

## **The Path to Easter** **A Holy Week Walk for Children**

If you have a church hall, set up the Holy Week Walk on tables and use it for both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Invite others in the congregation to participate too.

With children, it is best to have a guide/teacher take them from station to station, giving instructions as you move. If you have a large group, provide alternative activities so the children are able to travel in a small group with a guide/teacher.

### **Station 1**

Prepare:

- Globe set on a purple cloth
- Card: “Jesus said, “...Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (John 13:34b)

Guide says: *God loves the world and everything in it. Will someone please read the card for this station?* The guide then invites each child to gently spin the globe.

### **Station 2**

Prepare:

- Soft baby’s blanket in a heap
- Card: “And Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger.” (Luke 2:7a)

Guide says: *Jesus came into the world just like you and me—as a tiny baby. Will someone please read the card for this station?* The guide then invites each child to stroke the blanket.

### **Station 3**

Prepare:

- Backpack containing small packets of raisins or almonds.
- Card: “The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.” (Luke 2:40)

Guide invites someone to read the card, then says: *When Jesus was 12 years old, he went to the Passover Festival with his parents. He was so eager to talk to the teachers in the temple that he stayed behind to talk and his parents had to go looking for him. Here is a backpack for a journey. I’m sure Jesus would have snacks in his backpack.* The guide then invites each child to take a snack for the rest of the journey.

#### **Station 4**

Prepare:

- A bowl of water
- Card: “Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan River.” (Mark 1:9)

Guide invites the children to swish their hands through the baptismal water and asks someone to read the card. The guide then wets a finger and makes the sign of the cross on each child’s forehead saying, “[Child’s name], you are a child of God.”

#### **Station 5**

Prepare:

- A bowl of bandages
- Card: “Jesus went through Galilee...curing every disease and every sickness among the people.” (Matthew 3:23)

Guide invites someone to read the card, then children take turns putting a Band-aid on the back of each other’s hands as a reminder of Jesus’ concern for the sick.

#### **Station 6**

Prepare:

- A picture of Jesus teaching
- Card: “Jesus came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded...” (Matthew 13: 54a)

Guide invites someone to read the card, then says to the children, “Look at this picture closely. Describe what you see.”

#### **Station 7**

Prepare:

- A palm branch; swatches of beautiful fabric
- Card: “As Jesus rode along on the donkey, people spread their cloaks on the road and shouted, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!”

Guide invites someone to read the card, then asks the children to spread the cloaks on an imaginary road, saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!” (From Luke 19:36-38)

#### **Station 8**

Prepare:

- A small cross, a piece of black cloth
- Card: “The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.” (Luke 22:2)

Guide invites someone to read the card, then asks children to solemnly drape the cross with the black cloth.

### **Station 9**

Prepare:

- Pitcher of grape juice, small cups, loaf of bread sitting on a cloth napkin
- Card: “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer...” (Luke 22:15)

Guide says: *Everyone looked forward to the Passover Festival. Jesus and his friends gathered together for this Last Supper in an upper room. Invite someone to read the card, then offer the children a taste of grape juice and invite them to pinch off a piece of bread.*

### **Station 10:**

Prepare:

- Small cross, bowl of salt water
- Card: “Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” (Luke 23:46)

Guide invites someone to read the card, then says, “*On the day that we now call Good Friday, Jesus was killed by scared and cruel people. It was a very sad day. The water in this bowl is like the salty tears that people cried. Dip your finger into the bowl and touch the water to your lips.*”

### **Station 11:**

Prepare:

- Small bowl of hand cream
- Card: “The women returned to the tomb where Jesus’ body was laid and brought with them spices and ointments to rub on his body.” (Luke 23:56)

Guide says: *Saturday was a day of sadness. I wonder what Jesus’ friends did? Ask someone to read the card. Sometimes when we are extremely sad, it helps to have things to do and that is what Jesus’ friends were doing—comforting each other and getting his body ready for burial.*

### **Station 12:**

Prepare:

- Small tomb with stone (can be made from a cardboard box or modeling clay)
- Three figures (can be made from wood, cardboard or clothespins)
- Card: “When the women took the spices for Jesus’ body, they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. When they went in, they did not find his body. Two angels stood before them, “Why are you looking among the dead?” they asked. “He is not here. He is risen!”

Guide asks someone to read the card, then invites a child to roll away the stone from the tomb. The guide then says, “*This is not the end of the story. It is the beginning of the story for Christians—people like you and me who believe Jesus was the Christ, the one sent to show us what God is really like. Alleluia!*”