

Good Friday to Easter Sunday



Mark 15:21-40;
Luke 24:1-12

In our second part of the Bassline Guide to Easter, we continue our journey through Holy Week. In this session we will focus on the events of Good Friday through to Easter Sunday. The young people will have the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made for them and celebrate his resurrection.

You will need:

- Paper and pens
- Holy Week Planner handout (continued from last week)



Beat

Say:

In our Bassline Guide to Easter, we have tried to ensure that you know the key events of Holy Week and why they are so important. Before we discover what happened from Good Friday to Easter Sunday, let's see how much you can remember about Holy Week.

Quiz

1. Which animal provided transport for Jesus on Palm Sunday? [A donkey]
2. Which Old Testament prophet predicted that Jesus would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey? [Zechariah]
3. Why did Jesus turn over the tables in the Temple? [He was angry at the way the Temple was being used]
4. What fruit stopped growing once Jesus had spoken to its tree? [Figs]
5. Who was annoyed when Mary anointed Jesus' feet? [Judas]
6. How much did Judas get for selling out Jesus? [30 pieces of silver]
7. What Jewish festival was taking place during the events of Holy Week? [Passover]
8. What psalm do we think Jesus and his disciples could have sung at the end of the Lord's Supper? [Psalm 118]



 **Bridge****Say:**

Create your own Holy Week quiz question and ask the rest of the group to answer it.

 **Amplify****Say:**

This week we continue our journey through Holy Week.

Leader's notes:

As we explore Good Friday through Easter Sunday, we will continue with the Spoken Gospel clip we used in the last session. If you have time, recap the events of Holy Week by watching the clip through to 5:54. Alternatively, you can pick up the clip at the timings shown below.

Watch:

Easter Explained: An 8-Day Guide to Celebrating Holy Week (10:45)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MzStX_bYyM

Good Friday

Leader's notes:

The following references can be found on the Holy Week handout from last week. They are the accounts of Good Friday from the four Gospels. Mark is written below, but you may wish to discuss with the group if any particular version resonated with them.

Bible references – Matthew 27:1–54; Mark 14:55 to 15:39; Luke 22:66 to 23:48; John 18:28 to 19:37

Say:

As you listen to the account of the final events of Jesus' life, focus on one moment that stands out for you. We'll share them together at the end of the reading.

Read:

²¹ A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. ²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means 'the place of the skull'). ²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

²⁵ It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

²⁷ They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. ^[28] ²⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, 'So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ come down from the cross and save yourself!' ³¹ In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. 'He saved others,' they said, 'but he can't save himself! ³² Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.' Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, '*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*' (which means 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?').

³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, 'Listen, he's calling Elijah.'

³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. 'Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down,' he said.

³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, 'Surely this man was the Son of God!'

⁴⁰ Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome.

– (Mark 15:21–40)

Leader's notes:

Share the moments that stand out for the young people. Ask them to explain their choice.

Watch 5:55 – 7:18

Ask:

Take a moment to think about the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. What does it mean to you personally?

Holy Saturday

Bible references – Matthew 21:1–11; Mark 11:1–11; Luke 19:28–42; John 12:12–19

Watch 7:19 – 8:20

Ask:

- How do the days of Holy Week reflect the story of creation found in the book of Genesis?
- What do we remember on Holy Saturday?

Easter Sunday

Bible references – Matthew 28:1–10; Mark 16:1–8; Luke 24:1–12; John 20:1–22

Say:

As we move to the events of Easter Sunday, we find different accounts of what happened in the four Gospels. We don't have time to explore these today, but over the coming week, read the four Scriptures for Easter Sunday found on your Holy Week handout. Take time to compare how the accounts of the resurrection of Jesus differ. For now, we'll turn to Luke's Gospel to see how he recorded what happened on Easter Sunday.

Read:

¹ On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ "The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" ⁸ Then they remembered his words.

⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

– (Luke 24:1-12)

Ask:

- Imagine you are one of those women visiting the tomb on Easter Sunday. Think back through everything they witnessed during Holy Week and place yourself in their position as they hear the words, 'He is not here; he has risen!' How do you think they felt in that moment?

Leader's notes:

Encourage the group to dive beneath the surface of the 'They were surprised' answer to explore the human aspect of this event. What did these women experience? How did Peter react? In their position, how would we have responded to the empty tomb?

Watch 8:21 – 10:45**Ask:**

- What does the resurrection of Jesus mean to you?
- Over the past two sessions, we have journeyed through Holy Week. Which events have stood out for you? Explain why.



 **Bridge****Leader's notes:**

Remind the group about the Holy Week reading plan found on their handout from last week. Have any of the group members managed to follow the plan? If so, what have they discovered?

 **Sound Check****Ask:**

What is your response to the following quote?

'The unfinished work of the Church is to make sure every person on earth hears about the finished work of the cross.'

- Louie Giglio

What do you think Louie Giglio is trying to say?

Say:

As a movement, we (The Salvation Army) are often seen carolling on the streets at Christmas, and people come to our carol services to get into the Christmas spirit. The birth of Jesus is a celebration full of joy and excitement.

Leader's notes:

The following questions encourage the group to consider the different ways Easter and Christmas are celebrated. The aim is not to criticise how things are currently done, as celebrations may vary across different churches and denominations. It is more to encourage discussion about the ways we could ramp up the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Ask:

- In what ways do our celebrations at Easter differ? Why do you think that is?
- What kind of celebrations could we have as a church on Easter Sunday?
- How could our Easter Sunday celebration 'make sure every person on earth hears about the finished work of the cross', as Louie Giglio suggests?

Leader's notes:

For the Sound Check activity today, the group are going to plan an Easter Sunday celebration. Explain that this is an event with no limits. If they could create the most amazing Easter Sunday celebration, what would it be? They can work as a whole group or in smaller teams. Give them time to jot down their ideas and get creative. When they are ready, they can share their amazing Easter Sunday celebrations together.

Ask:

Imagine this event coming to life. Everything is going to plan, and people are having an amazing time celebrating this important moment in the Christian calendar. Then, Jesus himself arrives. As he looks around, what does he think of the celebrations?

 **Bridge****Ask:**

- Are there any of your Easter celebration plans that could become a reality in your own church?

Leader's notes:

Discuss with the young people the possibility of them volunteering to organise and lead an Easter celebration next year.

 **Selah****Leader's notes:**

For our Selah section this week, you can choose from the following Easter songs of celebration. Join in sung worship together and share prayers of thanksgiving for the hope that is found in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Saddleback Worship - 'Risen' - Easter at Saddleback (2021) (5:26)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5sBuDAnNW4>

Hillsong - 'Happy Day' by Tim Hughes (Lyric Video) (3:28)

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

Phil Wickham - 'This is Amazing Grace' (Official Lyric Video) (4:29)

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

 **Coda****Say:**

In a piece of music, the coda brings the different aspects of the melody, harmonies and bassline to a conclusion. It pulls together the different themes and often, but not always, brings resolution to a piece of music.



Ask:

As you reflect on everything you have learned today, what is your coda?

What is the one thing you will take away from this session as you have reflected on the events of Good Friday through to Easter Sunday?

Leader's notes:

Give the young people a moment to think about your question and briefly share their coda with the group before the session comes to an end.

