

Holy Week Sensory Activities

- **READ IT.** Read the story from a Children's Bible (preschool) and/or the Bible (elementary). Use [Holy Week: An Emotions Primer](#) as a secondary reading option for each event.
- **SING IT.** Pick a song to learn, sing, and listen to for the entire season.
- **PRAY IT.** Model and help your child practice prayer throughout the process. Prayers should be simple and short.
- **PLAY IT.** Kids learn through play! Use sensory play, crafts, and role playing to engage in the learning process.

Triumphal Entry

Supplies:

- [Brown Craft Paper Roll](#)
- Sharpie
- Palm Leaves (fake or fern leaves)
- Coats/Sweatshirts
- [Green Paint](#)
- Aluminum Pie Pan
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Large Rocks
- [Acrylic Paint Markers](#)
- [The Donkey Who Carried a King](#)

Activities:

- Use craft paper to make a 6-10 ft "road". Write "Hosanna!" in large letters on the road. Have a pile of palm leaves and coats to spread on the road as you act out the story. Have fun and celebrate: this is an opportunity to model praise for your child.
- Put green paint in a pie pan. Let your child paint using the palm leaves as a brush or make prints of the leaves with the paint.
- Use sidewalk chalk to cover your front sidewalk with palm leaves and "Hosanna!" Pray for your neighbors to love and trust Jesus as you draw. Reenact the story.
- Read Luke 19:40. Using acrylic paint markers, write attributes of God or words of praise on large, clean rocks. Hide the rocks around your neighborhood.



Jesus Clears the Temple

Supplies:

- [Jesus Heals: An Anatomy Primer](#)
- [Plastic Gold Coins](#)
- [Band-aids](#)
- First-Aid Supplies
- Body Outline on Paper
- [Plastic Bin/Tub](#)

Activities:

- Place the gold coins, bandaids, and first-aid supplies in the plastic bin. As your child plays with the items, read Jesus Heals. Let them put bandaids on the human body outline.



Jesus Washes Feet

Supplies:

- [Plastic Tub/Bin](#)
- Washcloth, Hand Towel
- Bubble Bath

Activities:

- Use the supplies to wash your child's feet. This activity can be done just before your child comes into the house after playing outside or before a meal.



Garden of Gethsemane

Supplies:

- Picnic Blanket
- Flashlights
- [Peg Dolls](#)
- [AstroTurf](#)
- Flowers, leaves, mini trees (real or fake)

Activities:

- After a family dinner, head into the backyard or a nearby park to read the story of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. Sit on a picnic blanket and use flashlights as you read. (This activity is best done at sunset or when it is dark.)
- Turn out the lights and act out the story with peg dolls and flashlights. You can use AstroTurf and real or fake flowers/leaves/mini trees to create your garden setting.



Crucifixion

Supplies:

- Peg Dolls
- Small Wooden Cross
- Small Black or Brown Pipe Cleaner
- Crown of Thorns
- Large Nails

Activities:

- Twist the pipe cleaner into a crown of thorns that can rest on top of the peg doll's head. Act out the story with peg dolls, pipe cleaner crown of thorns, and cross. Listen to your child's questions and commentary as they play, giving space for them to safely process the story. (We often want to rush past this part of the story with children, fearful of the sadness and questions that might be expressed. Don't force this activity, but allow your child to lead.)
- Show your child the crown of thorns and large nails. Let them use "gentle hands" to hold them.



Burial

Supplies:

- Peg Dolls
- Wooden Tomb or Garden Pot Tomb
- Small White Cloth
- Analog Clock, Sand/Slime Timer, or picture of a clock

Activities:

- Act out the story using the peg dolls and tomb. As your child places Jesus in the tomb, use the clock/timer to explain that Jesus was in the tomb for 3 days. Don't rush this activity by moving on to the Resurrection too quickly. Waiting is an important aspect of this story.



Resurrection

Supplies:

- Peg Dolls
- Wooden Tomb or Garden Pot Tomb
- Noise Makers
- Balloons
- Streamers

Activities:

- Decorate your child's play area with balloons and streamers. There is nothing worthy of celebrating more than Jesus rising from the dead.
- Act out the story using the peg dolls and tomb. Use noise makers to celebrate the angel's good news. Encourage your child to act like the women and tell others the good news that Jesus rose from the dead.

He's Alive!

Additional Activities

Activities:

- Garden Pot Tomb
- Easter Playdoh Jar
- Resurrection Rolls
- Gospel Finger Play

- Children learn through **REPETITION!** It is more helpful to choose a fewer number of events/activities and repeat them for several days/weeks than to do all of the activities once. **Toddlers should focus on 2-3 events over the Easter season. Older kids can add more... but repeat, repeat, repeat!**
- If you are able to keep activities set up in one area of your home throughout the season, add a banner or pictures that coincide with what your child is learning. You can photocopy pictures from their children's bible, buy a bible to cut pictures out of, or print online pictures that you string together or hang in their play area.
- For early readers: Use plastic or wooden letters to spell out a word that coincides with what they are learning in each activity (Triumphal Entry: praise, Temple: heal, Garden: pray, Burial: wait, etc.) Have your child identify each letter, sound out the word, repeat the word, make make the word out of jumbled letters, etc.

Happy Easter! Jesus is Alive!