

## 1. Jesus Goes to Jerusalem

*(Mini-procession from PH to >>)*



### **Narrator**

Jesus was becoming very famous. Some people began to wonder, “Is Jesus the Messiah? Is this the one God promised?”

Many people thought the Messiah would be like an army general. The Messiah would gather soldiers and fight the Romans. The

Messiah would kill the people they didn’t like.

Some of Jesus’ disciples, like Peter, were sure Jesus was the messiah. But even Peter sometimes thought the Messiah would be a general. Because Jesus was famous, crowds of people came to see him wherever he went. So Jesus decided to show the people something important.

### **Jesus**

I am going to go into Jerusalem. I want you to get me a donkey, so I can ride it into the city.

### **Follower/Official**

A donkey? Why not a big, strong horse?

### **Jesus**

No, a donkey. A small, young donkey. I don’t want to go into Jerusalem like a general on a horse. I don’t want to fight. If I ride on a donkey, people will know that I am coming to bring peace.

**Narrator**

The crowds gathered on both sides of the road when they heard Jesus was coming. They cheered and shouted as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Some of them threw down their clothes or some branches from palm trees for the donkey to walk on.

(Get everyone to shout too)

“Hosanna!” Hosanna!” shouted the crowds. Hosanna means “Save us now.”

(Place Cloth around Jesus’s shoulders)

**Narrator**

Jesus didn’t like that.

**Jesus**

They still think I’m going to be a general. They think I’ve come to fight the Romans. (remove cloth give back to Narrator)

**Narrator**

Most of the rulers didn’t understand Jesus either. They thought a Messiah had to be a general who would fight people. They didn’t understand what Jesus was trying to show them when he rode into the city on a donkey. When the rulers heard the people shout “Hosanna! Save us now!” They began to feel afraid.

**Follower/Official**

If Jesus is going to be the Messiah, then he will be the ruler instead of us.

**Zoe: Roman/Priest**

We’d better find a way to kill him. Soon!



**2. The Money Changers –**  
 (improv. counting money, selling  
 things. Spread cloth on table)

(Follower/Official pantomiming  
 action)

### **Narrator**

Jesus wanted to pray in the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple was the biggest church in the whole country.

Jesus walked around the Temple. It was very beautiful. But Jesus saw something there that made him feel angry.

People came to the Temple to worship God. As part of their worship, they gave some money. They needed a special kind of money to take inside the Temple. The people got this special money from the moneychangers. The moneychangers took ordinary money, and gave people the Temple money.

Some of the moneychangers cheated people. Especially the poor people. And that made Jesus very angry.

Jesus walked right up to the moneychangers. He grabbed their tables and turned them over.

*(Jesus snatches cloth off the table)*

The money rolled all over the floor.

*(Follower/Official scramble to pick it up)*

**Jesus**

Don't you know? This is God's house. It should be a place where everyone comes to pray. But you are making it a den of robbers!"

*(Jesus grabs the cloth, spilling the money and rushes out to next location)*

**Narrator**

The moneychangers scrambled all over trying to pick up their money. Then they went to the rulers.

**Follower/Official**

Did you see what Jesus did?

**Roman/Priest**

That Jesus! We've got to get rid of him...Somehow.

### 3. The Last Supper



(Jesus stands at center of long wooden table.  
Cloth is spread out)

#### **Narrator**

*(While traveling to next location)*

For three days, Jesus taught in the temple, attracting many people. The religious leaders watched Jesus closely. Meanwhile, Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, made a deal with the chief priests to betray Jesus. They paid Judas 30 silver coins. Later in the week, Jesus and his friends gathered to celebrate the Passover feast.

#### **Jesus**

*(Smooth the cloth out like a tablecloth, while everyone gathers around the table)*

Tonight one of you will betray me. And before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.

#### **Narrator**

They looked at Jesus. Each one, even Judas Iscariot, said,

#### **All readers**

Not me, Master, not me.

#### **Narrator**

When it was time to pray, Jesus took the bread, and said,

#### **Jesus**

Take, eat. This is my body.

*(Break Matzoh, send baskets in both directions )*

Drink, all of you, and remember God's love.

*(Pass chalices, children can dip)*

**Narrator**

They all drank from the cup, but they were puzzled by Jesus' words. This was not the usual Passover prayer. And they didn't want to ask him what he meant.

*(Jesus takes cloth and travels with group)*



#### **4. In the Garden**

##### **Narrator**

*(Stop at half way to next location)*

After they had eaten the Passover meal and sung a hymn, Jesus and some of the disciples went to the Mount of Olives just outside the city. They went to a garden called Gethsemane.

*(All Continue to next location – outside?)*

##### **Jesus**

*(Other readers and Jesus seated on blanket)*

Stay here while I go over there to pray.

*(Jesus goes a little ways away, beckons to Roman/Priest, Follower/Official, and Narrator, they come close and sit near him)*

I am very sad. Stay awake with me.

*(Crumple up the cloth to make a pillow and set it on the ground. Kneel on it. The other 2 lie down and go to sleep.)*

##### **Narrator**

*(tip-toe away and stage whisper, to audience)*

Jesus prayed to God because Jesus knew some people wanted to hurt him. Jesus asked God for strength. Twice Jesus came to find everyone with him asleep. This saddened him, too.

Later, Judas came and kissed Jesus on the cheek. This was the sign Judas had arranged with the chief priests.

*(Follower/Official, comes and grabs Jesus up, takes cloth, fake “tie” around Jesus’s wrists in front – he will actually be holding it. Follower/Official takes cloth to lead him to next destination. While traveling, Narrator should instruct a few kids to shout, “Crucify him!” when she gives a signal)*





## 5. Arrest and Trial –

*(Icon, cross and Tenebrae set up prominently.  
Candle lit. Actors enter last)*

### **Follower/Official**

*(still holding the cloth, “pulling” Jesus)*

Then the soldiers came to arrest Jesus. One of Jesus’ followers pulled out a sword, *(Narrator makes a threatening move toward Follower/Official/soldier)* but Jesus said...

### **Jesus**

*(to Narrator)*

No. Put it away. Put your sword back where it belongs. All who use swords are destroyed by swords.

### **Narrator**

Then Jesus’ followers all ran away. The soldiers took Jesus to the religious leaders at the home of Caiaphas the high priest. They wanted Jesus to die, so they took him to Pilate, the Roman governor.

*(Follower/Official takes Jesus to Roman/Priest, who is standing on a chair)*

The crowd shouted, *(signal to Follower/Officials)* “Crucify him! Kill him!”

### **Roman/Priest**

What has he done wrong? I don’t want anything to do with this...this... Take him away!

**Narrator**

But the crowd shouted louder. (*signal Follower/Officials*) The soldiers made fun of Jesus. They put a crown of thorns on him and a red robe.

**Follower/Official**

(*Follower/Official makes Jesus kneel and ties cloth around his head, Narrator give kids signal to yell at Jesus*)

Hail, king of the Jews!

**Narrator**

Then they led him to a place called Golgotha to crucify him on a cross.

(*Follower/Official leads Jesus away. Jesus hands cloth to Peter who joins the audience with cloth wrapped, hiding his face.*)

While all this was happening, Peter was in the courtyard.

Three times, people accused him of being with Jesus. Each time he claimed he didn't know Jesus. When the rooster crowed, Peter remembered Jesus' words to him: Peter left the courtyard, sobbing.

(*Peter runs out and takes cloth to Jesus*)

## **6. Death of Jesus – (*Jesus on top step or platform*)**



*(Jesus holds arms out with cloth drawn across his back, holding cloth in each fist. Roman/Priest 2 steps down and Follower/Official 1 step down on either side with arms outstretched as the other two criminals on the cross)*

### **Narrator**

When they got to Golgotha, also called the Place of the Skulls, they put Jesus on across between two thieves.

### **Jesus**

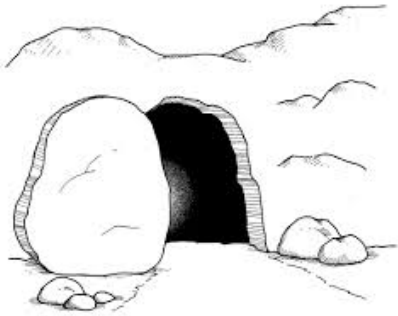
(Praying) Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing.

(To thieves) Today, you will be with me in paradise.

### **Narrator**

Everyone waited for Jesus to die. His friends were sad beyond belief. Some of the women who followed Jesus watched from a distance. About three o'clock on Friday afternoon, Jesus shouted and stopped breathing. The earth shook and the holy curtain in the temple ripped in half.

*(Jesus lets the cloth fall in a heap at his feet.)*



## 7. Burial of Jesus

### **Narrator**

*(To Roman/Priest)*

After Jesus died, Joseph, a rich man who lived in Arimathea, went to Pilate. “May I take the body of Jesus to bury him?” he asked. Pilate gave orders to let

Joseph take the body. Joseph wrapped it in clean linen cloths and put it in a new tomb.

### **Roman/Priest**

*(Nod to Narrator, then to “crowds”)*

Let this man pass to take the body of your ...”king” to prepare it for burial.

*(Narrator walks down through audience. All follow to “tomb” location. Narrator in the lead with cloth draped across arms.*

*Jesus is lying in the center of the floor, on side, back to audience.)*

*(Narrator, takes the cloth and lays it on Jesus. Then Slowly Narrator leads everyone out of the room and closes the doors)*

**Narrator**

*(While walking slowly to next destination)*

Magdalene and the others watched all this across from the tomb.

*(Pilate is waiting at half way point)*

The next day, the religious leaders went to Pilate and asked him to station guards at the tomb. But Pilate, wanting nothing to do with Jesus' death, said to them,

**Pilate**

“Take them!”

*(Roman & Official push past and go ahead of everyone to stand in front of the “tomb” room door, as guards)*

And they did, so guards stayed at the tomb to make sure nothing happened to Jesus' body.

*(Narrator continues to lead everyone up slowly around while icon is being covered w. cloth and candle is extinguished )*