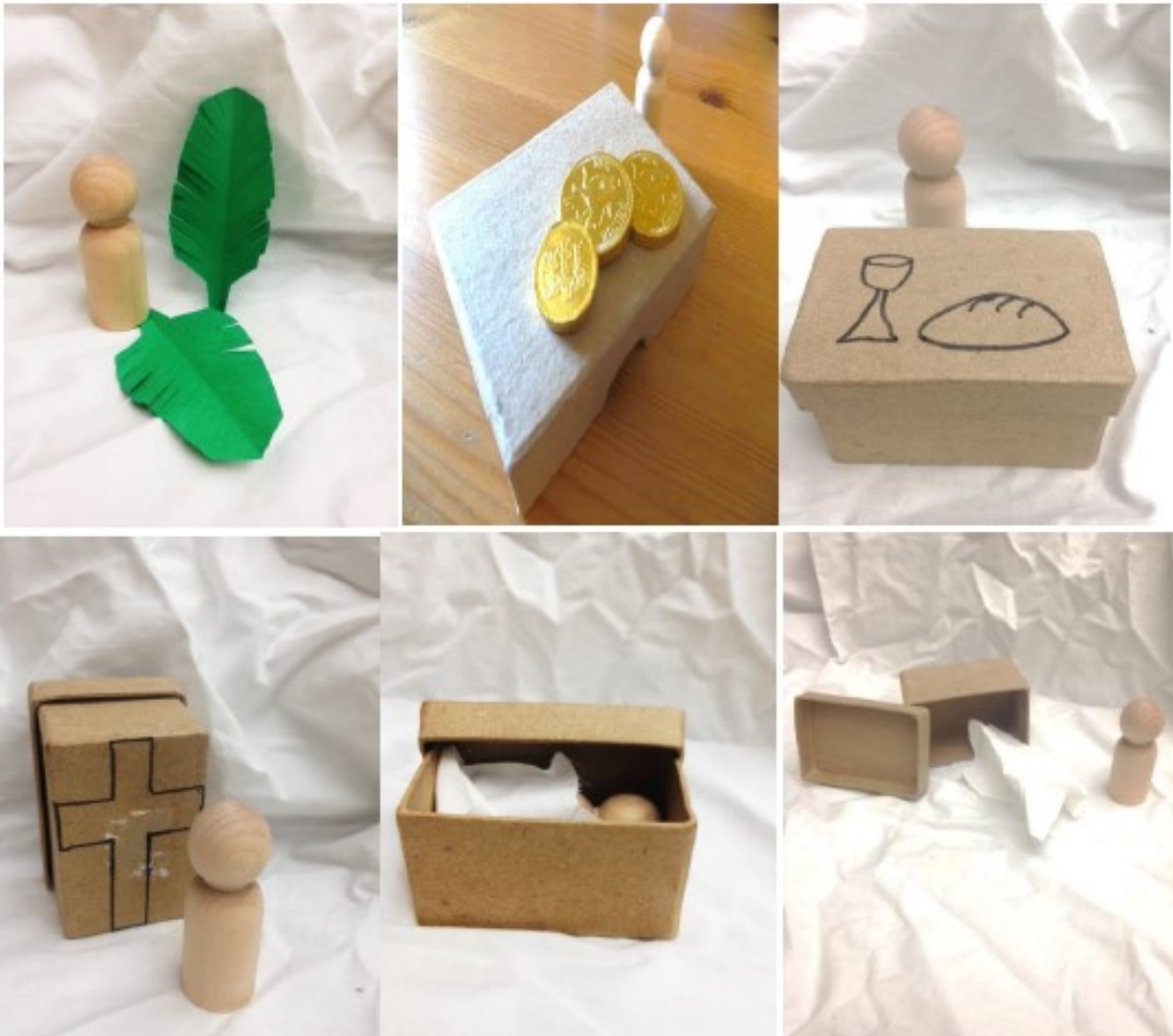


## HOLY WEEK IN A BOX

*For families with young children*

*We have found that, for parents, there are few topics more difficult to talk about with young children than Holy Week. Parents are concerned about their children's readiness to think about death and suffering in general, and specifically of Jesus whom we have taught them to love and emulate. Certainly, a lot of the Holy Week theology will be over their heads and most adults also continue to change and grow in their own understanding. The following resources are simply ways of exploring the narrative in the gospels. It provides language for the who, where, and what happened. Equipped with this language, children and youth can continue on, long past this Easter to explore the why, and what it has to do with them and our shared faith. Again, don't worry, just walk with them. Share your own questions, but try not to project fears you may have beyond admitting that you have them, as Jesus knew.*

(If you don't have these exact materials, you can probably make or find substitutes in your homes. If you made an Alleluia origami box you could use that. For the Jesus figure, you could make a cut-out or make one with clay or pipe cleaners. Try to be thoughtful about your materials. Take your time. Make it holy.)





## PALM SUNDAY

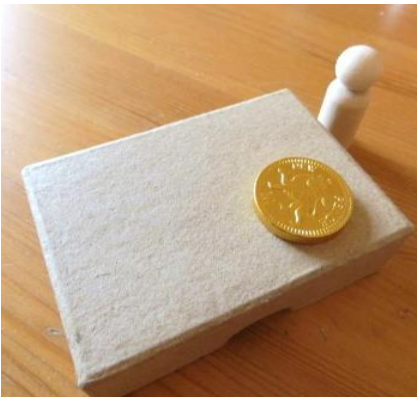
Luke 22: 7-23

Take the green paper and the Jesus figure out of the box. Cut the paper into palm leaves. Place them and Jesus beside the closed box.

**The people waved palm leaves to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem.**

How can we welcome Jesus into our home?

Say the Lord's Prayer together.



## MONDAY

Mark 11:15-9

Take one of the coins and the Jesus figure out of the box. Place the coin on the box with Jesus beside it.

**The people in the Temple were cheating others out of their money and Jesus got angry.**

How can we use our money wisely?

Say the Lord's Prayer together.



## TUESDAY

Mark 12:13-17

Take a second coin and the Jesus figure out of the box. Place the coins on the box with Jesus beside it.

**The religious leaders asked Jesus if it was right to pay their taxes. Taxes help to pay for things that help everyone, like roads, hospitals, schools.**

Can taxes and giving to God be the same?

Say the Lord's Prayer together.



## WEDNESDAY

Mark 12:41-44

Take the third coin and the Jesus figure out of the box. Place the coins on the box with Jesus beside it.

**Jesus watched people in the Temple giving money to God. Some made a big show of giving lots of money. But one person didn't. Read her story in the Gospel.**

How can we give to God?

Say the Lord's Prayer together.

The three nights and days from the evening meal on Maundy Thursday until the evening prayers of Easter Sunday is called the Paschal Triduum when we recall Jesus' last supper and betrayal, his crucifixion and death, his burial, and his Resurrection.



### MAUNDY THURSDAY

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Draw a cup and loaf of bread on the lid of the box. Use it like a table. Place the Jesus figure next to it.

**Today we remember the last Passover meal Jesus had with his friends, when he said, "Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other."**

**At church, how do we remember this meal?**

Say the Lord's Prayer together.



### GOOD FRIDAY

John 18:1-19:42

Draw a cross on the bottom of the box and stand it up. Place Jesus in front of the cross.

**The religious leaders wanted to get rid of Jesus. They told lies about him. Jesus was arrested. And Jesus forgave them. It was a very sad day, because the authorities put Jesus to death on a cross.**

How do you think Jesus' friends felt? How do you feel when a friend is hurting?

**When Jesus had died, his friends were so sad. They took his body down from the cross and wrapped it in linen cloth. They placed Jesus' body in a tomb cut out of rock.**

Make the white cloth out of the box and wrap Jesus in it. Place him inside the box and close the lid. Wonder what it would be like to not have Jesus with us.

**On the Saturday, everything was so still you could almost hear the earth breathe. There was nothing that could be done. Holy Saturday is a waiting day.**

Place a votive candle by your box as a way of showing that you are waiting.

Say the Lord's Prayer together. Sit in silence and candlelight.



### EASTER SUNDAY!

John 20:1-18

Open the box and take Jesus out of the box and out of the cloth. Place the lid next to the open box.

**Early on the Sunday morning, the women went to the tomb and had an amazing surprise.**

Jesus is with us in a new way! Sing "Alleluia!"

Say the Lord's Prayer together.

