



YEAR

1

UNIT 1

# HOLY WEEK

## ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the important events of Holy Week and how they tell of the last days of Jesus' life on earth. The unit focuses on Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and the Stations of the Cross.

## WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous learning about Holy Week in Reception.

## PRIOR LEARNING

It is helpful if the children have:

- prior knowledge of some of the events of Holy Week
- prior knowledge of some of the symbols and artefacts associated with the events.

## SKILLS

Recall of knowledge and information, role-play, recording information, art, matching, music, drama, thinking skills, sequencing, empathy, interpreting art, ICT, reflection.

## VOCABULARY

Holy Week, Jesus, Palm Sunday, Hosanna, Last Supper, bread, wine, body, blood, disciples, washing of feet, Stations of the Cross, Veronica, Mary, death, crucifixion, cross.

## ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

**Most children will** know the names and sequence of the important events of Holy Week, and be able to describe most of what happened on each occasion. They will also be able to empathise with the characters in the story and begin to understand the importance of the events for Christians today.

**Less able children will** know the names of the important events of Holy week and be able to describe some of what happened on each occasion.

**More able children will** know the names and sequence of the important events of Holy Week, and be able to describe in greater detail what happened on each occasion.

A.T.1    A.T.2

1a    1a  
1b    1b

1a    1a

2a    2a  
2c    2b  
      2c

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**R3** Hear, read and become familiar with the main events, characters and places in the life of Jesus, Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and Good Friday.

**R2** Hear, read and explore and reflect upon: a variety of scripture imagery which speaks of God in the New Testament.

**C5** Hear about and explore celebrations in the life of Jesus: The Last Supper.

- Begin this unit of work by recalling important times of the year and stories and events associated with these different times.
- Explain that “Holy Week” is the time when we remember the last days of Jesus on earth and his death and resurrection.
- Show children some palms. Can they remember the story of Palm Sunday?
- Create a story sack to retell the story with the children. Include some caption cards for the children to join in different parts of the story.
- Role-play the story.
- Make paper palms to use during the role-play.
- Why do you think that everybody was so happy to see Jesus? What do you think they thought about him?
- Complete a simple information chart based around who, what, where, why when and how. This can be done using a combination of words and pictures.
- Decorate Hosanna for display.
- Create a display of the Last Supper in the classroom. Have a table set with bread and wine, candles, pictures of the Last Supper and water for the washing of the feet.
- Ask the children to think about what they might be remembering during this lesson.
- Recall with the children as much as they can remember about the Last Supper, use the display as the story is retold.
- Children to match the words of Jesus with his actions at the Last Supper.
- What did Jesus say about the bread and wine? What did he tell his disciples to do?
- Retell the story to tape. Use untuned percussion instruments to provide sound effects.
- Act out the Last Supper using bread and grape juice.
- The disciples of Jesus knew that they were coming to a special meal. Do you think they expected him to do what he did?
- Provide children with pictures of the disciples at the Last Supper and to write their thoughts at what Jesus was doing.
- Give children the text of the story to stick in sequence in a zigzag book which they can then illustrate.
- Make an ID card for Jesus containing information such as name, birth place, age, occupation and next of kin.
- Visit Church to look at the Stations of the Cross.
- Explain to the children that the pictures retell the story of Jesus carrying his cross and his death.
- Highlight for the children important parts of the story and important characters that we meet on the way (e.g. Veronica, Mary, the falls of Jesus, Nailing to the cross and the death of Jesus).
- Children to imagine the different characters’ thoughts during this sad journey of Jesus.
- Ask the children to express their own thoughts about the pictures and what they tell them about this important journey of Jesus.
- In groups paint/collage stations to be placed in different locations around the school.
- Using clay/plasticine and sticks make simple 3D models of each station.
- Have a box containing different books about the stations which the children can read during Literacy.
- Explore the Stations created by different artists.
- Access the Internet for different stations.
- Give the children an A3 “map” with the captions for each station already in place. Children match the correct picture to each caption.
- To prompt ideas, reflect with the children about how the Stations of the Cross can help Christians follow Jesus today. Focus on Veronica, Mary and the falls of Jesus.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**R3** That Jesus is the Son of God; that the Cross is the sign of Jesus' love for us.

**R2** That scripture stories reveal and hand on Good News about God and contain messages about life; that Jesus reveals the Good News of God his Father.

- Recall and develop their knowledge of the events of Holy Week in the life of Jesus.
- Know the story of Palm Sunday.
- Understand some of the feelings and emotions of people who waved and cheered for Jesus.

**C5** That Jesus celebrated the blessings of God his Father.

- Know what Jesus said and did at the Last Supper table.
- Understand that the bread and wine became the body and blood of Jesus.
- Make a simple character profile of Jesus from this story.

- Know the story of Jesus carrying the cross.
- Retell the story through Stations of the Cross.
- Think about how this event can help Christians follow Jesus today.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Learn some Palm Sunday songs.

Watch a video presentation of the story of Palm Sunday.

Make a Holy Week Timeline.

Make links with prior learning about the celebration of Mass and the role of the priest at the altar during Mass.

Use your teaching aids as part of your prayer focus at this time.

Teach the children some simple prayers associated with the Stations of the Cross.

## RELATED SCRIPTURE

*Lk. 19: 28-39* – The Story of Palm Sunday

*Mt. 21: 1-11*

*Mk. 11: 1-11*

*Mt. 26: 20-30* – The Last Supper

*Mk. 14: 17-26*

*Lk .22: 14-23*

## OTHER LINKS

Music Links: Songs for Palm Sunday and for remembering The Last Supper

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use words of praise and thanks in prayer like the crowds did on the first Palm Sunday.
- Prayers to thank Jesus for his love.

## EVALUATION

**What went well?**

**Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?**

**What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?**