

Luke's Holy Week

Grades
1-2

SUFFERING

LUKE 22:14-23; 23:26-56

What's happening in this story?

While the story of Jesus' crucifixion and death is covered in every gospel, Luke in particular emphasizes the physical and social reality of death on the cross. For instance, whereas John sometimes uses metaphorical terms to describe the crucifixion (Jesus is "lifted up"), Luke wants to emphasize that Jesus fully understands suffering, pain, mockery, and death. Simply put, there is nothing we can experience that is beyond the experience of God.

What does this story mean for kids?

Kids are likely to have a lot of questions: Why did God let this happen? Did Jesus really die? Is this a good or a bad story? Such questions have been asked since the crucifixion itself. Kids will likely be troubled by Jesus' suffering and may ask how suffering shows love. There are at least two ways in which you might respond: First, we learn that God's power and grace are bigger than anything that can happen in the world—even death. Second, we learn that Jesus understands our pain and suffering. This is bullying, abuse, teasing, betrayal, and loss taken to the greatest extreme. Kids need to know that Jesus intimately understands and can empathize with whatever pain they might go through.

Why this theme?

Jesus experienced deep, terrible suffering. He knows what it's like to suffer and can empathize with us when we go through tragedy or difficult times. Jesus' suffering was real, and it shows us God's great love for us.

AGE LEVEL TIP

Today's story can be a tough one for kids—before we get to Easter joy, there is sadness, fear, and suffering. Help kids remember God's promises in times of sadness by tracing how other seemingly sad Bible stories have turned out well. Think of Noah, Abraham and Sarah, and more!



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Markers
- Pencils

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Play dough
- Craft sticks (2 per kid)
- Matzo bread
- Grape juice
- Small paper cups (2 per kid)
- Clipboards or cardboard (1 per kid)

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Set out balls of play dough at each chair around a table. Invite kids to use the dough to form as many types of bread or crackers as they can think of (sliced bread, loaf of bread, bagels, tortillas, etc.).

Where have you seen bread (or wafers) at church?

Circle up with kids for an opening conversation.

Pass out two craft sticks and a marker to each kid. **We are going to talk about several stories this week. We are going to follow Jesus on the path through Holy Week. Lay your sticks on the floor to make two sides of a path.** Give kids time to do so. **Wave your sticks like people waved branches on Palm Sunday.** Allow time. **Now write two words on your sticks, the word *bread* on one, and the word *wine* on the other.** Give kids time to write. **Hold your sticks up like a worship leader does with bread and wine during communion.** Allow time. **Now hold your sticks in a cross shape.** Allow time. **I wonder what this tells us about what is next on our path through Holy Week.**

Pray together: **Jesus, during this Holy Week help us understand what happened to you and why. Amen.**

Pass out leaflets.

Open a Whirl Kids Story Bible to today's story on page 322. Hold up leaflet. **Passover is a Jewish festival that celebrates God freeing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. On our leaflet are special Passover foods.** Now hold up today's Bible story. **Let's match two of the foods on our leaflet to the foods in our story.** Explain the foods to kids. **The wine reminds Jewish people of the lamb's blood God asked the Israelites to put on their doorposts. The flat bread is a reminder of how quickly the Israelites had to flee Egypt when the time came. The bread did not have time to rise.**



Gather kids around the screen where you'll watch the video.

Victor is not listening in church. Let's see what he's up to.

View Episode 6, "Upsetting Menu," on the Year Gold Spring PreK–Grade 2 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- **Pastor Donna is explaining something. What is it?**
- **Who has a problem with Holy Communion, and why?**
- **How does Ada explain Holy Communion to Clara?**
- **What do you like about Holy Communion? What bothers you? What questions do you have?**
- **How do you remember friends and family who have moved away?**



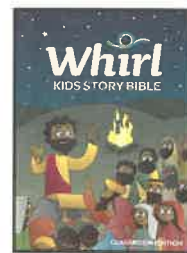
Open your Whirl Kids Story Bibles.

Let's find our story today! Help kids find "The Last Supper" on page 322 and "Jesus Is Crucified" on page 326. Before you read both stories, invite kids to look for all the different foods on the table in "The Last Supper" and at the sky and clouds in "Jesus Is Crucified."

Read the story and Ada and Otto's questions and comments on each page.

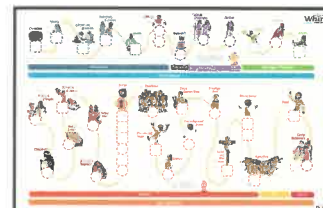
Ask these questions after you read the story:

- **What Jewish festival were the disciples and Jesus celebrating?**
- **What did Jesus do with the bread and wine?**
- **Why did Jesus want the disciples to remember him?**
- **Today's story was about the first Holy Communion. How is Holy Communion the same in our church? How is it different?**
- **How do you remember Jesus?**



Gather near the Wall Chart to place today's sticker.

Point out the Testament (New), Bible section (Gospels), and character image (Jesus on the Cross). **Today's Bible story is about Holy Week and the many different feelings we have during this week in the church. Let's add a sticker to remind us of what Jesus shared with his friends to help them remember him** (bread and wine). Point to the corresponding images of Jesus and bread and wine on pages 322 and 323 in the Whirl Kids Story Bible.



Play together!

Have kids sit in a circle and place two small paper cups in front of each kid. **Jesus wants us to remember him. Let's remember Jesus today by eating together like the disciples in our story.** Fill each kid's cups: one with a piece of matzo bread, the other with juice. When all cups are filled, turn to the person on your left and say, **"Eat this bread and remember Jesus. Drink this juice and remember Jesus."** After that person has eaten and has drunk, invite them to do the same for their neighbor. Continue the ritual all around your circle.

BIBLE BIT

The stories of our faith are filled with people who remember God in tough or sad times. Check out Psalm 31! It's a beautiful prayer for help.

WATCH IT AGAIN

Who tells Clara that Jesus wants us to eat the bread and drink the wine during Holy Communion? Why does Victor tell her? What is Clara's reaction?

OUR CHURCH

Talk to the people coordinating Holy Communion in your church. Create a plan for kids to join with other bakers to bake communion bread for Holy Week and Easter.

RESPOND 10

Pass out leaflets, clipboards or cardboard, and pencils.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

1. Have kids secure leaflets on clipboards or cardboard. **Today you are food interviewers. Interview a friend by asking what they eat for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.** Point to the word for each meal. **Write down their answers in the WHAT column under each meal. Then, ask the same friend why they eat these foods. Put these reasons in the QUESTION MARK column for each meal.**
2. Be prepared to be interviewed too. Allow kids five minutes for their interviews, then bring kids back together as a group. Invite each person to share one food their interviewee eats and why.
3. Point to the Communion square. **Let's talk about a fourth meal we know about. What do we eat during Communion?** Allow kids to respond. **We eat bread and wine.** Point to the bread and wine on the square. **When we take communion, Jesus himself is with us through the bread and wine. Why do we eat the bread and wine?** Listen again. **We eat these foods to remember Jesus and to be forgiven.**
4. Write *remember* and *forgiven* on a piece of paper or a board for kids to see. **Let's write remember and forgiven in the QUESTION MARK column in the Communion chart.**
5. Wrap up: **We eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner because our bodies need energy, we are hungry, and we like eating with friends and family. We eat and drink at Holy Communion to remember Jesus and to be forgiven.**

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

Today we learned a way to remember Jesus. Who can tell me about this way of remembering? Allow kids to respond. **We remember Jesus when we celebrate Holy Communion. We remember what Jesus taught us, how he suffered, and that we are always forgiven.**

Pass out leaflet panels and markers.

Create a Holy Week path by drawing a picture from "The Last Supper" in the small blank. Ask kids to follow the path at home by adding an Easter picture to the large blank.

Send kids out with a blessing.

Circle up with kids. **God blesses all of us. And that means me** (place a hand on your chest). **And that means you** (place your other hand on the shoulder of the kid next to you). Each kid passes the blessing by repeating those words and actions. When the blessing makes it back to you, say, **Go and bless the world.**

Thank kids for coming today. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.