Holy Week Journey—Information for Volunteers

## Station # 1, Palm Sunday

Paul and Tiffany, here is what I’d like you read and do:

One person can be the reader, the other, the disciple wears the cloak and scarf and acts it out.

Narrator: “Welcome to the Holy Week Journey! Today, we start here, just out side of Jerusalem.

*(motion wide with arm, look around*)

**21** As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage at the Mount of Olives. There Jesus sent two of the disciples on ahead **2** with these instructions: “Go

(*point into distance*)

to the village there ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied up with her colt beside her. Untie them and bring them to me. **3** And if anyone says anything, tell him, ‘The Master[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+21%3A1-11&version=GNT#fen-GNT-26876a)] needs them’; and then he will let them go at once.”

**4** This happened in order to make come true what the prophet had said:

**5** “Tell the city of Zion,

 Look, your king is coming to you!

He is humble and rides on a donkey

 and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

**6** So the disciples went and did what Jesus had told them to do

*(Narrator… pause if needed while he completes this- disciple walks 5 feet away, “finds donkey” untie rope and bring it back by narrator)*

 **7** they brought the donkey and the colt, threw their cloaks over them, and Jesus got on.

*(disciple puts the donkey in middle of road, one cloak over donkeys back*)

**8** A large crowd of people spread their cloaks on the road while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

*(Invite participants to spread cloaks and palms on the road)*

**9** The crowds walking in front of Jesus and those walking behind began to shout, “Praise to David's Son! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise be to God!”

(invite them to repeat after you and wave a palm)

Repeat after me and wave your palm: “Praise to David’s son!” Pause for them to repeat “Praise be to God!”

**10** When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was thrown into an uproar. “Who is he?” the people asked.

**11** “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee,” the crowds answered. (Mathew 21:1-11, Good News Version)

Now tell them

“You may move to the cones along the path and wait to be invited into the next story. Thank you.”

Reset your scene before waving the next group in.

## Station #2, Throwing out the Money Changers

Matthew 21:12-17, Good News Translation

Preston says,

“Welcome to the temple…

(*motion one arm out in a wide sweeping motion*)

listen to what happened here, when Jesus came!” Pause, then Preston reads:

**12** Jesus went into the Temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling there.

(Jesus, ((Aidan wearing simple costume)), walks into the scene from several feet away, looking around at everyone and then sees the table and walks closer to it)

He overturned the tables of the money changers and the stools of those who sold pigeons*,*

*(Aidan knocks table with money over on it’s side, then tip the stool with doves on it over)*

**13** and said to them, “It is written in the Scriptures that God said, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer.’ But you are making it a hideout for thieves!”

**14** The blind and the crippled came to him in the Temple, and he healed them. **15** The chief priests and the teachers of the Law became angry when they saw the wonderful things he was doing and the children shouting in the Temple, “Praise to David's Son! Hosanna! **16** So they asked Jesus, “Do you hear what they are saying?”

“Indeed I do,” answered Jesus. “Haven't you ever read this scripture? ‘You have trained children and babies to offer perfect praise.’”

**17** Jesus left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

*Preston, hand paper to Aidan*

Aidan says “please pray with me and reply to each phrase with “Hosanna!”

Aidan says: “Jesus, you are the great and awesome King”

*(all, motion to all participants)* “ Hosanna!” *(Preston and Aidan can enthusiastically say it too to encourage participation)*

Aidan: “Jesus, all glory and Honor belongs to you”

*(all)* “Hosanna!”

Aidan: Jesus, you are the King- then, now, and forever.”

(all) Hosanna!

*Preston hands one coin, can say*

”take this coin in your bag, to remember this part of the journey”,

*one per family or individual, place in brown bag so kids don’t argue over it. It goes in the bag so they have free hands to participate moving forward.*

Aidan reads: “you may move to the next cones along the path, and wait to be invited in to the next story”

Quickly reset your station and wave in the next group.

## Station #3, The Foot Washing

Parts of John 13:1-17, Good News Translation

Jill is Peter/Simon Peter and narrator, Michael is Jesus. I’ll have a simple costume for you.

Jill says “ Welcome! Welcome to the supper table, Come be a part of supper, sit around the table, yes, all of you, join Jesus at the table.”

(Jesus/Michael sits facing them all as well)

(Motion to the area you’d like them to go, Invite participants to sit around the table if they are able, they may stand if they want, but this will be sitting on the ground on a blanket, semi-circle around the laundry basket covered table, no one in the chair, you’ll need it later. Chair stays empty behind table with you and Michael)

Jill says with meaning: 13 “Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. He had always loved those in the world who were his own, and he loved them to the very end.

2 Jesus and his disciples were at supper. The Devil had already put into the heart of Judas, the thought of betraying Jesus.[a] 3 Jesus knew that the Father had given him complete power; he knew that he had come from God and was going to God. 4 So he rose from the table, took off his outer garment, and tied a towel around his waist.

(Jill, pause reading, Michael gets up removes cloak and ties on an apron folded in half so it’s just around your waist, not neck.)

Jill reads: 5 Then he poured some water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist.

(Jill sits in chair now, Michael slowly pour just a little water from pitcher into bowl and pretends to wash feet of a participant, just one, quickly, then get up and move to Jill)

Jill says: 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Are you going to wash my feet, Lord?”

Be close enough to share script now, or you can each use your own, I’ll print 2 copies)

Michael read:7 Jesus answered him, “You do not understand now what I am doing, but you will understand later.”

Jill reads firmly, shocked!: 8 Peter declared, “Never at any time will you wash my feet!”

Michael reads: “If I do not wash your feet,” Jesus answered, “you will no longer be my disciple.”

Jill: 9 Simon Peter answered, “Lord, do not wash only my feet, then! Wash my hands and head, too!”

(Jill, touch head dramatically, hold hand outstretched)

Michael: 10 Jesus said, “Those who have taken a bath are completely clean and do not have to wash themselves, except for their feet.[b] All of you are clean—all except one.” 11 Jesus already knew who was going to betray him; that is why he said, “All of you, except one, are clean.”

Jill reads: 12 After Jesus had washed their feet, he put his outer garment back on and returned to his place at the table.

Michael put cloak on, sits down and reads: “Do you understand what I have just done to you?” he asked. 13 “You call me Teacher and Lord, and it is right that you do so, because that is what I am. 14 I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you. 16 I am telling you the truth: no slaves are greater than their master, and no messengers are greater than the one who sent them. 17 Now that you know this truth, how happy you will be if you put it into practice!

Jill says, Thank you for participating, you may stand up now, here is soap, to help you remember “The foot washing”. Please move to the next cones in the path, and wait to be invited into the next station. Thank you.

Jill: place soap in the brown bag if possible, one per family per bag, to keep their hands free for the next station.

Quickly reset station, then wave in new group.

## Station #4, The Last Supper

Parts of Luke 22: 7-23, Good News Translation

Dave: Jesus/Narrator

Jenny: Disciple/Narrator

I’ll have a robe or scarf for you to wear. Copies of this will be printed, nothing has to be memorized.

*Jenny says:* *(while enthusiastically motioning with arm to come stand close -if they are comfortable-, but not sit yet because that comes in a minute,)* “You’re just in time, come closer and listen to the story of the The Last supper”

*Dave reads :* **7** The day came during the Festival of Unleavened Bread when the lambs for the Passover meal were to be killed. **8** Jesus sent Peter and John with these instructions: “Go and get the Passover meal ready for us to eat.” *Jenny reads:* **9** “Where do you want us to get it ready?” they asked him.

*Dave reads:* **10** He answered, “As you go into the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters, **11** and say to the owner of the house: ‘The Teacher says to you, Where is the room where my disciples and I will eat the Passover meal?’ **12** He will show you a large furnished room upstairs, where you will get everything ready.”

*Jenny reads:***13** They went off and found everything just as Jesus had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal. **14** When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table with the apostles.

*(Jenny motions and invites any participants that want to, to sit down on the blanket around the table)*

*Dave reads:* **15** He said to them, “I have wanted so much to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer! **16** For I tell you, I will never eat it until it is given its full meaning in the Kingdom of God.” **17** Then Jesus took a cup, gave thanks to God, and said, “Take this and share it among yourselves. **18** I tell you that from now on I will not drink this wine until the Kingdom of God comes.” (

*(Dave picks up bread and as reading he breaks Dave, side note is that it will already be broken, just push/hold together to pretend it isn’t broken yet, then pretend break it, you’ll use the same loaf for each group that comes through)*

*Dave reads:* **19** Then he took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me.”

*Dave hold up cup and read:* **20** In the same way, he gave them the cup after the supper, saying, “This cup is God's new covenant sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you.[**21** “But, look! The one who betrays me is here at the table with me! **22** The Son of Man will die as God has decided, but how terrible for that man who betrays him!”

*Jenny reads:* **23** Then they began to ask among themselves which one of them it could be who was going to do this.

Pause

*Jenny says:* You may stand up now, and take this cup, *(show tiny communion cup*) I will place it in your brown bag, so you can remember The Last Supper. You may now move to the next set of cones on the path, and wait to be welcomed in to the next station. (Give one per family/ one per bag)

Quickly reset station and wave the next group in.

## Station #5, A Sad Night

Luke 22:39-62, Good News Translation

Dara N. and Charlie J., I will have simple costumes for you.

*Dara reads:* Jesus left the city and went, as he usually did, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples went with him. **40** When he arrived at the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” **41** Then he went off from them about the distance of a stone's throw and knelt down and prayed

*(Dara move a few feet away from Charlie and pray continuing to read:*

**42** “Father,” he said, “if you will, take this cup of suffering away from me. Not my will, however, but your will be done.”

*(Dara pause and kneel on blanket to continue praying)*

**43** An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. **44** In great anguish he prayed even more fervently; his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.”

*(Charlie lay down and pretend sleep on your blanket/rug)*

*Dara continues, getting up and going over to Charlie:* **45** Rising from his prayer, he went back to the disciples and found them asleep, worn out by their grief. **46** He said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you will not fall into temptation.”

*(Charlie stands)*

*Dara reads:* **47** Then, Jesus was still speaking when a crowd arrived, led by Judas, one of the twelve disciples. He came up to Jesus to kiss him. **48** But Jesus said, “Judas, is it with a kiss that you betray the Son of Man?”

*Charlie reads*:When the disciples who were with Jesus saw what was going to happen, they asked, “Shall we use our swords, Lord?” **50** And one of them struck the High Priest's slave and cut off his right ear.

*Dara reads:* **51** But Jesus said, “Enough of this!” He touched the man's ear and healed him.**52** Then Jesus said to the chief priests and the officers of the Temple guard and the elders who had come there to get him, “Did you have to come with swords and clubs, as though I were an outlaw? **53** I was with you in the Temple every day, and you did not try to arrest me. But this is your hour to act, when the power of darkness rules.”

*(Charlie and Dara move to fake fire area, which you can set up a couple feet away)*

*Charlie reads:* **54** They arrested Jesus and took him away into the house of the High Priest; and Peter followed at a distance. **55** A fire had been lit in the center of the courtyard, and Peter joined those who were sitting around it.

*Dara reads* **56** When one of the servant women saw him sitting there at the fire, she looked straight at him and said, “This man too was with Jesus!”

*Charlie reads with exclamation!:* **57** But Peter denied it, “Woman, I don't even know him!”

*Dara reads:* **58** After a little while a man noticed Peter and said, “You are one of them, too!”

*Charlie reads*: But Peter answered, “Man, I am not!”

*Dara reads:* **59** And about an hour later another man insisted strongly, “There isn't any doubt that this man was with Jesus, because he also is a Galilean!”

*Charlie reads:* **60** But Peter answered, “Man, I don't know what you are talking about!”

*Dara and Charlie stand,*

*Dara reads:* At once, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. **61** The Lord turned around and looked straight at Peter, and Peter remembered that the Lord had said to him, “Before the rooster crows tonight, you will say three times that you do not know me.” **62** Peter went out and wept bitterly.

*Charlie says*, take this feather, to remind you of this story, a sad night.

*(Place one feather in each brown bag, just give one, they don’t get to pick. One per family per brown bag.)*

*Dara says:* please move to the next group of cones in the trail and wait to be welcomes into the next story.

Quickly reset station and wave new group in.

## Station #6, Jesus Dies

John 19:14-19, 23-30, Good News Translation

Gary and Beverlee, I’ll have 2 copies printed, no need to memorize, no pressure.

*Beverlee reads:* **14** It was then almost noon of the day before the Passover. Pilate said to the people, “Here is your king!”

*Gary reads:* **15** They shouted back, “Kill him! Kill him! Crucify him!”

*Beverlee reads:* Pilate asked them, “Do you want me to crucify your king?”

*Gary reads:* The chief priests answered, “The only king we have is the Emperor!”

*Beverlee reads:* **16** Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

So they took charge of Jesus. **17** He went out, carrying his cross, and came to “The Place of the Skull,” as it is called. (In Hebrew it is called “Golgotha.”) **18** There they crucified him; and they also crucified two other men, one on each side, with Jesus between them. **19** Pilate wrote a notice and had it put on the cross. “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews,” is what he wrote.

*(Gary: Pause, take crown of thorns and slowly place on cross.)*

*Gary reads;* **23** After the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier. They also took the robe, which was made of one piece of woven cloth without any seams in it. **24** The soldiers said to one another, “Let's not tear it; let's throw dice to see who will get it.” This happened in order to make the scripture come true: “They divided my clothes among themselves and gambled for my robe.” And this is what the soldiers did.

*Beverlee reads:* **25** Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. **26** Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, “He is your son.”

**27** Then he said to the disciple, “She is your mother.” From that time the disciple took her to live in his home.

*Gary reads:* **28** Jesus knew that by now everything had been completed; and in order to make the scripture come true, he said, “I am thirsty.”

*(Gary takes sponge as a prop and reads)* **29** A bowl was there, full of cheap wine; so a sponge was soaked in the wine, put on a stalk of hyssop, and lifted up to his lips. **30** Jesus drank the wine and said, “It is finished!”

Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

*(Pause)*

*Beverlee says* “please pray with me and when I say “Thank you Jesus” lift your hands in honor and respect”

*(Gary demonstrate lifting hands high.)*

Beverlee reads:

Dear Jesus, you are our Lord. Thank you Jesus! *(all lift arms, then lower*)

You came to earth for us. Thank you Jesus! *(lift)*

You lived for us. Thank you Jesus! *(lift)*

You suffered for us*.* Thank you Jesus*. (Lift)*

You died for us*.* Thank you Jesus*. (lift)*

You love us. Thank you Jesus*.*

Amen*.*

*Gary says:* please take this cross to remember this part of the holy week journey, give one per family, one per brown bag*.*

*Beverlee says:* please move to the next cones on the trail and wait to be welcomed into the next station.

*(Quickly reset station if needed and wave next group in.)*

## Station #7 Jesus is Buried

John 19:38-42, Good News Translation

##

Courtney and Rachel, thank you for helping in this station, please come around 11 to set up. You don’t need to memorize anything, I will have 2 printed copies for both. I will have simple costumes for you both. I’ll show you the signs if you’re unsure, I’ll show you how to set the Styrofoam to create the tomb.

*Courtney says:* (*in a gentle, sad way*): Hello, come on over, come close, I realize you just came from a pretty sad station, the story of when Jesus Dies on the cross. And now listen as we tell about the tomb, and how Jesus was buried.

*Rachel reads:* **38** After this, Joseph, who was from the town of Arimathea, asked Pilate if he could take Jesus' body. (Joseph was a follower of Jesus, but in secret, because he was afraid of the Jewish authorities.) Pilate told him he could have the body, so Joseph went and took it away

*Courtney reads*: **39** Nicodemus, who at first had gone to see Jesus at night, went with Joseph, taking with him about one hundred pounds of spices, a mixture of myrrh and aloes. **40** The two men took Jesus' body and wrapped it in linen cloths with the spices according to the Jewish custom of preparing a body for burial.

*Both set down script for a moment Rachel takes linen cloth from tree branch nearby and slowly folds it, holding in both her hands, palms up. We are not going to try to show a body, so the cloth is representing Jesus body wrapped in linen.*

*Courtney comes close with small wooden bowl and pretend reaches in and then spreads ointment and spices and oil on the cloth, gently slowly running fingers over it. Courtney puts down bowl, and picks up script.*

*Courtney reads:*  **41** There was a garden in the place where Jesus had been put to death, and in it there was a new tomb where no one had ever been buried. **42** Since it was the day before the Sabbath and because the tomb was close by, they placed Jesus' body there.

*(In silence, Rachel slowly places cloth in tomb. If anyone talks, politely give them the quiet sign of shhhh with finger to lips or say: We are all silent right now. The tomb: I created one out of Styrofoam.*

*Then Rachel slides, it won’t roll, it’s a rectangle, the stone in front of the tomb entrance.)*

*Courtney says:* Pray with us, and do the following motion. You’ll need your hands free so please set any other items down for a moment. *(Pause)* When I say “Jesus” you do this*:*

*(Rachel shows: with hands open, touch the tip of the middle finger of one hand to the palm of the other hand; repeat on the opposite hand.)*

*Courtney says:* And when I say “Thank you”, sign like this:

*(Rachel shows sign language “thank you”: touch the fingertips of your dominant hand to your chin; then extend your hand forward with the palm up.)*

*Courtney prays, reading with feeling:*

 *(Rachel leads all in doing the 2 appropriate motions when Courtney says JESUS and THANK YOU, continuing through the prayer)*

Dear JESUS, you taught us how to be servants to each other. THANK YOU!

JESUS, you suffered in the garden when your friends weren’t there for you. THANK YOU!

JESUS, you let your enemies arrest you and hurt you. THANK YOU!

JESUS, your friends ran away and even said they didn’t know you. But you didn’t complain. THANK YOU!

We are sorry that your friends ran away.

We are sorry that you felt so alone.

We are sorry that your enemies hurt you.

We are sorry that you suffered so much for us.

JESUS, we love you. THANK YOU for loving us!

Amen

*Rachel says:* please take this rock to remember when Jesus was buried and the rock was rolled in front of the tomb.

*(Give one per family/one per bag, just hand it or place in bag, they don’t get to pick, it’ll slow things down too much).*

*Courtney say:,* please move to the next cones in the path and wait there to be invited in to the last station.

*(Quickly reset your station and then wave in the next group.)*

## Station #8, Jesus is Alive!

John 20:1-18 (Good News Translation)

##

I’ll have simple costumes for you both. I will have two copies of this printed.

I have a ton of fake flowers and angel wings and halos to decorate your area.

*Ginny reads*:

**20** Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. **2** She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!”

*Kenneth reads:*

**3** Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. **4** The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** He bent over and saw the linen cloths, but he did not go in.

*Ginny reads:*

**6** Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there **7** and the cloth which had been around Jesus' head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was rolled up by itself.

*Kenneth reads:*

Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed!

*Ginny reads:***11** Mary stood crying outside the tomb. While she was still crying, she bent over and looked in the tomb **12** and saw two angels there dressed in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and the other at the feet.

*(Ginny pauses, motions arm towards angel wings and halos, drawing attention to them)*

**13** “Woman, why are you crying?” they asked her. She answered, “They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!” **14** Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there; but she did not know that it was Jesus.

*Kenneth reads:*

**15** “Woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who is it that you are looking for?”

*Ginny reads:*

She thought he was the gardener, so she said to him, “If you took him away, sir, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.”

*Kenneth reads:*

**16** Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

*Ginny exclaims in a surprised loud way :*

She turned toward him and said in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (This means “Teacher.”)

*Kenneth reads :*

**17** “Do not hold on to me,” Jesus told her, “because I have not yet gone back up to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am returning to him who is my Father and their Father, my God and their God.”

*Ginny reads:*

**18** So Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and related to them what he had told her.

*Ginny continues saying:*

“Jesus is alive! Shout it with me*! (Ginny, Kenneth, All: shout)* Jesus is alive! Hallelujah!” (*Shout it again)*

*Ginny reads:* Repeat each phrase after I say it, as we pray together to celebrate Jesus resurrection.

Jesus, you are Lord *(pause while they say it, Kenneth can lead the response)*

Jesus, you are our hope *(pause while they repeat)*

Jesus, you won the victory over death. (pause, repeat)

Jesus, we jump for joy because you are alive! (pause)

Amen!

Kenneth hands out white egg, one per family/ one per brown bag.

Ginny says: look at this egg, what’s inside? Then you slowly open the egg and show them, and say “ nothing, it’s empty, just like the tomb was empty and Jesus arose! Jesus is alive! Take this egg in your brown bag to remember this part of the Easter story, Jesus is alive! Happy Easter!”