

HOLY WEEK

AT HOME SCRIPT

**TRINITY
CHURCH**
WALL
STREET

Children &
Families

PALM-PASSION STORY

(Adapted from Ralph Milton's Story Bible)



1. Jesus Goes to Jerusalem - Palm Sunday

Narrator

Jesus was becoming very famous. Some people began to wonder, “Is Jesus the Messiah? Is this the one God promised?” Many people thought the Messiah would be like an army general. The Messiah would gather soldiers and fight the Romans. The Messiah would kill the people they didn’t like.

Some of Jesus’ disciples, like Peter, were sure Jesus was the messiah. But even Peter sometimes thought the Messiah would be a general. Because Jesus was famous, crowds of people came to see him wherever he went. So Jesus decided to show the people something important.

Jesus

I am going to go into Jerusalem. I want you to get me a donkey, so I can ride it into the city.

Follower

A donkey? Why not a big, strong horse

Jesus

No, a donkey. A small, young donkey. I don't want to go into Jerusalem like a general on a horse. I don't want to fight. If I ride on a donkey, people will know that I am coming to bring peace.

Narrator

The crowds gathered on both sides of the road when they heard Jesus was coming. They cheered and shouted as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Some of them threw down their clothes or some branches from palm trees for the donkey to walk on.

"Hosanna!" Hosanna!" shouted the crowds. Hosanna means "Save us now."

Narrator

Jesus didn't like that.

Jesus

They still think I'm going to be a general. They think I've come to fight the Romans.

Narrator

Most of the rulers didn't understand Jesus either. They thought a Messiah had to be a general who would fight people. They didn't understand what Jesus was trying to show them when he rode into the city on a donkey. When the rulers heard the people shout "Hosanna! Save us now!" They began to feel afraid.

Follower/Official

If Jesus is going to be the Messiah, then he will be the ruler instead of us.

Roman/Priest

We'd better find a way to kill him. Soon!

2. The Money Changers – Palm Sunday



Narrator

Jesus wanted to pray in the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple was the biggest church in the whole country. Jesus walked around the Temple. It was very beautiful. But Jesus saw something there that made him feel angry. People came to the Temple to worship God. As part of their worship, they gave some money. They needed a special kind of money to take inside the Temple. The people got this special money from the moneychangers. The moneychangers took ordinary money and gave people the Temple money. Some of the moneychangers cheated people. Especially the poor people. And that made Jesus very angry. Jesus walked right up to the moneychangers. He grabbed their tables and turned them over. The money rolled all over the floor.

Jesus

Don't you know? This is God's house. It should be a place where everyone comes to pray. But you are making it a den of robbers!"

Narrator

The moneychangers scrambled all over trying to pick up their money. Then they went to the rulers.

Follower/Official

Did you see what Jesus did?

Narrator/Roman/Priest

That Jesus! We've got to get rid of him...Somehow.

3. The Last Supper – Maundy Thursday



Narrator

For three days, Jesus taught in the temple, attracting many people. The religious leaders watched Jesus closely. Meanwhile, Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, made a deal with the chief priests to betray Jesus. They paid Judas 30 silver coins. Later in the week, Jesus and his friends gathered to celebrate the Passover feast.

Jesus

Tonight, one of you will betray me. And before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.

Narrator

They looked at Jesus. Each one, even Judas Iscariot, said,

All readers

Not me, Master, not me.

Narrator

When it was time to pray, Jesus took the bread, and said,

Jesus

Take, eat. This is my body.

(Break Matzoh)

Drink, all of you, and remember God's love.

(Lift up chalice)

Narrator

They all drank from the cup, but they were puzzled by Jesus' words. This was not the usual Passover prayer. And they didn't want to ask him what he meant.



4. In the Garden

Narrator

After they had eaten the Passover meal and sung a hymn, Jesus and some of the disciples went to the Mount of Olives just outside the city. They went to a garden called Gethsemane.

Jesus

Stay here while I go over there to pray. I am very sad. Stay awake with me?

Narrator

Jesus prayed to God because Jesus knew some people wanted to hurt him. Jesus asked God for strength. Twice Jesus came to find everyone with him asleep. This saddened him, too.

Later, Judas came and kissed Jesus on the cheek. This was the sign Judas had arranged with the chief priests.

5. Arrest and Trial – Good Friday



Narrator

Then the soldiers came to arrest Jesus. One of Jesus' followers pulled out a sword, (Peter makes a threatening move toward Official) but Jesus said...

Jesus

No. Put it away. Put your sword back where it belongs. All who use swords are destroyed by swords.

Narrator

Then Jesus' followers all ran away. The soldiers took Jesus to the religious leaders at the home of Caiaphas the high priest. They wanted Jesus to die, so they took him to Pilate, the Roman governor.

Narrator

The crowd shouted, "Crucify him! Kill him!"

Narrator/Roman/Priest

What has he done wrong? I don't want anything to do with this...this...
Take him away!

Narrator

But the crowd shouted louder. The soldiers made fun of Jesus. They put a crown of thorns on him and a red robe.

All
Hail, king of the Jews! (*laughing*)

Narrator

Then they led him to a place called Golgotha to crucify him on a cross.

While all this was happening, Peter was in the courtyard.

Three times, people accused him of being with Jesus. Each time he claimed he didn't know Jesus. When the rooster crowed, Peter remembered Jesus' words to him: Peter left the courtyard, sobbing.

6. Death of Jesus



Narrator

When they got to Golgotha, also called the Place of the Skulls, they put Jesus on a cross between two thieves.

(Soldier takes microphone and pretends to jab at Jesus, then holds the mic for Jesus last line. After the line, Soldier gives mic back to Narrator)

Jesus

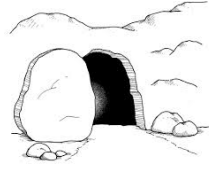
(Praying) Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing.
(To thieves) Today, you will be with me in paradise.

Narrator

Everyone waited for Jesus to die. His friends were sad beyond belief. Some of the women who followed Jesus watched from a distance.

About three o'clock on Friday afternoon, Jesus shouted and stopped breathing. The earth shook and the holy curtain in the temple ripped in half.

7. Burial of Jesus - Holy Saturday



Narrator

After Jesus died, Joseph, a rich man who lived in Arimathea, went to Pilate. “May I take the body of Jesus to bury him?” he asked. Pilate gave orders to let Joseph take the body. Joseph wrapped it in clean linen cloths and put it in a new tomb.

Narrator/Roman/Priest

Let this man pass to take the body of your ...” king” to prepare it for burial.

Narrator

Magdalene and the others watched all this across from the tomb. The next day, the religious leaders went to Pilate and asked him to station guards at the tomb.

All pray together:

EVENING PRAYER OF ST. AUGUSTINE

“Keep Watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; for you are Love. Amen”

If using a Candle Tenebrae, extinguish the last candle.

Easter Vigil or Easter Sunday
Light your Paschal Candle!

Happy Easter!

