

What is “Holy Week in a Box”?

Holy Week in a Box uses simple objects tucked into a small box, along with scripture, to tell the story of Holy Week. Each item in the box is a symbol, representing a piece of the gospel narrative: from Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, through the Last Supper, betrayal, burial, and finally the empty tomb on Easter morning.

Each day of Holy Week, beginning on Palm Sunday, pull out the appropriate item from the box and display it. Read the corresponding scripture and discuss the question as a family.

What do I need to make a “Holy Week in a Box”?

- Small box (This can be a small cardboard or wooden box, or even a tupperware container. Just make sure you can write on the top of it.)
 - Wooden figure or figurine (I used a “little people” figure) – this represents Jesus
 - Paper palms (I made these out of index-sized construction paper)
 - 3 coins (These can be any coin... pennies, or play coins work well.)
 - Marker (Make sure it is a sharpie if your box is plastic.)
 - Pipe cleaner (We will be making a cross out of this, so if you have something else to make a cross out of, you can use it instead.)
 - Piece of cloth (Any scrap piece of cloth will work.)
 - Candle/Tea Light (OPTIONAL)
-

Palm Sunday: Pull out Jesus place him next to the box with the Palm Fronds.

Scripture Reading: Read Mark 11:1-10 (*This is the Wiggle Worship scripture reading.*)

It’s Palm Sunday. The people cut down palms and cheered as Jesus entered Jerusalem. After reading or listening to the story of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, shout “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna!”

Question to ask: *How can we welcome Jesus into our lives and homes?*

Holy Monday: Place one coin on the box. (Keep Jesus next to the box.)

Scripture Reading: Mark 11:15-19

When Jesus came to Jerusalem, he went into the Temple. There were people cheating others out of their money. Jesus was very angry.

Question to ask: *How can we use our money wisely?*

Holy Tuesday: Place a second coin on the box. (Keep Jesus next to the box.)

Scripture Reading: Mark 12:13-17.

The religious leaders asked Jesus if it was right to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor.

Question to ask: *How we can give to God?*

Holy Wednesday: Add the final coin on the box. (Keep Jesus next to the box.)

Scripture Reading: Mark 12:41-44.

Jesus watched people in the Temple giving money to God. Some made a big show of giving lots of money. But one person didn't. Read her story.

Question to ask: *How can we give to God's kingdom?*

Maundy Thursday: Table – Use the top of the box as a table. Draw a cup and plate on it or make a cup and plate out of Play-doh or clay. Place Jesus by the table.

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:12-25.

Today we remember the last Passover meal Jesus had with his friends. Read the story of the Last Supper.

Question to ask: *In church, how do we remember this meal?*

Good Friday: Cross – Use the pipe cleaner to make a cross and place it with Jesus in front of the box. If you don't have a pipe cleaner, you can draw a cross or create it out of anything you want and place it in front of your box.

Scripture Reading: Mark 15:1, 15, 22-25, 37, 39

The religious leaders wanted to get rid of Jesus. They told lies about him. Jesus was arrested. It was a very sad day, because the authorities put Jesus to death on a cross.

Question to ask: *How do we see Jesus loving us through the cross?*

Good Friday CONTINUED: Cloth and Tomb – Wrap Jesus in the cloth and place him in the box and put the lid on.

Scripture Reading: Mark 15:40-43, 46, 47.

When Jesus had died, his friends took his body down from the cross and wrapped it in linen cloth. They placed Jesus' body in a tomb cut out of rock.

Question to ask: *How do you think Jesus' friends felt?*

Saturday: Stillness (optional: candle/tea light)

On the Saturday, everything was so still you could almost hear the earth breathe. There was nothing that could be done. Holy Saturday is a waiting day.

Place a candle or tea-light by your box as a way of showing that you are waiting.

Question to ask: *What is the most difficult part about waiting for something?*

Easter: Empty Tomb – Open the box. Place Jesus at the side of it and the cloth neatly wrapped in the bottom of it.

Scripture Reading: Mark 16:1-8.

Early on the Sunday morning, the women went to the tomb and had an amazing surprise. Read the story of the great news that when Jesus' friends went to visit his tomb it was empty.

Shout out loud "Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Hallelujah!"