



WALK THROUGH
Holy Week

A FAMILY ACTIVITY GUIDE & DEVOTIONAL
TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR EASTER

What is Walk Through Holy Week?

The Triumphal Entry



The Sunday before Easter is called "Palm Sunday" because people laid palm leaves in the road when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The Israelites welcomed him as their King because they thought he was going to bring back their earthly kingdom so they wouldn't be under the control of Rome anymore. At this Station you will make donkey ears and use your palm leaves to think about what it would have been like at The Triumphal Entry.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

To prepare for this devotion, cut out the donkey ears and strips of paper. Glue or staple the strips of paper onto the donkey ears until it is big enough to fit on your child's head. Next, fold a piece of green construction paper in half. Then use the outline provided to cut out a palm leaf branch.



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The Walk Through Holy Week Event is an educational outreach ministry with eight multi-sensory activity stations, which families work through at their own pace, that allow the participants to better understand key events in Jesus's Life leading up to Easter Sunday. Each Station Leader briefly explains the individual passion week story and then leads the children in a **hands-on activity** that helps it come alive. The crafts are primarily geared toward children ages 10 and under.

Following the experience, each family receives a devotional guide to be used during Holy Week. The devotions are written to answer how the Jewish people changed from from **celebrating Jesus's entry into Jerusalem** on Palm Sunday to **shouting for his crucifixion** by Good Friday, while leading every individual to consider what response he or she will have to **Jesus as King**. The guide has questions for family discussion, coloring pages, and ways to use their crafts from the event to act out the stories together, better solidifying their understanding and remembrance of the events and engaging them in personal reflection. In this way, it is intentionally structured to reach multiple ages.

The curriculum is currently available in English, Romania, Hungarian, Ukrainian, and Russian.



SUNDAY FAMILY DEVOTION

For hundreds of years, the Israelite people were waiting for God to fulfill His promise to bring them a king that would help them take back their kingdom. They expected him to defeat, once and for all, the different empires that had taken over. Jesus spent three years of ministry to convince them that he is the fulfillment of that promise! He opened the eyes of the blind, helped the paralyzed to walk again, healed sicknesses, and even raised people from the dead! Yet during his entire ministry he taught over and over that the Israelites did not need rescuing from the Roman empire; they needed to be rescued from the sin inside their own hearts! This message did not make him very popular with the Pharisees - the religious leaders who believed themselves to be very good.

As Jesus approached the capital city of Jerusalem, he knew that he would be upsetting everyone with his difficult teachings. The Jewish leaders would not want to hear that they needed a Spiritual King; the Roman leaders would not like that he claimed to be a King at all; and the Israelites would not like that he was bringing forth a Heavenly Kingdom not of this world.

So on Palm Sunday, just a few days before Passover, Jesus rode in on a donkey, which was a sign to his people that he was, indeed, their promised King. After seeing all the miracles he had performed during his ministry, the people couldn't wait to see him perform the biggest miracle of all - destroying the largest empire the world had yet seen! The people were ecstatic! They filled the streets with shouts of joy, praising Jesus for finally coming to rescue them from the oppressive Romans. "Hosanna, Hosanna," they yelled! They threw their coats on the road and waved palm branches to hail him as their King! It was like a citywide parade in preparation for a battle!

Yet, Jesus was crying.

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His people did not truly understand what he was trying to teach them for three years, and what God the Father had been trying to teach them for hundreds of years. They wanted a king to come and destroy their enemies and give them their own land again. But what they didn't understand is that, from the very beginning, the promise had always been to restore the whole world and bring even their enemies back into relationship with God. And to do that, they didn't need a king to conquer other empires. They needed a Servant King to rescue them from their sins which kept them far away from God, and they needed God to forgive them of their sins by paying the price himself. And Jesus understood exactly what was going to happen when they would soon discover the truth about his kingship.

Practice the memory verse, Romans 10:9.

Read Mark 11:1-10.

Discuss: Why would everyone celebrate Jesus as their King? What kind of King were they expecting? Why did they turn against him and want him to be crucified just five days later?

Act it out by using the donkey ears and palm leaves you made. Take turns pretending to be the characters and the crowd. Have one person walk down a hallway while everyone else stands on the side and calls out "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!" Throw your coats on the ground. If you have little's, let a grown up be the donkey! But remember how Jesus would have felt, too.

Reflect: What expectations do you have of Jesus in your life? Do your expectations match up with why Jesus said he came to the world? Do you want to follow the real Servant King, Jesus?

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How can I get involved?



Option 1: Come to Romania!

The MTW Romania Team is inviting our supporting churches to send church members to join us in Romania for a short-term mission trip in the spring of 2024. Because we partner with different churches, some of which follow the protestant calendar and some follow the orthodox calendar, we have the opportunity to host two teams next year. There are 8 spots available for each trip.

Trip 1: Friday, March 15 - Friday, March 22, 2024

This group will lead the event at two churches, working with our Reformed Hungarian partners.

Trip 2: Friday, April 19 - Friday, March 26, 2024

This group will lead the event at two churches, working with our Reformed Romanian partners, including our MTW church plant.

Estimated Cost: \$2,000 per person (subject to change based on airfare)

The goal of these trips is three-fold:

1. to lead the outreach event at different churches in Romania, providing theological education to families inside the church, as well as providing a Gospel-Driven outreach opportunity for the Romanians to engage their own communities outside the church;
2. to train and equip the Romanian believers to lead the event themselves in the future, thus multiplying the efforts and outreach of the desired church-planting movement; and
3. to connect the body of believers throughout the world through prayer and deed, thus casting a better vision for the church universal for all those involved

Option 2: Host the event at your church!

You can support your own church while supporting ours in this win-win option, because we want to provide this resource to churches all over the world! You can purchase the curriculum to host your very own Walk Through Holy Week event at your local church, receive step-by-step instructions on how to successfully implement it, and have access to personal coaching from our team if you have questions along the way. Absolutely all proceeds from the sale of the curriculum goes directly to the Romanian church-plant, Comunitatea Crestina Codlea.

I'm interested! ... so what's next?

Are you wondering how to host this Walk Through Holy Week event for the children and families at your own church? Are you considering joining us in Romania or sending other church members on a short-term trip? Or would you just like to get a better idea of a specific ministry we lead?

Join us for this Expo!

RESTORATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DACULA, GA
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023
10:00AM - 2:00PM

SCHEDULE:

- 9:30AM - DOORS OPEN WITH COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS
- 10:00AM - GET THE VISION FOR WTHW BY PARTICIPATING IN ALL 8 STATION ACTIVITIES
- 12:00PM - LUNCH WITH A PRESENTATION BY TEAM ROMANIA
- 1:00PM - Q&A WITH TEAM ROMANIA AND PAST SHORT-TERM TRIP PARTICIPANTS



PLEASE RSVP TO THE EXPO BY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1
AT WWW.DCKREIDER.COM/WALK-THROUGH-HOLY-WEEK
OR WITH THE QR CODE

Can't make it to the expo but still want to get involved?
Please Contact Derek Ebbers (derekebbers@gmail.com) or Derek Kreider (kreiderdm@gmail.com) for more information.

