

Luke's Holy Week

PreK-
K

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

Young children can understand that Jesus spent his final days showing his love for his disciples. We remember Jesus' love and sacrifice for us every time we celebrate Holy Communion. Jesus is with us and wants to take care of us when we are suffering.



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Scissors
- Crayons
- Glue sticks

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Crepe paper streamers (rainbow colors, precut into 12-in. strips)
- Damp towel
- Toy dishes
- Small cross
- Washable ink pad (purple)
- Hand wipes

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Give kids a couple strips each of the crepe paper streamers. **When Jesus came to Jerusalem, people waved palm leaves and branches and shouted, "Hosanna!" Let's wave our streamers and shout, "Hosanna!"**

Collect streamers for later use.

Circle up with kids for an opening conversation.

Today's Bible story begins a few days before Jesus died on the cross. Jesus used water to wash his friends' dusty feet at their last supper together. **Let's use a wet towel to "scrub" the classroom tables to remind us of the nice thing Jesus did for his friends.** Invite kids to take turns "cleaning" the classroom tables.

Pray together: **Jesus, you are in our hearts during this Holy Week and all year long. Amen.**

Pass out leaflets and crayons.

What is Jesus doing in the picture? He's praying. After his last supper with the disciples, Jesus asked them to go with him to a special garden to pray. **Let's draw some plants, flowers, and trees around Jesus in the garden.** While kids are drawing, talk about times and places we can pray. **We can pray in a special**



place, or we can pray anywhere. We can pray at a special time, or we can talk to God anytime. God will hear us no matter where we are or when we pray. Collect their leaflets until Respond.

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

In today's video, the kids are listening to a sermon, and one of the kids becomes upset by what she hears. Let's watch the video to find out more.

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

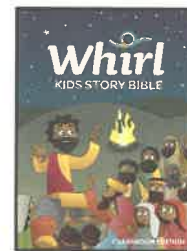
Ask kids these questions about the video:

- **Why did Clara run out of the service?**
- **Where did she go?**
- **Why does Jesus want us to take communion?**
- **What does Clara do when she realizes she has been hiding in the place where Holy Communion is prepared?**
- **How do you remember Jesus?**



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. Start by pointing out the graphic that shows the bread and wine in the purple circle for Lent. Before you read both stories, invite kids to look for Jesus holding up bread and wine during the meal with the disciples.



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

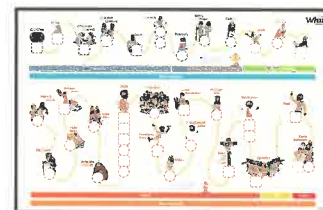
Ask these questions after you read the story:

- **What food did Jesus and the disciples share at the celebration of the Passover?**
- **What foods do you share with your family at special meals?**
- **Why did Jesus want his friends to remember him?**
- **Where did Jesus die?**
- **How did the people feel when Jesus was on the cross?**

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

Point out the Testament (New) 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. Let's add a sticker to remind us of what Jesus shared with the disciples to help them remember him (bread and wine). Point to the corresponding images of Jesus and the bread and wine on page 322 in the Whirl Kids Story Bible.



Play together!

Set crepe paper streamers, toy dishes, and the cross in different areas of the room. Invite kids to wave the streamers while you read or paraphrase "Jesus Enters Jerusalem" on page 318 of the Whirl Story Bible. **Shout, "Hosanna!"** Move to the toy dishes and retell "The Last Supper" on page 322. Invite kids to set the table. **Let's say, "We remember Jesus."** Move to the cross. Retell "Jesus Is Crucified" on page 326. **Which story makes you feel happiest? Which one is saddest?**

BIBLE BIT

Crucifixion was a form of capital punishment reserved for the most serious criminals. Two criminals were crucified on the same day as Jesus.

WATCH IT AGAIN

Let's watch the video again. This time, let's look for the cool things stored in the sacristy.

OUR CHURCH

Invite a worship leader to your class to talk about special things that happen in your church during Holy Week.

RESPOND 10

Pass out leaflets, crayons, purple ink pads, crepe paper streamers (precut 12-in. strips, 4 per kid), glue sticks, and hand wipes.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

- 1. I'll read the words on the leaflet.** Let kids finish the sentences. **When we share** _____ (Holy Communion), **we remember** _____ (Jesus died on a cross).
- 2. What did Jesus tell his disciples when he broke the bread? Use crayons to color the bread on your leaflet. How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus was sharing the bread with them?**
- 3. Let's use the inkpads and our fingers to decorate the cup, or chalice. A chalice is a special cup for wine, used when we share communion.** Show kids how to get ink on their fingers and "color" the chalice with their fingerprints. **When we share bread and wine at communion, we remember Jesus.**
- 4. Let's keep using the ink and our fingers to color the cross, too. When we see a cross, we remember Jesus died on the cross.**
5. Use the hand wipes to clean fingers when kids have finished.
- 6. Let's use glue sticks to attach the streamers around our leaflet like a frame. It will be a special frame because it reminds us of special parts of our story.**
7. Give kids time to glue their streamers to the edges of their leaflets. **Which part of the story do the crepe paper strips remind you of?**

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

A lot happened to Jesus before he died: People cheered Jesus when he rode into Jerusalem. Jesus washed the disciples' feet. They shared a special meal. Jesus went to pray and was arrested. Then he died on the cross. Was there a part of the story that you heard for the first time? Which part makes you feel scared? Which parts feel happy? Take time to hear kids' responses. Affirm all of their answers. This is not the end of Jesus' story.

Pass out leaflet panels and crayons.

What are the two shapes on the leaflet? Connect the green dots. When did we talk about a cross today? Next, connect the blue dots. Why do you think there is a heart around the cross? Kids may color in the shapes if you have time.

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.