

The Last Week

Scripture: Luke 19:28-48; 21:37, 38; 22:7-54;
Matthew 21:1-11; 27:27-60

Bible Memory: Matthew 28:6

Focus: ♥ We should remember what Jesus did.













Special Unit:
Palm Sunday lesson;
see table of contents



Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

We like to celebrate with family and friends and then remember those special events. The week before Jesus' death began with people celebrating Jesus. But later that week, Jesus asked His disciples to do something unusual. He wanted them to remember an unpleasant event—His death. The next time you eat the Lord's Supper, remember what Jesus has done. Remember His sacrifice, His pain. It was for you!

Triumphal Entry Lesson at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help children <i>explore events they remember</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step Celebrations</p> <p> Option Smell and Remember</p> <p> Bible Memory Introduce the Bible Memory verse.</p>	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources sheet 2 Celebrations Photo Cards • none • Resources sheet 1 Special Unit Bible Memory Poster 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • items with distinctive smells (see activity), small containers with lids, tray • Bible, reusable adhesive
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help children <i>name key events from the week before Jesus' death</i>.</p>	<p> Bible Exploration Luke 19, 21, 22; Matthew 21, 27</p> <p> Bible Review Activity</p> <p> Bible Memory Matthew 28:6</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources sheet 1 The Last Week Bible Story Visual LWa–LWg, <i>Teaching Picture</i> The Last Week • Activities pp. 3 and 4 and sticker, Resources CD The Last Week lesson Review Questions printable file • Resources sheet 1 Special Unit Bible Memory Poster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, reusable adhesive, bread, glass of grape juice • colored pencils, scissors • Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, reusable adhesive
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help children <i>understand why they should remember what Jesus did</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step Special and Important!</p> <p> Option Thankful for a Sad Thing</p> <p> Option Story from <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • none • <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue LW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles • bowl, measuring spoons, unsweetened baking cocoa, soft margarine, sugar, plastic spoons • none
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help children <i>make a plan to remember Jesus</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step Remembering Jesus</p> <p> Option I Will Remember Jesus</p> <p>Saying Good-bye</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • none • <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue LW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bread, glass of grape juice • gift bag, items that represent ways to remember Jesus (see activity) • none

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1 Use one of these activities to help children **explore events they remember**. Use the Bible Memory activity to introduce the memory verse.

Welcome

- Welcome each child by name.
- Engage early arrivers by offering one or more of the activities described on the Additional Activities for Special Unit page.

Quick Step Celebrations

Have children gather in a circle. SAY: **Photos can help us remember people we've met, places we've gone, and events we have celebrated.** Show one of the photo cards.

ASK: **What event does this picture help you remember?** Let children take turns sharing personal experiences. Ask the same question as you show the other cards.

What other things help you remember special events? (awards received, special songs, associated smells, cards or letters kept)

SAY: **The week before Jesus' death, many events happened that His followers remembered. Let's learn about those events. ♥ We should remember what Jesus did.**

Option Smell and Remember

Have children gather at a table. SAY: **Sometimes smells remind us of places we've gone or things we have done. Let's see what some smells remind you of.** Show the tray of closed containers. Open the containers one at a time and offer children the opportunity to smell what is inside.

ASK: **Does this smell remind you of something you have done with a friend or a family member? What did you do?**

What other smells remind you of a place you have gone or something you have done? (Possible answers: cookies baking, smells at a zoo or farm, modeling dough)

SAY: **The week before Jesus' death, many events happened that His followers remembered. Let's learn about those events. ♥ We should remember what Jesus did.**

Bible Memory Matthew 28:6


Read Matthew 28:6. SAY: **The angel reminded the women that Jesus had said He would die and then rise again. He had done what He said. His body was no longer in the tomb. He had risen!**

Display the Bible Memory poster. Read the words while pointing to them. Pause when you come to an empty space, and ask who knows what word is missing. When a child says the right word, let him attach it to the poster with reusable adhesive. SAY: **Jesus' coming back to life makes Him very special! ♥ We should remember what Jesus did.**

Focus

♥ We should remember what Jesus did.


Materials

Resources sheet 2
Celebrations Photo Cards 

Added Fun!

Form small groups of children. Give each group one of the photo cards. Ask the groups to think of events the photos help them remember. After a few minutes, let each group share one memory of a favorite event.


Materials

items with distinctive smells (orange slices, popped popcorn, coffee crystals, vanilla flavoring, cinnamon sticks, etc.), small containers with lids, tray 

Before Class

Place each sensory item in an individual container and cover it with a lid. Place all the containers on a tray.

Materials

Bible, *Resources* sheet 1 Special Unit
Bible Memory Poster, reusable adhesive 

Transition to Explore His Word

See the *Resources* CD Transition Tips printable file. As children gather, make sure you have all the materials you need.

Focus

♥ We should remember what Jesus did.

Explore His Word (20 minutes)

2 Use all of these activities to help children **name key events from the week before Jesus' death.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

Six days before the Passover Feast, Jesus went to Bethany, where He had raised Lazarus from the dead (John 12:1). On Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem, fulfilling the prophecies of Zechariah 9:9. According to the law, the lambs and kids chosen for the Passover Feast were to be visible several days before the feast. Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God, spent Monday and Tuesday publicly teaching at the temple.

On Thursday, Jesus and His disciples observed the Passover meal. The Passover meal was established to celebrate what God *had* done, but at this meal the disciples learned that they would now be celebrating what God *would do*. Instead of annually sacrificing a lamb's blood for protection, they would now be saved by the blood of Jesus.

Pilate rightfully pronounced Jesus as a man not guilty of the charges against Him (Luke 23:4, 14, 22). Jesus' life was not taken; it was given as the perfect sacrifice needed to save all who obediently accept Him.

Worship Time

If you want to offer a time of worship, see the *Resources* CD Special Unit Worship Time Ideas printable file for suggestions.

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, *Resources* sheet 1 The Last Week Bible Story Visual LWa-LWg, reusable adhesive, unleavened bread, glass of grape juice, *Teaching Picture* The Last Week



Teaching Tips

When teaching about the Lord's Supper, you may want to use or show children the kind of bread and juice cup(s) used by your congregation.

Save the bread and juice to use during Live It Out.

Bible Exploration Luke 19, 21, 22; Matthew 21, 27

SAY: Today's Bible story comes from the books of Luke and Matthew.

Write "Luke 19:28" on the board. Help the children turn to Luke 19:28 in their Bibles. Ask for a volunteer to read the verse.

SAY: The story takes place during the last week before Jesus died. Let's name the days of the week and use some pictures that will help us remember what happened that week. Attach LWa to the board and read the words: "We remember Jesus."

Write "Sunday" on the board. Ask a volunteer to read the word. **SAY: Jesus had spent three years teaching the people. He had healed people and raised people from the dead. When Jesus rode a donkey into the city of Jerusalem on a Sunday, the people thought Jesus had come to be their king. They laid their coats on the road and waved palm branches. They said, "Hosanna! Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"** Have children pretend to wave branches and repeat the phrases. Add LWb above figure LWa.

Write "Monday" and "Tuesday" on the board. Read the words. **During the day on Monday and Tuesday, Jesus spent time at the temple. Many people came to the temple early in the morning to hear Jesus teach. He taught them about the kingdom of God.** Attach LWc to the left of LWa.

Write "Wednesday" and "Thursday" on the board. **We're not sure what Jesus did on Wednesday. But on Thursday, Jesus wanted to eat the Passover meal with His followers. This meal reminded God's people of the time when God had freed His people from Egypt, where they had been slaves.**

Jesus and His 12 disciples were sitting at a table during the meal. Show the teaching picture. **Jesus said, "I really wanted to share this meal with you before I die." Jesus knew He would not be living on earth much**

longer. **Jesus took some bread.** Hold up the piece of bread. **He thanked God, broke off some of the bread, and gave it to His disciples.** “I’m giving my life for you,” Jesus said. **“Eat this bread. When you do this, remember me.”**

Next **Jesus picked up a cup of juice.** Hold up the glass of juice. **Jesus thanked God and said, “All of you drink some of this. I’m giving my blood for you. When you do this, remember me.”** Jesus knew His disciples would remember Him when they ate the bread and drank the juice. Attach LWd to the right of LWa.

After the meal, **Jesus and His disciples went to a place called the Mount of Olives.** Attach LWe below LWa. **Jesus prayed and asked for help to do God’s will. Jesus’ disciples fell asleep. Suddenly they woke up. They heard voices and footsteps. Guards and soldiers came and arrested Jesus.**

Write “Friday” on the board. Attach LWf below LWe. **On Friday, Jesus was put on trial. Some soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus. They used a branch of thorns to form a crown and pushed it onto Jesus’ head. They laughed at Jesus. At the end of the trial, Jesus was hung on a cross to die. The soldiers made fun of Jesus on the cross too. They had a contest to see who would get His robe.**

After Jesus died, **His body was taken down and placed in a tomb.** Point to the cross you have formed with the pictures. **That Friday was a sad day, but the Bible teaches that this was all part of God’s plan to save people from their sins.** With the heart removed, place frame LWg over LWa.

Bible Review Activity

ASK: **What do you remember most about Jesus’ last week before He died?** Let children share their thoughts.

Distribute the activity pages, sticker, and supplies. Show the children how to cut out and fold the cross. Have the children find partners and use their crosses to retell what happened during the week before Jesus died. Use the *Resources* CD review questions to ask questions about the story.

SAY: **Jesus loved us enough to die for us. ♥ We should always remember what Jesus did.**

Bible Memory Matthew 28:6

“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.”

Before class, separate the word cards from the Bible Memory poster. Attach the poster to a wall or bulletin board. SAY: **Our Bible Memory will help us remember something important about Jesus.** Help the children find Matthew 28:6 in their Bibles. Ask a volunteer to read the verse aloud. Point to the words on the poster as you read them. Pause at the blank spaces and ask what words should go in the spaces. Attach the words and read the verse together. SAY: **Jesus did not stay in the tomb. He rose from the dead. ♥ We should remember what Jesus did.**

Materials

Activities pp. 3 and 4 and sticker, colored pencils (or markers), scissors, *Resources* CD Last Week lesson Review Questions printable file



Materials

Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, *Resources* sheet 1 Special Unit Bible Memory Poster, reusable adhesive (or pushpins)



Optional Bible Skill Builder

Display the books of the Old Testament and New Testament posters provided with the *Resources* CD Classroom Tools. Ask whether the story of Jesus’ last week before His death is in the Old or New Testament. (New Testament) Ask volunteers to point to Luke and Matthew on the New Testament poster.



Focus

♥ We should remember what Jesus did.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help children **understand why they should remember what Jesus did.**

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles



Discuss

Quick Step Special and Important!

ASK: **What makes something special?** (It's different, unique, means something to us.)

What makes something important? (It's central; we can't do without it.)

SAY: **We've learned about some special events that happened in the last week before Jesus died on the cross. But how important were those events? Let's read another Bible verse that will help us answer this question.** Write "John 3:16" on the board. Have the children work as partners or in small groups to find and read the verse in their Bibles.

ASK: **Why did God send His Son into the world?** (God loved the world.)
Who is God's only Son? (Jesus)

What does God promise will happen when we obediently believe in Jesus? (We will live with Him forever.)

SAY: **Jesus' death on the cross was not only special; it was also important!** ♥ We should remember what Jesus did.

Materials

bowl, measuring spoons, unsweetened baking cocoa, soft margarine, sugar, plastic spoons



Object Lesson



When offering an activity that involves food, be cautious about food allergies or sensitivities. Offer an alternative when possible.

Option Thankful for a Sad Thing

Before class, put soft margarine and unsweetened cocoa in a bowl and stir them together. Use as little as one tablespoon of each, or double or triple the amounts for a more visible demonstration.

Ask children to raise their hands if they like chocolate. Choose one or more volunteers to come up for a taste of the chocolate you have prepared. Give each volunteer a small amount on a plastic spoon. Make sure they all taste at the same time. Watch their faces. SAY: **You probably expected this to be sweet, but it wasn't. Let's try again.** Stir in 1 teaspoon sugar for each tablespoon of margarine and cocoa. Let volunteers taste again.

SAY: **Chocolate is good stuff, but it has some ingredients that aren't very pleasant on their own. This is a good reminder that good things can come from things that seem not so good. Jesus' dying on a cross was certainly not a good thing. But the Bible tells us that because Jesus gave His life for us, our sins can be forgiven and we can live forever with God.** ♥ We should remember and be thankful for what Jesus did.

Materials

Weekly Bible Reader issue LW



Read

Option Story from Weekly Bible Reader

Read the rebus story "Don't Forget!" Pause whenever you come to a picture, and let kids call out the pictured word. Talk about why Michael wanted to make sure that he and Austin wouldn't forget each other. Then discuss why it is important to remember Jesus. Be sure the children understand that Jesus loves us. He died so our sins can be forgiven and we can live forever with God. SAY: ♥ **We should always remember what Jesus did.**

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help children **make a plan to remember Jesus**.

Focus

♥ We should remember what Jesus did.

Quick Step Remembering Jesus

Show the bread and glass of juice. SAY: **We have learned that ♥ we should remember what Jesus did. Jesus gave His followers one way to remember Him. When the Lord's Supper, or Communion, is served in our worship service, it is a good time to remember Jesus.**

ASK: **What can you do or think about when the bread and juice are served?** (Thank God for Jesus. Think about the special things Jesus did for people. Read a Bible verse about Jesus.)

What are other ways you can remember Jesus this week? Make sure each child has the opportunity to share a way to remember Jesus.

SAY: **Let's remember Jesus now as we pray together.** Ask the children to say the prayer after you. PRAY: **Dear God, thank You for Jesus.** Pause. **I will remember what Jesus has done for me.** Pause. **Help me to remember Jesus this week.** Pause. **In Jesus' name, amen.**

Option I Will Remember Jesus



SAY: **We have learned that ♥ we should remember what Jesus did. Now it's time for each of you to choose a way you will remember Jesus this week.** Ask the children to sit in a circle. Give the prepared bag to a child and ask him to pull one object from the bag. Ask how that object could be used to remember Jesus. Continue until all the objects have been shown.

Lay the items at various places around the room. Tell the children they should move to the item that represents a way they want to remember Jesus this week. Let the children know it's OK for more than one person to choose the same way to remember Jesus. Close with a time of prayer. Ask for volunteers to pray. Encourage them to ask for God's help in remembering Jesus.

Saying Good-bye

- Make sure children have projects and activity pages they have done in class.
- If you have time before parents arrive, use some of the activities on the Additional Activities for Special Unit page.

Materials

bread and glass of grape juice used for Bible Exploration time



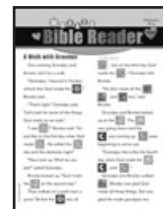
Materials

gift bag, items that represent ways to remember Jesus



Before Class

Place in a bag several items that represent ways to remember Jesus. Possible items: Bible or Bible storybook (read about Jesus), small cross, picture of someone praying, drawing paper and marker (draw a picture of Jesus), CD player or small musical instrument (sing a song about Jesus).



Weekly Bible Reader

Give each student a *Weekly Bible Reader* to take home.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.heartshaper.com.

