Holy Week is one of the most important times of the Christian year. This coloring page packet includes information about Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, and is designed for use by Christians and by people of other faiths or no faith. Use these pages during Holy Week to share with your family about the purpose and practice of these special days. On the final page, you will find questions designed to spark conversation about each day’s themes.
Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter Sunday. On Palm Sunday, Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, in Israel. He rode in on a donkey, and people waved palm branches as he passed. They did this to show Jesus how excited they were to see him.
Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter. On Maundy Thursday, Jesus shared the Last Supper with his friends. They ate bread and drank wine together. He told his friends to remember him by sharing bread and wine together after he was gone. Christians still do this today to remember that Jesus is with them.
Good Friday is the Friday before Easter. On Good Friday, Jesus died on a wooden cross, and the sky turned dark in the middle of the day. Before he died, he forgave the people who hurt him. After he died, Jesus’s friends were very sad and afraid.
On Easter Day, Jesus was alive again! His friend Mary Magdalene was the first to learn that he had risen, and she told his other friends. Some of them did not believe what she told them until they saw him. They talked and ate together, and Jesus's friends were filled with joy.
Holy Week
(at home)

Family Conversation Starters

Palm Sunday
- Waving palm branches was a symbol of the love and respect people had for Jesus. What are symbols of great love and respect in our culture?
- Who do you have a lot of love and respect for? How do you show it?
- Who would you be very excited to see? How would you welcome them?

Maundy Thursday
- We often connect special foods with certain events or feelings. For example, we connect cake to birthdays, which gives cake a special meaning. What foods have special meaning for you?
- What is a special meal you have shared with others? Who did you share it with? What did you eat?
- How do you remember people you love but don’t get to see?

Good Friday
- We all go through times when we are very sad or struggle to have hope. Share a time when you have felt this way. What helped you get through?
- How does your family or faith tradition help you deal with difficult times?
- Pilate made a decision he didn’t agree with to please other people. Have you ever done something you didn’t agree with to please other people? How did it feel? Would you do things differently if you had the chance?

Easter
- Share a time when you felt enormous joy. What made that so special?
- Where have you seen "new life" happen?
- What do you think the world would be like if everyone got to live in God's peace and justice now?

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