

*and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. It is fitting that Jesus gave his commandment to love in the midst of a great demonstration of his own love for us. We continue to take the Lord's Supper with the gathered church as we remember his love.*

#### Discussion Questions

- What are some different ways Jesus showed his love to the disciples?
- What are some different ways Jesus has shown his love to you?

### **Day 6 – Good Friday**

Good Friday is both the darkest and brightest day of Holy Week. The day is one of darkness and solemnity for Christians who consider that on this day Jesus Christ gave up his life on the cross. He who was king by right died on a Roman execution device. Not only did he die but it was a shameful death. The cross was reserved for the worst of sinners. According to the law of God, to die on a tree was to be cursed by God. It was a dark day. Yet, Good Friday is also one of the most treasured days for the Christian. In that day Jesus Christ pronounced it 'it is finished' as he died. In his death Jesus paid for the sins of every one of his people. Mark 15:37-39 *And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"*

#### Discussion Questions

- What makes Good Friday such a bad day?
- What makes Good Friday such a wonderful day?

# Holy Week Family Worship Guide



## **West Oaks Baptist Church**

(in preparation for Sunday, April 20th, 2025)

**A six day look at Holy Week before Easter.**

### **Suggested Memory Verse**

*Matthew 26:39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."*

## Day 1 – Palm Sunday

The week before Easter (Resurrection Sunday) is traditionally called Holy Week. In place of catechism we will be reading portions of scripture that highlight the path the Jesus took to the cross and the grave prior to his glorious resurrection. We begin with Palm Sunday. As the time of his death drew near Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem. Instead of running from death he chose to lay down his life for his people. While the path of Holy Week led to the cross, it didn't start with such a sorrowful tone. Jesus came into Jerusalem on that Sunday and found a great crowd waiting eagerly for him. Matthew 21:8-9 *Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"* Jesus' followers greeted him as he deserved to be greeted. They praised him as a victorious king!

### Discussion Questions

- Why do you think God had such a magnificent display of glory and honor given to his Son before he sent him to his death?
- How should we respond to Jesus?

## Day 2 – Holy Monday

The varying gospel accounts come together to give us some detailed information about Jesus' activities over Holy Week. One of the most notable events of that Monday was when Jesus entered the temple and found it filled with people making money from God's worship. Matthew 21:12-13 *And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."* People were supposed to be coming to the temple to worship God. Yet, here they were assembled not for worship, but to make money. This event mirrors an encounter early in Jesus' ministry (John 2:13-22). Jesus begins his public ministry, and ends it, by teaching us the importance of God's worship. No one else was zealous for God's worship like Jesus was. Jesus had the zeal we all lack. Because of this he was worthy to take our punishment for sin and to give us his righteousness.

### Discussion Questions

- What are ways we might be tempted to steal from God's worship to serve ourselves?
- What might it look like for us to have a greater zeal for God's house and his worship?

## Day 3 – Holy Tuesday

There are a number of touching scenes that grip our minds and hearts as we read through the story of Holy Week. On Tuesday Jesus declares a lament over the city of

Jerusalem. The same city that welcomed him with joyful shouts two days prior would soon offer him up to slaughter by the Romans. Matthew 23:37-39 *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' "* In Jesus' words we hear both words of judgement for those who reject him, but also a suggestion of promise for those he would save. Jesus reveals his desire to save his people. Even today Jesus continues to declare judgement on those who reject him, yet love and salvation for those who receive him.

### Discussion Questions

- Why did the leaders of Israel so often refuse to let people listen to God's word? Are there people to continue to do this now?
- What do Jesus' words here tell us about his heart for the lost?

## Day 4 – Spy Wednesday

The traditional name for Holy Wednesday is Spy Wednesday. This points to the schemes of the Jewish leaders to bribe one of his disciples to spy on Jesus. Matthew 26:14-16 *Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.* The religious leaders had spent the past 3 years fuming at the teachings of Jesus. As the cross looms closer the offense of Jesus' teachings seems to grow. He welcomed praise on Sunday, turned out the money-changers on Tuesday, and pronounced woe on the leaders of Jerusalem on Tuesday. Throughout this time he taught with increasing clarity about the kingdom of God that he was bringing. Rather than bringing about repentance in the hearts of the rulers, Jesus' words caused them to plan evil in their hearts. The wisdom and glory of God are shown in that what they intended for evil Jesus intended for the salvation of his people.

### Discussion Questions

- The death of Jesus was a cooperation between the Romans, the Jews, and Judas Iscariot. Whose sin against Jesus was the most grievous? Why?
- Are there things that Jesus teaches that are hard for you to accept? How should you respond?

## Day 5 – Maundy Thursday

The traditional name for Holy Thursday is Maundy Thursday. This is adapted from the latin phrase that speaks about the new commandment Jesus gives his disciples, the commandment to love. Jesus gives this commandment during his intimate time with his disciples the night before he was betrayed. During that same evening he cared for his disciples by giving them the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. Matthew 26:26-28 *Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it*