

Kids in Church: Holy Week – Study Guide

This study guide is intended to accompany the Holy Week resource from the Kids in Church series of handouts.

These resources are designed for youth ages 6-13. Within each handout, ↪ indicates topics/questions which can be used to inspire conversations with youth.

The questions and discussion topics included here intend to build on the content found in the Holy Week handout, engaging youth with questions and discussions related to the week of Christ's Passion, Betrayal, Crucifixion, Death, and Descent into Hades, our relationship with Jesus Christ, and the Orthodox Faith.

Feel free to use as few or as many of the questions and explanations to engage children, sharing with them the meaning of this feast.

Questions, feedback, and suggestions can be directed to the publisher at dluca@verizon.net

Overview

The week before Pascha is called Holy Week. It consists of Great and Holy Monday through Great and Holy Saturday. Each day, there are liturgical services in the morning and evening, including Presanctified Liturgy, Matins (both Bridegroom and regular), Vespers, Vespereal Liturgies on Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday, and Nocturns just before midnight on Holy Saturday. Descriptions for each of these services are included in the handout.

Objective

After completing this handout, youth should be able to articulate the following:

- What we celebrate/commemorate on each day of Holy Week
- How these events are part of God's plan of Salvation for each of us
- Be familiar with the icons and what they portray in the historical events of Christ's Passion
- Recognize the importance of Christ in our personal lives
- Know there are scripture readings for each day of Holy Week
- Additional resources are available, including these: <https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/holy-week>

Page 1: Holy Week

- 1) Read the front page together.
- 2) Ask: **"Why did the crowds loose interest in Jesus?"**
(Possible answers: They realized Jesus wasn't going to fulfill their hopes of freedom from the Romans, Jesus was doing things different than they expected.)
- 3) Ask: **"How should (or can) we change our lifestyle during Holy Week?"**
(Possible answers: Any of the 7 items listed in the right column, and similar ideas and activities, or the limiting of non-church related activities.)

Page 2: Gather as Community

- 4) The descriptions of the services provide highlights of the thematic elements for these services, typically celebrated only once a year.

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Pages 2,3,4: Our Journey through Holy Week

- 5) The remainder of the handout walks the user through the events of each day of Holy Week. Answers are included at the bottom of page 2, and can be discussed, asking youth to share their impressions, memories, or experiences from past Holy Week services, to understand how the Passion of Jesus Christ provides a path to salvation for each of us.

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About Holy Week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)

<https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/holy-week>

About Holy Thursday

<https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/holy-thursday>

About Holy Friday

<https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/holy-friday>

About Holy Saturday

<https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-church-year/holy-saturday>

Liturgical Texts:

<https://www.oca.org/liturgics/service-texts>

Common Prayers:

<https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/prayers>

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