

8 days of EASTER
family/group activity

The timeline for this lesson was taken from this website:

<https://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/christian-trends/the-8-days-of-easter-what-you-need-to-know.html>

Use as one complete lesson or do part of the lesson daily for devotions the week leading up to Easter.

This lesson is courtesy of:

<https://www.mygrandmatime.com>

Please visit our website for more family, small group, and whole church Bible lessons.

DAY/THEME	ACTIVITY	PROPS	SCRIPTURE	SONG/OPTIONAL
SUNDAY			MAKE A PALM BRANCH (youtube.com/watch?v=z7gvxliZucl) Roll sheets of newspaper, then tear down (or cut) strips from top. Pull a bit of the top out to make a palm branch to wave. Option: Have a man be a donkey with a child riding on him, others waving their palm branches, as you read: The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21:9 NIV)	Pick an appropriate song that you know.
PALM PARADE	WAVE A PALM BRANCH	newspaper, scissors optional		
MONDAY			Jingle the coins as you describe the sounds that Jesus would have heard in the temple. Then read: When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. "It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be a house of prayer'; but you have made it 'a den of robbers.'" (Luke 19:45-46 NIV)	Pick an appropriate song that you know.
JESUS CLEANS THE TEMPLE	CLEAN UP	coins to jingle brooms to sweep	Describe how Jesus cleaned out the temple. Use your broom to help clean too.	

This is page 1 of "8 Days to Easter" from <https://www.mygrandmatime.com>

DAY/THEME	ACTIVITY	PROPS	SCRIPTURE	SONG/OPTIONAL
TUESDAY				
JESUS TEACHES	READ A SCRIPTURE	BIBLE	<p>Jesus was always teaching people about God and what He values. What Jesus taught was written down in the Bible. Here is an example of what Jesus taught:</p> <p>"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31 NIV)</p>	Pick an appropriate song that you know.
WEDNESDAY				
A WOMAN POURS OIL ON JESUS	SOFTEN HANDS	HAND LOTION or SANITIZER	<p>A woman showed her love for Jesus. Some people didn't approve, but Jesus said:</p> <p>"When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial." (Matthew 26:12 NIV)</p> <p>Put lotion on someone else's hands (feet are included in the next day) to show your love.</p>	Pick an appropriate song that you know.
MONEY EXCHANGED	COUNT 30 COINS	30 COINS (from Monday's activity?)	<p>Some people wanted to kill Jesus. They were looking for someone who could tell them where Jesus was. Read:</p> <p>Then one of the Twelve-- the one called Judas Iscariot-- went to the chief priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. (Matthew 26:14-15 NIV)</p> <p>Count to 30 as you put your coins into another person's hands.</p>	Pick an appropriate song that you know.

This is page 2 of "8 Days to Easter" from <https://www.mygrandmatime.com>

DAY/THEME	ACTIVITY	PROPS	SCRIPTURE	SONG/OPTIONAL
THURSDAY				
JESUS HAS DINNER AND THEN GOES TO A GARDEN	WASH FEET	WET WIPES (or BOWLS OF WATER and CLOTHS)	Before dinner, Jesus welcomed his disciples by washing their feet. He was SHOWING them a lesson. Read: "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet." (John 13:14 NIV) Wash another person's feet.	Pick an appropriate song that you know.
	BREAD AND CUP (dinner &/or communion)	BREAD AND JUICE	During dinner, Jesus gave his disciples a way to remember him. Have everyone eat/drink together as you read the verse: And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:19-20 NIV)	Pick an appropriate song that you know.
	PRAYER	NONE ADDITIONAL	After dinner, Jesus went to a garden to pray. This is not the prayer Jesus said then, but it is a prayer that he taught his disciples. Let's say it together: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. (Matthew 6:9-13 KJV)	Pick an appropriate song that you know.
	ARREST - handcuffs	2 RUBBER BANDS	Link the rubber bands together, then slip them over hands like handcuffs. Judas, followed by some soldiers, came to the garden and kissed Jesus to let the soldiers know who he was. They did not treat Jesus well. Read: They all condemned him as worthy of death. Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him." (Mark 14:64B,65)	Pick an appropriate song that you know.

DAY/THEME	ACTIVITY	PROPS	SCRIPTURE	SONG/OPTIONAL
FRIDAY			Jesus was nailed to a cross. (Take handcuffs off and stand with arms out in the shape of a cross.) Read:	
CRUCIFIXION	MAKE BODY CROSS, THEN ARMS & HEAD DOWN IN DEATH	PILLOW CASES TO PUT OVER HEADS	When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19:30 NIV) Put a pillow case over your head to show death and burial in a tomb. (If fearful, just close eyes.)	Pick an appropriate song that you know.
SATURDAY			Jesus' body was put in a tomb. Those who had him killed wanted to be sure that everyone knew he was dead. They said (Read): So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. (Matthew 27:64 NIV) Jesus' body was dead and in the tomb from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning, about 39 hours. Let's count the hours together. (Count to 39 with the pillow cases still on heads.)	
DEATH	COUNT to 39 (HOURS OF DEATH) WITH PILLOW CASES ON HEADS	NONE ADDITIONAL		Pick an appropriate song that you know.
SUNDAY			BUT, on Sunday morning there was an earthquake. The stone door of the tomb rolled away and the frightened soldiers ran away. When women came to put spices on Jesus' body they found the tomb open and empty. Read: The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. (Matthew 28:5-6 NIV) Take the pillow cases off and do a dance of JOY!	
RESURRECTION	TAKE PILLOW CASES OFF & DANCE AND SING	NONE ADDITIONAL		Pick an appropriate song that you know.

This is page 4, the last page, of "8 Days to Easter" from <https://www.mygrandmatime.com>