Holy Week or indeed Easter Day itself is to observe a week long Tenebrae at home. The following Holy Week Tenebrae will help you learn and experience the story together. We hope this journey through Holy Week will help you focus on the events of the week in preparation for the joy of Easter Day.

*This resource uses ideas from The St. Nicholas Center, Godly Play, and prayers from Common Prayer for Children and Families, Church Publishing Inc. 2019*

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# Holy Week Tenebrae

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You will need seven candles and a candle snuffer. This photo is to give you an idea. Tealights or small birthday candles will do just as well. You'll also need a modern version of the Bible, eg CEV.

Light all the candles the first night. Read the Bible passage, snuff one candle furthest from the centre, think through the 'wondering questions', and finish with the prayer. The next night light all the candles except that one. After the reading, snuff the candle on the opposite side. Each night, snuff one more candle, alternating sides, until only the centre candle is still lit. That last candle is not snuffed on Saturday as it represents the light of Christ that is never completely put out.

You could cut the following pages up into individual days, put in a bag with seven candles and hand out to households the week before Palm Sunday. Encourage people to find a regular time each day to stop and pause using this material. An obvious time might be after dinner and before dishes. There is a theme related picture with each day that you could talk about too.



## PALM SUNDAY

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# Matthew 21:1-11

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LIGHT ALL SEVEN CANDLES.  
READ MATTHEW 21:1-11  
(Snuff out one candle)



I wonder which part of the story you like best?  
I wonder if you found part of the story confusing?  
I wonder if you are in the story?

Pray:

Praise God, praise God, praise God we say,  
Welcoming Jesus along the way.  
Waving our branches of palms we say,  
Hosanna, hosanna along the way.  
Welcome to Jesus, our blessed King.  
Praise God, praise God, praise God we sing. Amen

MONDAY

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## Matthew 21:12-17

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LIGHT SIX CANDLES.

READ MATTHEW 21:12-17

(Snuff out another candle)

I wonder which part of the story you like best?

I wonder if you found part of the story confusing?

I wonder if you are in the story?

Pray:

Walk with me, Jesus, walk with me.

The way isn't always easy you see.

But your love, it reaches up to the sky,  
and carries me, so that I can try.

The way isn't always easy, you see.

Walk with me, Jesus, walk with me. Amen



**TUESDAY**

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## **Matthew 22:34-46**

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LIGHT FIVE CANDLES.

READ MATTHEW 22:34-46

(Snuff out another candle)

I wonder which part of the story you like best?

I wonder if you found part of the story confusing?

I wonder if you are in the story?

Pray:

I will follow you, Jesus, by following love,  
and earth will grow closer to heaven above.

When we serve others and do good deeds,  
when we show people kindness and care for their needs,  
earth will grow closer to heaven above  
when we follow you, Jesus, when we follow love. Amen



WEDNESDAY

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## Matthew 26:1-16

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LIGHT FOUR CANDLES.

READ MATTHEW 22:34-46

(Snuff out another candle)

I wonder which part of the story you like best?

I wonder if you found part of the story confusing?

I wonder if you are in the story?

Pray:

The light of Christ glows in me and in others,  
and in the family of God all are sisters and brothers.

It's a light you must see with your heart to believe.

It's a light you can share, you can give and receive.

In the family of God we are sisters and brothers,  
and the light of Christ shines in me and in others. Amen



## MAUNDY THURSDAY

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# Matthew 26:17-30

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LIGHT THREE CANDLES.

Read Matthew 26:17-30

(Snuff out another candle)

I wonder which part of the story you like best?

I wonder if you found part of the story confusing?

I wonder if you are in the story?

Pray: (based on John 13:33-35)

A new commandment, you gave at the table,  
to love one another as you made us able.

When we love one another, all will know it is true  
that we and our friends, indeed, follow you.

So let us remember the commandment to love  
so the world becomes more like heaven above. Amen



**GOOD FRIDAY**

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## **Matthew 27:1-2, 31-56**

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LIGHT TWO CANDLES.

READ MATTHEW 27:1-2, 31-56

(Snuff out another candle)

I wonder which part of the story you like best?

I wonder if you found part of the story confusing?

I wonder if you are in the story?

Pray:

When Jesus died that day on the cross  
all creation together sighed, "This is a great loss."

Time grew empty and the afternoon dark  
as the light of the world had not even a spark.

The women stood by at a distance in tears  
wondering what would become of their fears.

Fear not, the angels soon will say.

Jesus's death has given us the way. Amen





HOLY SATURDAY

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## Matthew 27:57-66

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LIGHT ONE CANDLE.

READ MATTHEW 27:57-66

(Snuff out another candle)

I wonder which part of the story you like best?

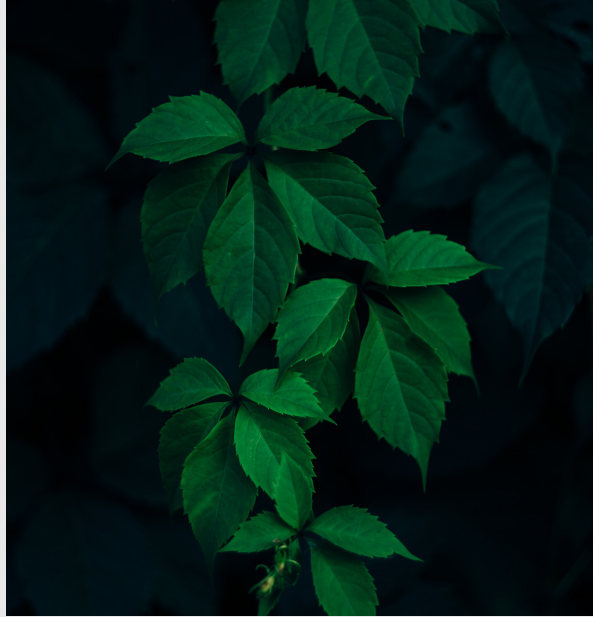
I wonder if you found part of the story confusing?

I wonder if you are in the story?

Pray:

We speak few words this day that is hollow,  
this day that sighs with one great sorrow.

We sit in the garden next to the tomb  
knowing that soon it will be a womb. Amen





Now that you have finished this journey through Holy Week, you might be interested in some resources for Easter Sunday. Have a look at:

**[www.sunzbreakthrough.org.nz](http://www.sunzbreakthrough.org.nz)**  
**[childrenandfamiliesnz.blogspot.com](http://childrenandfamiliesnz.blogspot.com)**