



## SUNDAY SCHOOL VERSION OF HOLY WEEK IN A BOX

“Holy Week in a Box” uses simple objects tucked into a small box to tell the story of Holy Week. Each item in the box is a symbol, representing part of the gospel narrative from Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem through the Last Supper, betrayal, burial, and finally the empty tomb on Easter morning. Each day of Holy Week, kids remove one item from the box and tell the part of the story that goes with it by reading the scripture or telling the story in their own words. Below is an example of one way to tell the story (This version is shorter than the one in our Lent at Home kids and focused on the Gospel of Mark, which we’re using this season.)



### **Palm Sunday: Paper Palm Fronds**

**Cut green paper palms and take the Jesus figure out of your box. Read, or tell in your own words, the Palm Sunday story.**

Today is Palm Sunday. The people had heard miraculous stories about Jesus. When they saw him coming toward Jerusalem on a donkey, I wonder if that was what they were expecting? The story says they cut down palm branches and cheered him like a king, saying “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!” What kind of king rides a donkey? (Mark 11:1-10)

*Have you wondered how the people in power in Jerusalem felt when they saw Jesus hailed like a king by the crowd? How would the Roman governor and soldiers who*

*ruled over the Jewish people have felt? If Jesus had ridden into your neighborhood on a donkey, how would you have felt?*



### **Holy Monday**

**Take 1 coin out of the box.**

Place the coin on the box. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, he went to the Temple. There he noticed people were being cheated out of their money in this holiest place of worship. And the holy temple of God had turned into a marketplace! Jesus was very angry. Do you remember what he did? He said, “This is my Father’s house!” and he flipped the tables to stop the business. (Mark 11:15-18) *Do you think he got their attention?*

**Holy Tuesday: Take another coin out of the box.** Angry that Jesus had caused a scene and caught the attention from Roman soldiers, some chief priests decided it was better to get rid of him than to join him. But they knew the crowds loved Jesus, so they tried to trap him into getting himself in trouble. They asked him if people should pay taxes to the Caesar. If he said “yes,” the people would think he was for Rome and against them. If he said “no” he would sound like an enemy and traitor of the powerful Caesar of Rome. Jesus’ answer to them is in Mark 12:13-17. *What does belong to God?*

**Holy Wednesday: Take the last coin from the box.** Place the third coin on the box. Jesus taught in the Temple and watched the people giving offering. He noticed that some who had a lot of money made a big show to everybody of giving a little of their wealth. But one person who was poor quietly gave all she had out of love. (Mark 12:41-44) *Even if you don’t have much, what can you give or do that shows your love for God?*



### **Maundy Thursday: Table**

**Use the top of the box as a table. Draw a cup and plate on it (or make a cup and plate out of modelling clay if you have some). Place Jesus by the table.** Today we remember the last Passover meal Jesus had with his friends. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and shared it, and he shared the cup with everyone, too. He said, “Whenever you do this, do this in remembrance of me.” Sound familiar? (Mark 14:12-26) *In church, how do we remember this meal? Does communion feel meaningful to you even though we can’t be in the church building? What makes it meaningful? Even a drive-thru communion?!*



### **Good Friday: Cross**

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

Some leaders still wanted to get rid of Jesus. They said he was dangerous even if he was a man of peace. He challenged Rome’s power—and their power, too! They had him arrested. It was the saddest day when they said, “Crucify him!” and put Jesus to death on a cross.

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

*This is such a difficult part of the Holy Week story. What questions do you have as you hear it?*



### **Good Friday Continued: Cloth and Tomb**

After Jesus died, his family and friends took his body down from the cross and tenderly wrapped him in a linen cloth. They gently placed Jesus’ body in a tomb cut out of rock and sealed with a large stone. Wrap your Jesus in the cloth. Place him in the box and put the lid on. Read Mark 15:40-43, 46, 47.

*I wonder how Jesus’ family and friends felt on this terrible day? (I wonder how the leaders were feeling after what they had done?...I wonder how God was feeling...)*

### **Saturday: Stillness**

On that Saturday, everything was so still you could almost hear the earth breathe. There was nothing that could be done. Holy Saturday is a waiting day. Leave your box closed, but you might place a tea-light or candle beside your closed box for a while as a way of showing that you are waiting.



### **Easter Sunday: Empty Tomb**

**(Storyteller: Leave the cloth but remove the Jesus figure before Sunday morning and replace him with a sweet treat to share!)**

Early on the Sunday morning, the women who had loved and followed Jesus and supported his ministry went to the tomb and had an amazing surprise! Open the box. The stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty except for the linen cloth! This is the mystery and surprise of Easter: Christ had risen! That’s why the whole church says together: “Christ has risen! Christ has risen indeed!” God’s love and forgiveness is stronger than death...But even the disciple didn’t believe it at first—not until they saw it for themselves! *Would you have believed it?* Read Mark 16:1-8