

Praying Together Resources (PTR020)

“Holy Week Bag”

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ALL AGE WORSHIP
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Holy Week Bag:

A daily journey through Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Easter Day, for families.

Introduction:

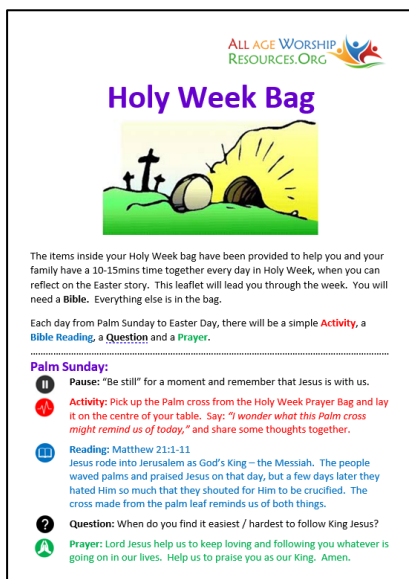
The Holy Week bag is a bag containing ideas for a 5-10 mins **daily** family devotional from **Palm Sunday** to **Easter Day**.

Its purpose is to enable families to reflect on the Easter story and to grow in their relationship with Jesus. It has been designed for families where at least one child is between the ages of 3-13yrs.

What do I need to gather together for each Holy Week Bag?

Print:

Print the 4-page Holy Week devotional leaflet (in booklet format), which you can find after this section. It contains the Activities, Bible readings, Questions and Prayers for each day of Holy Week.



Find:

- 1) One 6-egg eggbox for each family



- 2) A small stone



3) A silver coin for eg. A 5p, 10p or 20p coin.



Purchase:

1) A white paper bag¹



2) Six plastic eggs²



3) A small foam heart³



¹ You can purchase white paper bags from ebay (www.ebay.co.uk) by putting “white kraft paper bags” into the search bar. You want the small bags (7”x9”x3.5”)

² You can purchase plastic eggs in bulk from The little crafty bugs company. (www.littlecraftybugs.co.uk)

³ You can purchase foam hearts from Baker Ross (www.bakerross.co.uk)

4) A small brightly coloured feather⁴. Ideally the feather needs to be less than 10cm long.



5) A wafer bread⁵ or a square of pitta bread



6) A sharp tack or nail⁶



7) A Palm Cross⁷



⁴ You can purchase feathers from Amazon (www.amazon.co.uk)

⁵ You can purchase wafer breads from F.A Dumont (www.fadumont.co.uk) by putting "People's Single Cross Sealed Edge 1 3/8" into the search bar

⁶ You can purchase tacks and nails from any DIY store eg Wickes (www.wickes.co.uk)

⁷ You can purchase palm crosses from Eden (www.eden.co.uk)

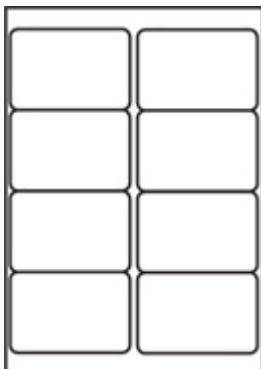
8) Chocolate mini eggs wrapped in foil⁸ – I used eight in each bag



9) Small bag to put the eggs in – I used purple organza⁹ bags



10) Label for the white bag and label for the egg box – I used Avery L7165¹⁰ (9.91cm x 6.77cm) – See Appendix 1 for templates



How do I put the Holy Week bag together?

Once you have printed, found and bought the various items, put them all together in the paper bag in the following way:

- 1) Put the items into the plastic eggs as follows:
 - a. Yellow egg: foam heart
 - b. Orange egg: feather
 - c. Green egg: silver coin
 - d. Pink egg: wafer (or small piece of pitta)
 - e. Purple egg: tack and stone
 - f. Blue egg: nothing!

⁸ You can purchase foil mini eggs from most supermarkets or online

⁹ You can purchase mini organza bags from ebay (www.ebay.co.uk) by putting “purple mini organza bags” into the search bar

¹⁰ You can purchase Avery labels from Amazon (www.amazon.co.uk)

2) Arrange the eggs in your egg box as shown below:



3) Afix “Holy Week Eggs” label to the top of the egg box

4) Afix “Holy Week bag” label to the white bag

5) Put mini eggs into small organza bag

6) Put filled egg box, bag of eggs and palm cross into the white bag

You are now ready to go!

Appendix 1 – “Holy Week Bag” Label

1. Holy Week Bag Label

Holy Week Bag



2. Holy Week Eggs label

Holy Week Eggs



Holy Week Bag



The items inside your Holy Week bag have been provided to help you and your family have a 10-15mins time together every day in Holy Week, when you can reflect on the Easter story. This leaflet will lead you through the week. You will need a **Bible**. Everything else is in the bag.

Each day from Palm Sunday to Easter Day, there will be a simple **Activity**, a **Bible Reading**, a **Question** and a **Prayer**.

Palm Sunday:



Pause: “Be still” for a moment and remember that Jesus is with us.



Activity: Pick up the Palm cross from the Holy Week Prayer Bag and lay it on the centre of your table. Say: *“I wonder what this Palm cross might remind us of today,”* and share some thoughts together.



Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus rode into Jerusalem as God’s King – the Messiah. The people waved palms and praised Jesus on that day, but a few days later they hated Him so much that they shouted for Him to be crucified. The cross made from the palm leaf reminds us of both things.



Question: When do you find it easiest / hardest to follow King Jesus?



Prayer: Lord Jesus help us to keep loving and following you whatever is going on in our lives. Help us to praise you as our King. Amen.

Holy Monday:



Pause: “Be still” for a moment and remember that Jesus is with us.



Activity: Open your egg box and take out the **yellow egg**. Open it and lay the foam heart on the centre of your table. Say: *“I wonder what this might remind us of today”* and share some thoughts together.



Reading: John 3:16-17

God, our Father, sent Jesus into the world because He loves us, and He wants to give us His special gift of eternal life. When we have been given this special gift, we can know God as our Father. As His children, we then live a life of love, loving God and loving other people.



Question: Loving someone often involves giving something to them, eg. a hug, a gift, time, kind words or doing something to help them. What could you do today to show someone in your family that you love them?



Prayer: Father God, thank you that you love us so much that you gave us Jesus. Help us to grow in loving you and loving other people. Amen.

Holy Tuesday:



Pause: “Be still” for a moment and remember that Jesus is with us.



Activity: Open your egg box and take out the **orange egg**. Open it and lay the feather on the centre of your table. Say: *“I wonder what this might remind us of today”* and share some thoughts together.



Reading: Matthew 26:31-35.....then Matthew 26:69-75

When Peter was afraid, he said to other people that he didn't know Jesus. Then the cockerel bird crowed, reminding him of Jesus' words.



Question: Have you ever been afraid to say that you know Jesus?



Prayer: Lord Jesus, please give us courage to let other people know that we are your followers. Amen.

Holy Wednesday:



Pause: “Be still” for a moment and remember that Jesus is with us.



Activity: Open your egg box and take out the **green egg**. Open it and lay the silver coin on the centre of your table. Say: *“I wonder what this might remind us of today”* and share some thoughts together.



Reading: Matthew 26:14-16.....then Matthew 26:47-50

Money was more important to Judas than following Jesus. Jesus said that you have to choose between serving God and serving money.



Question: How can we make sure that money is less important to us than Jesus?



Prayer: Lord Jesus, would you be our greatest treasure. Amen.

Maundy Thursday:



Pause: “Be still” for a moment and remember that Jesus is with us.



Activity: Open your egg box and take out the **pink egg**. Open it and lay the wafer on the centre of your table. Say: *“I wonder what this might remind us of today”* and share some thoughts together.



Reading: Matthew 26:26-28

The night before Jesus died, He had a meal with His disciples. He gave them, and us, a special way to remember Him using bread and wine. This meal reminds us that Jesus was willing to give up His life for us.



Questions: 1) What does the bread at the meal remind us of?
2) What does the wine at the meal remind us of?



Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for giving up your life for us. Help us never to forget what you have done for us. Amen.

Good Friday:



Pause: “Be still” for a moment and remember that Jesus is with us.



Activity: Open your egg box and take out the **purple egg**. Open it and lay the tack and stone on the centre of your table. Say: *“I wonder what these things might remind us of today”* and share some thoughts together.



Reading: Luke 23:33 - 43

Today we remember Jesus giving up His life on the cross, even though He had done nothing wrong. The Bible tells us that Jesus took the punishment for all the wrong things that we have done when He died. (Isaiah 53:5) After Jesus had died, He was placed in a tomb and a large stone was rolled across the entrance.



Questions: 1) What wrong things in your life do you want to ask Jesus to forgive? 2) How easy do you find it to forgive other people?



Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you that you died for us on the cross. Please forgive us for the wrong things that we have done and help us to follow You on the path of love. Amen.

Holy Saturday:



Pause: “Be still” for a moment and remember that Jesus is with us.



Activity: Explain that there is no activity today. This reminds us that it was the Sabbath Day for the disciples when everyone rested.



Reading: Luke 23:56b

Today, with Jesus lying dead in the tomb, it looked like all hope had gone of Jesus being God’s King.



Question: Have you ever felt disappointed about something?



Prayer: Lord Jesus, when we are feeling disappointed about something, help us to trust that you are still reigning as King. Amen.

Easter Sunday:



Pause: “Be still” for a moment and remember that Jesus is with us.



Activity: Open your egg box and take out the **blue egg**. Open it and say: *“The egg is empty. I wonder what this might remind us of today”* and share some thoughts together.



Reading: Matthew 28:1-10

Jesus didn’t stay dead for long. On the third day He was raised to life again and the tomb was empty! Jesus met with His disciples a number of times before He was taken up into heaven. Jesus is who He said He is – the Son of God.



Question: Jesus is alive. What difference does that make to your life?



Prayer: Lord Jesus, we praise you that you are alive today. Help us to trust you with our lives. Amen.



Final Activity: Take out the purple bag of eggs from your paper bag and share them between you. As you eat the chocolate eggs, rejoice that Jesus didn’t stay dead in the tomb, but is alive today.