

Family Time 9: The Passion of Jesus

Today your child read three stories that lead up Jesus' crucifixion: "Jesus Enters Jerusalem," "Jesus Betrayed," and "The Last Supper." Invite your child to retell one or more of the stories for you, and then read together the other two Gospel accounts.

As you discuss "The Last Supper," help your child appreciate that at this special meal Jesus gave us, or instituted, the Eucharist. Later in the year, your child will learn more about why and how Catholics celebrate the Eucharist.

Invite your child to explain what Jesus was teaching us by washing the disciples' feet. Emphasize that through this humbling action, Jesus calls us to follow his example of service to others.

Conclude with a ritual prayer. Gather a small bowl of water and several palm branches or a few evergreen sprigs. Place the branches in a vase alongside the bowl of water on a table. Then gather together around the table for prayer.

Invite each family member to name one way they will honor Jesus during the coming week. Then, have each person use a branch to lightly sprinkle water on family members. Conclude with the prayer below.

Blessed Are You, Lord

Almighty God and Father,
Help us to honor Jesus everyday
by living always as he lived.

Hosanna! Blessed are you who comes in the name
of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

Amen.

(based on the *Roman Missal*, Blessing of Branches
from Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion)