



YEAR

2

UNIT H

HOLY WEEK

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to develop the children’s knowledge and understanding of the events of Holy Week.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous learning about Palm Sunday and the Last Supper.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if children have:

- prior knowledge of Holy Week stories.

SKILLS

Group discussion, thinking, interpreting symbols, sequencing, research, empathetic writing, role-play.

VOCABULARY

Holy Week, Palm Sunday, Bethany, Jerusalem, Last Supper, Eucharist, Passover, Jesus, Peter, Commandment, Crucifixion.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know the sequence of events of Holy Week. Think of reasons why Christians praise and thank Jesus today. Understand something of the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper and reflect on his suffering and death.

Less able children will know the events of Holy Week and be able to highlight some important moments.

More able children will have a greater understanding of what the events of Holy Week (Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and the Crucifixion) tell us about the person of Jesus.

A.T.1 A.T.2

2a 2a
2b 2b
2c 2c
2d 2d

1a 1b
2a 1c

3a 3b
3b 3c
3c 3b

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C3 Become familiar with some ways the Church celebrates major seasons of the liturgical year.

C1 Hear the story of the Last Supper.

L1 Read and explore ways in which Jesus showed love and respect for others.

L8 Explore scripture passages which reveal God's love (e.g. The Last Supper).

L11 Hear about and explore Jesus' call to love your neighbour as yourself.

- Discuss with children different times in the year when we celebrate different events.
- Explain that "Holy Week" is the name given to our celebration of the time when we remember the Death and Resurrection of Christ.
- Children to recall what they can remember of the story of Palm Sunday.
- Show a video of the life of Jesus depicting the events of Palm Sunday.
- Share the text of the story with the children.
- Work on sequencing the event from Bethany to Jerusalem. Record in the form of a flow chart.
- What does this event tell us about Jesus? If you had been at the first Palm Sunday, what would you have been doing? What would you have said and sung?
- Today Christians continue to praise and thank Jesus as the crowds did on the road to Jerusalem. What do you think we should praise and thank Jesus for?
- Learn some special thanksgiving and praise hymns and songs.
- Research what takes place in Church on Palm Sunday. Why do you think people take part in a procession and wave palms?
- Invite your priest or members of your parish to talk about the special Palm Sunday celebrations that are taking place.
- Children to role-play the story of the Last Supper, from preparing the room, through to the washing of the feet and the institution of the Eucharist.
- Make some references to the meal probably being a celebration of the Jewish Passover.
- Set up the table for the Last Supper to include some of the ritual foods used at the celebration of the Passover.
- Explore the thoughts and feelings of the disciples preparing the room for the celebration. What food would they need to get ready?
- Read with the children the text of the washing of the feet. Make a list of the actions of Jesus. Why do you think he did this?
- Why was Peter so upset with Jesus?
- Imagine you had been Peter. What would you have said to Jesus at this point?
- What was Jesus teaching his disciples?
- Introduce children to the word "Commandment." What does it mean?
- Make slogans and banners which highlight the new commandment of Jesus.
- Introduce children to the word "servant." Explain that this is a special image of Jesus at the Last Supper.
- Jesus taught his disciples to serve other people and follow his example. What does this mean? Create mind maps about being servants of Jesus.
- Research about people today who follow the example of Jesus by loving and serving others. You might include here members of the parish, the children's families, CAFOD, Father Hudson's Society, Mission Together etc.
- Make class promises to follow the example of Jesus by being servants of others.
- Make lists of the words and actions of Jesus while at table during the Last Supper.
- Make a list of the words and actions of the priest at Mass.
- What similarities can you find between the actions of the priest and the actions of Jesus?
- Highlight the most important words of Jesus.
- Children to create their own story of the Last Supper. Set the scene to include details of where it took place, what the upper room was like, how the disciples reacted to Jesus and what Jesus said and did.
- Look at artistic representations of the Last Supper. Children to create their own.
- Read the story of the arrest of Jesus and his Crucifixion.
- Look at images of the stations of the cross. Select certain stations which show the difficulty and struggle of Jesus (e.g. Jesus being condemned to death, Jesus falling to the ground and Jesus being nailed to the cross).
- Children to write a reflection on one of the stations of the cross. These could be used as part of a class liturgy during Holy Week.
- Children to imagine being Mary the Mother of Jesus or one of the soldiers. Create a "word sack" to describe their different thoughts and feelings. How do the thoughts and feelings of the soldiers differ from those of Mary?
- Look at different images of Jesus on the cross. What do they tell you about Jesus and his death?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

C3 Know the stories and events that surround the major feasts of the Church year.

- Know that Holy Week is the time we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- Know the story of Palm Sunday.
- Understand that Christians today continue to praise and thank Jesus Christ.
- Find out what happens in Church on Palm Sunday.

C1 That in the celebration of the Eucharist the Church is doing what Jesus did at the Last Supper.

L1 That Jesus gives an example of love and respect for others.

L8 That God is faithful and loves everyone without distinction.

L11 That Jesus asked his followers to love every neighbour.

- Know the story of the Last Supper and Washing of Feet
- Know that Jesus was preparing his disciples for his death.
- Understand that Jesus was showing his love and care for his disciples.

- Understand that we are called to serve other people and are following Jesus by what we do for them.
- Role-play this story and imagine the thoughts and feelings of the disciples.
- Think of ways they can serve others as followers of Jesus.
- Recognise the words of Jesus at the Last Supper in the celebration of Mass.

- Know the story of Good Friday and focus on how Mary and one of the soldiers reacted to the death of Jesus.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Make a big display of palms and children's prayers praising Jesus our King.

Children to find hymns and songs which praise and thank Jesus.

Make links with the "Hosanna" song sung at the procession, and the "Holy Holy" at Mass.

Create a class display of different aspects of the Last Supper story, include Passover food and the washing of the feet.

Show children a video presentation of the life of Jesus and the washing of the feet.

Learn some hymns and songs about the new commandment of Jesus.

Use CAFOD and Father Hudson's Society material to support this aspect of work.

Use ICT clipart to support the writing of the story.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Mt. 21: 1-11 – The Story of Palm Sunday

Mk. 11: 1-11

Mt. 26: 20-30 – The Last Supper

Jn. 13: 1-20 – The Washing of the Feet at the Last Supper

Mt. 27: 32-44 – The Crucifixion of Jesus

OTHER LINKS

Multicultural Link: The Jewish Passover.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use songs with the word “Hosanna” and other hymns of praise to celebrate Palm Sunday.
- Use some of the words from the “Holy Holy” at Mass as a prayer during this week.
- Prayers that we might live out Jesus’ commandment.

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?