The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus

Holy Week and Easter hope

Ages about 7-11 | Video 15:40 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Jesus gives himself in love, teaches us to serve, and rises from the dead.

Learning goals Place Holy Week and Easter events in order; recall Jesus' service and forgiveness; explain the joy of the Resurrection.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online Open this video on Servus Dei

Before watching | 2 minutes

Show three simple symbols: palm branch, bread and cup, and empty tomb. Ask which events children already know.

Watch and notice

Follow Jesus entering Jerusalem, sharing the Last Supper, praying, suffering and dying, and rising on Easter. Notice his service and forgiveness throughout.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. How did Jesus serve at the Last Supper?
He washed his disciples' feet and gave them his Body and Blood. He taught them to love as he loves.

2. How did Jesus respond to people who hurt him?
He prayed for forgiveness. His love does not make their cruelty right.

3. What did the women discover on Easter?
The tomb was empty and they received news that Jesus had risen. They hurried to share the good news.

4. How can you follow Jesus' love today?
Serve someone, ask forgiveness for a wrong, or pray for people in sorrow. Forgiving never requires staying unsafe.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

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Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Draw peaceful service and Easter joy; let children explain orally.

Read & Write Recall service and Resurrection, then choose an act of hope.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: teach in short sections with three symbol cards; omit graphic discussion.

Ages 9-11: compare a selected Gospel passage with the retelling and discuss service and forgiveness.

Three signs of love | Optional 4 minutes

Fold paper into three panels. Draw a towel for service, a cross for Jesus' self-giving love, and an empty tomb for Easter. Write one kind action under the towel and one prayer of hope under the tomb.

Look for understanding Look for the order supper, cross, Resurrection and a response centered on Jesus. Easter is his real victory over death, not merely a happy feeling.

Closing prayer Jesus, thank you for your love, your gift of the Eucharist, and your Resurrection. Help us serve, forgive, and live in hope. Amen.

At home With an adult, read a short Easter Gospel passage and choose a small act of service.

Handout answer notes Service: footwashing and gift of himself. Easter: Jesus rose from the dead. Responses may include care, prayer, reconciliation, and safe forgiveness.

Teach with care

Preview this longer video with its suffering and crucifixion scenes. Divide into shorter sections or select a gentle summary; never reenact cruelty. This harmonized retelling combines Gospel accounts and devotional tradition; Veronica and the falls are not narrated in the Gospels. Compare details with Scripture rather than treating every line as exact quotation. Jesus and his disciples were Jewish; never blame Jewish people collectively for his death.

Words to explain Passion: Jesus' suffering and death. Resurrection: Jesus rising bodily from the dead. Holy Week: the days remembering Jesus' final journey to Easter.

Sources for the leader

Story source: Servus Dei video and English transcript

Scripture: Luke 22: Last Supper and prayer

Scripture: Luke 23: Passion and forgiveness

Scripture: John 20: the risen Jesus