

Walking With Jesus His Final Days

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There is some disagreement between the Gospel accounts of exactly which events happened on which days, and there is much disagreement about when exactly Jesus’ last Passover meal occurred. It is traditionally held to be Thursday with his crucifixion on Friday and resurrection on Sunday. It is not the purpose of this brief study to take positions on any of these biblical controversies, and you may adjust the readings or the chronology to suit your beliefs. The readings were chosen largely in the interest of brevity and I selected the accounts which I thought my young children would be most likely to benefit from. I used [this chart](#) to assist in selection and an older child may be ready to compare all the gospel accounts listed. The sites linked are for informational purposes or to give credit to my sources. While the specific information I link to seems accurate, I have not researched the beliefs of the organizations involved and a link is not an indication of agreement with their beliefs on any point of doctrine.

If you do not have the objects listed, feel free to substitute or print off a picture. You can print on cardstock to help them last a little longer.

Day One (Sunday):

Discuss with children what they think Jerusalem looked like in Jesus’ time. Take a virtual tour of places mentioned during Jesus’ last week at [Experience Israel](#). (The site loads a little slowly, but had wonderful 360 degree photography of places mentioned during Jesus’ last week including information about each site.)

Assemble materials to make a garden. A few assembled houseplants are sufficient. We made a cactus garden. This will be an area for the children to act out the readings so it will need some space for them to move about their toys or paper figures. It need not be accurate, but these maps of [Jesus’ last week](#) may be helpful in organizing.

Objects to tell the story: donkey, palm branches

Read: Mark 11:1-11

Add each object to the garden while reading, or pass out to children and have them place in the garden at the appropriate time. The items will be left here throughout Holy Week as a reminder and as an invitation to learn through play.

Day Two (Monday):

Objects to tell the story: fig or fig tree (or branch to represent one), coins to represent the money changers

Read: Mark 11:12-18 For further reading on how exactly the scribes and chief priests “sought how they might destroy him,” see Matthew 21.

Day Three (Tuesday):

Objects to tell the story: scroll to represent teaching, [coin of Jesus' day](#) (you can glue a copy to cardboard to help it last), stones or blocks to represent the stones of the temple
Jesus prophecies will be torn down

Read: Luke 20:1-21:36

Day Four (Wednesday)

Objects to tell the story: strip of cloth or gauze (to represent Simon the leper, possibly a man previously healed by Jesus and thus allowed to live within the city gates again), a small perfume bottle (see pictures showing what the [alabaster jar](#) may have looked like)

Read: Mark 14:1-11 (Note Exodus 29:1-9 for how the sacrifice of unblemished animals, unleavened bread and anointing with oil were used to ordain the priesthood.)

Day Five (Thursday)

Objects to tell the story: crackers (or a piece of a cracker box) to represent unleavened bread, small cup, rooster, praying hands

Read: Mark 14:12-52

Day Six (Friday)

Objects to tell the story: sword, purple cloth, whip (strip of leather or shoelace), crown of thorns, cross, torn fabric representing the temple cloth, a rock to represent the stone in front of Jesus' tomb

Read: Luke 22:47-23:56

Day Seven (Saturday)

Read: Luke 23:56

Discuss: How do you think the disciples felt during this time of rest and waiting?

Day Seven (Sunday)

Objects to tell the story: roll away the stone from Day Six to reveal the empty tomb,

Read: Luke 24

I hope you enjoy these readings and playing in your garden together with your family. If you have any questions or comments, you may reach me through the [contact form](#) on my website or email me at roscommonacres@gmail.com.