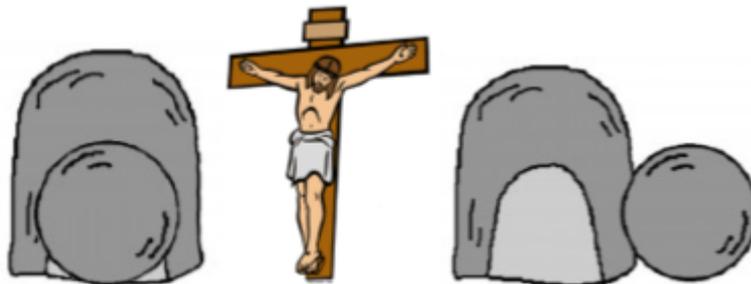


# Holy Week in a Box



Holy Week remembers the last week of Jesus' life.

This idea is to use a box to tell the main parts of the story. The box becomes the table, the cross, the tomb. At the end of Easter, you can place the pieces into the box and then use it again next year to tell the story of Holy Week and Easter.

Often these boxes have been created in school sessions or messy church sessions. You may have a little craft size box which you can use, otherwise find a small box that you can use. The important thing is that the box can be closed as it becomes the tomb. A small Tupperware box would be suitable. It is worth reading through the whole material to get a feel of what happens with the box and you will soon see what type of box is suitable.

As well as the box, you will need a figure for Jesus- this might be a small wooden person, or it might be a lego person, a duplo person. Through the week there are various other resources which I hope you will be able to find around the home, adapt to what you can find. This is to travel again in the footsteps of Jesus and to remember "God with us" through all the ups and downs of human life.

Find a place for your Holy Week box where your family can see it through this week and where you can gather to tell the story together.

How can you create this space to be special?

You could place it on a special cloth

or you might like to draw a picture for the background.



## **Palm Sunday (5<sup>th</sup> April 2020)**

Today is Palm Sunday

Today you may like to find some leaves whilst outside, you may also like to make some palm leaves. For this take some paper, simply cut some leaves out and colour them in.

Then take the green palm leaves and Jesus, place them beside the closed box.

Today we remember how Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem.

The people waved palm leaves to welcome Jesus, they also took off their cloaks and made a special carpet to welcome him.

How can we welcome Jesus into our home?

Say this Prayer together:

Thank you Jesus that you welcome us to be your friends, help us to welcome you into our homes and our lives. Amen

## Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April

Today what can you find that is scented in your home to remember the scent of the perfume? Place this on the box. You might also want to think about what is very precious to you as a family and place this on the story area.

When Jesus was having tea with his friends, Mary the sister of Lazarus came to wash his feet with perfume. This was the most precious thing Mary had to show how much she loved Jesus.

Jesus shows us how much he loves us on the cross.

Talk about:

How do you show your love for people?

How does Jesus show he loves you?

How can you show you love Jesus?

Say this prayer together:

Jesus I love you,

You love me,

Help me always to show my love for you,

In loving others and living a life of love for you.

Amen





**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

Today can you find some silver coins. 10pence pieces would be best but you may like to find a variety to do some coin rubbings.

Those in charge were looking for a way to get rid of Jesus. Judas and the chief priests and the temple guards made plans together of how to get rid of Jesus. Judas one of Jesus friends, one of his disciples, agreed to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. He then began to look for a time to betray him.

Talk about what it means to betray someone.

How can we be good friends?

How can we show our friends we are there for them?

How can you talk to a friend today? Or perhaps draw or write to a friend.

Say this prayer together:

Dear God, thank you for being a good faithful friend to me, help me to be a good friend to others. Amen.

## Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April

Find some malleable material with which you can make a small bowl. It might be play dough, blu tack, whatever you can find, perhaps even make some salt dough and use it for today and tomorrow's activities (wrapped in cling film it should be fine to be used the next day). If you can also find a piece of towel (perhaps from an old flannel).

In Jerusalem where Jesus and his friends were getting ready to share the Passover festival, it would have been very dusty.

Jesus washed his friends feet.

Jesus was very special, because he did what a servant would do.

This is why sometimes we call him the servant king. You might like to find a crown or for older children make a crown from lego.

Talk about:

How do you serve and help each other? Who serve us today? Who serve in the world?

How can you help someone today?

Perhaps you might like to do something to show you are thankful for those that serve others today.

Say this prayer together:

Thank you Jesus that you are our servant king, thank you for all those who serve and look after us,

help us to serve each other. Amen



**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

Today the box becomes a table, you may want to make a small loaf of bread and a cup from salt dough and then keep them (you could always paint them), otherwise find a small piece of bread from the kitchen and a small cup from a play set you have.

Stand Jesus next to the box, place the bread and cup on the table.

Jesus shared a last meal with his friends.

Jesus gave them bread and said this is my body, he then gave them wine and said this is my blood. He wanted his friends to share this meal to remember him. Still today, so many years later, we share this meal to remember Jesus love for us. At the moment we can only share meals with those we live with.

Talk about:

What special meals do you share?

What helps you to remember special people or things?

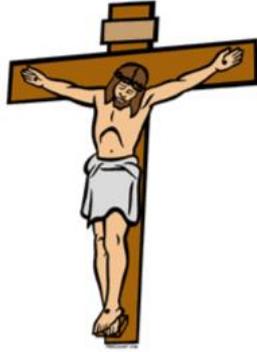


Say this prayer together:

Thank you God for special meals and friends to share them with, we look forward to sharing them again with friends, thank you for Jesus that he is always with us. Amen.



*\*After today, place the bread, cup, bowl, towel, palm leaves to one side until after Easter day.*



### **Good Friday**

Today make a cross on the side of the box. If it is a cardboard box you could draw it on, if it is a plastic box then you might want to use paper and use some blu tack it on. Once you have made the cross, stand your box up with Jesus standing against the cross.

Jesus' enemies wanted him out of the way. When he was praying with his friends, they came and had him arrested. They told lies, and Jesus was put to death on the cross. His friends were very sad. They didn't know what was happening. Jesus' friends buried him in a tomb and wondered what would happen next.

Say this prayer together: God help us to know that you love us so much that you gave us Jesus. Be with those who are sad. **Amen**

Before you go to bed tonight, wrap Jesus in the piece of fabric and place him in the box and close the lid.



## Holy Saturday

Leave the box shut today. You might like to find a candle- possibly a tea light for when you share the story together. A reminder that this isn't the end of the story.

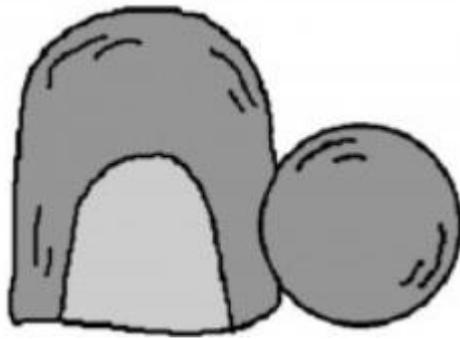
Jesus' friends put his body in the tomb that belonged to Joseph. The Roman authorities made sure that they guarded the tomb. They didn't want anyone to steal the body. It was a very sad day. The disciples didn't think they would ever see Jesus again. Light the candle as a reminder that this isn't the end and that Jesus is the light of the world, the light that no darkness could and can ever be put out.

You might like to listen together to this song from the Lion King:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDzr3OTogyA>

Although the first friends of Jesus didn't understand, we know that the son must rise again and we are waiting.

Say this prayer together: *God, we thank you that today is not the end of the story, that there is good news. Amen*



### Easter Day

Open the box. Place the Jesus figure beside it and place the cloth inside it. On the Sunday the women came to the tomb. They were so surprised to find Jesus was not there, an angel told them 'Jesus has been raised'. Because Jesus has been raised from the dead he can be with us now forever and we can live forever with him.

Who can you tell the story of Easter to?

Can you tell them the whole of the holy week and Easter story with the box?

Say this pray together:

Thank you God for Easter for the amazing news that Jesus is alive forever.

Help us to celebrate that today and to share that news with others. Amen



Some of this material is based on material from  
Holy Week in a box from [Godventure.co.uk](http://Godventure.co.uk)

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