

Holy Week

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference

Luke 19:28-40; 22:14—23: 56

Lesson Focus

We can be sad and happy.

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Center Time Kids make crosses out of purple play clay, build hills and crosses with blocks, and color Bible story pictures.	Coloring Pages 	Purple play clay, wooden blocks, blank paper, markers or crayons
Circle Time Kids sing a welcome song and wave welcome branches.	None	Palm branches, one per kid
Prayer Time Kids use branches to lift up their thanks to God.	None	Palm branches

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
The Day Jesus Died Storytelling Leader reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible.	Spark Story Bible	None
Pretzel Snack Crosses Kids make three crosses out of pretzels and eat them.	None	Stick pretzels, napkins, cups, water, small plates, hand wipes
A Sad Day Kids count the crosses in today's story and use stickers to recreate the hilltop picture.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers, Spark Story Bible	None

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Make a Cross Kids use fingers to make a cross.	Leaflets	None
Sad and Happy Kids make sad faces and happy faces.	Leaflets	None
Finger Friends Kids make finger crosses with friends while chanting.	None	None

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids tell one thing they did today.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Small wooden cross
Prayer Time Kids sing or chant a closing prayer.	Family Pages 	None



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Director's CD-Rom contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Spark Online annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Director's CD-Rom and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.

Gather (10 minutes)

Center Time

You may choose to set up all or some of these learning centers for kids to play in as they arrive in your classroom. Have helpers in each center to help kids with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

When all kids have arrived and have time to participate in at least one center, dim the lights for a moment and hold up your pointer fingers like a cross. **Kids, follow the cross to Circle Time!**

Purple Play Clay Crosses

Roll play clay into “worm” strips. Place two worms in front of each chair at the table. Model making a cross out of two worms. As kids explore the play clay, show kids how to roll the clay into a worm.

Block Center

Place wooden blocks on a low shelf or in a basket next to a carpeted floor area if possible. Ask kids to build hills and mountains with you. Model building crosses on top of the hills by making a T with the blocks.

Coloring Center

Have coloring supplies available at a table for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Purple play clay

Wooden blocks

Blank paper

Markers or crayons

Circle Time

Welcome friends! Let's sing our welcome song. I wonder who is here today. Sing this song to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush."

Spark Resources
None

**Now it's time for Spark Time,
Spark Time, for Spark Time.
Now it's time for Spark Time,
We hear about God's love.**

Supplies
Palm branches, one per kid

**Our friends are here for Spark Time,
Spark Time, for Spark Time.
Our friends are here for Spark Time,
We hear about God's love.**

**[Name]'s here for Spark Time,
Spark Time, for Spark Time.
[Name]'s here for Spark Time,
We hear about God's love.**

Continue until all kids and adults are named.

Give each kid a palm branch. **Today's story is about the day Jesus died. Before that sad day, Jesus road into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people waved palm branches to welcome him. It was exciting. Let's welcome Jesus. Wave your palm branches! Welcome Jesus!**

Prayer Time

Have kids keep their palm branches. **We pray before hearing our story. Let's use our palm branches to send our prayers to God. Let's crouch down, jump up, reach for the sky with our branches, and say, "Thank you, God, for Jesus!" Let's try it. Amen!**

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
Palm branches

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

The Day Jesus Died Storytelling

Take out your Spark Story Bible and open to The Day Jesus Died on pages 476–481. Read the story out loud and point to the corresponding pictures. Look for Squiggles the caterpillar in each picture. Ask kids what they think Squiggles is feeling or doing. Encourage them to make a face like Squiggles.

Ask the following questions, allowing time for kids to answer.

How many crosses were on the hill in the story? (three) Why was Jesus sad?

(people didn't believe he was God's Son)

It was a very sad day when Jesus died, but God was with Jesus. Who is with you when you are sad? Kids will probably say their parents, caregivers, or friends. Tell them that God is with them, too.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible

Supplies

None

Pretzel Snack Crosses

Wipe down the snack table. Help kids wash their hands or use hand wipes. Hand cleansing may be done while snack setup is happening. Ask two kids to help pass out plates, napkins, and pretzels. Each kid needs six pretzels for the activity plus more to munch on. Pour cups of water. Ask helpers to pass out the cups of water. When everyone is seated and has been served, say a simple table grace. Then show kids how to use the pretzels to make three crosses. **Let's see if everyone can make the three crosses from today's story. One cross is for Jesus. One cross is for the man who was a thief and didn't like Jesus. One cross is for the man who was a thief and asked to go to heaven with Jesus.** After making the crosses, munch away!

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Stick pretzels
Napkins
Cups
Water
Small plates
Hand wipes

A Sad Day

Invite everyone to gather around a table. Give each kid a leaflet. Point to the picture on the front of the leaflet. **Here's a picture of the hill where Jesus died. It looks like the picture in our Spark Story Bible.** Hold up the picture from the Spark Story Bible. **There is something missing in our leaflet picture. I wonder what is missing.** Pause for guesses. **The crosses are missing. How many crosses are missing?** Pause. **Let's count the crosses in the Bible. One. Two. Three. Three crosses are missing. Let's put three sticker crosses on the hill.** Hand out the round cross stickers one at a time (save the large purple cross for Good-bye Time). **One sticker cross. Two sticker crosses. Three sticker crosses. The crosses remind us of Jesus because Jesus died on a cross.**

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers
Spark Story Bible

Supplies

None

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Make a Cross

Ask kids to turn over their leaflets. Point to the picture of a kid making a finger cross. **I wonder how we can make a cross with our fingers.** Experiment until successful. **Make a pointer finger. Make another pointer finger. Put them together. We made a cross! The cross reminds us of Jesus because Jesus died on a cross. I wonder if we can use other parts of our bodies to make crosses.** Cross arms, legs, or hands.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Sad and Happy

Point to the boy and girl on the leaflet. **Jesus road into Jerusalem on a donkey. It was like a parade! People waved palm branches at him. Let's make a happy face.** Make a happy face. **Jesus died on the cross. It was a sad, sad day. Let's make a sad face.** Make a sad face. **But Jesus lives! Let's make a happy face again.** Make a happy face. **We can be sad and happy today!**

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Finger Friends

Invite kids to sit in a circle again. **Jesus made a friend when he was on the cross. One of the other men on the crosses believed in Jesus. This man asked, "Will you take me to heaven with you?"**

Spark Resources
None

Let's make more crosses with our fingers. Everyone hold up a pointer finger.

Hold up your pointer finger. **Now I'm going to turn my pointer finger so it makes a cross on my friend's finger.** Demonstrate the activity using another adult or kid sitting next to you. Go around the circle making a "finger friend cross" with everyone. Then ask kids to stand up and find a friend with whom to make a finger cross. After kids practice, add this chant to the fun.

Supplies
None

Finger friends, finger friends, we are finger friends.

Jesus was a friend to us. Jesus was a friend to us.

Finger friends, finger friends, we are finger friends.

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Have the kids sit in a circle and thank them for coming. **What did we do today? Let's remember one thing we did today. When I give you the wooden cross to hold, tell me one thing we did today.** There are no right or wrong answers. If a kid is not interested in the activity, please honor his or her feelings. Give kids the purple cross sticker to put on their clothing after they have recalled something they did today. Kids don't have to say anything to get a sticker. **This sticker will remind you of Jesus because Jesus died on a cross. It's okay to be sad. But Jesus lives, so it's okay to be happy, too!** Allow kids to put the sticker on themselves.

Hold up the leaflet and point to Faith on the Go! on the back. **Be sure to take your leaflet home, because it has one more fun activity you can do with your family. You and your family can pretend to be donkeys! Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Have a donkey parade!**

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Small wooden cross

Prayer Time

Let's get ready to pray to God.

Prayer time hearts. Place finger on lips.

Prayer time hands. Fold hands.

Prayer time eyes. Close eyes.

Sing this piggy-back prayer song to the tune of "Rum Sum Sum" or "Ram Sam Sam." If this tune is not known, have the kids chant the lyrics. On the final line, with one of their pointer fingers, they can touch each digit of the other hand while saying, "Thank you," five times, once for each digit.

Thank you, God,

Thank you, God,

Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, God. Repeat.

For Jesus, for Jesus,

Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, God.

Be sure to send leaflets home with the kids, and give each of them a Family Page to take home.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None