

## Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<p><b>Lower Elementary</b></p> <p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> God raised Jesus from the dead!</p> <p><b>CATERPILLAR AND BUTTERFLY TAG:</b> Kids will play a game of tag where they are in a cocoon, and emerge as a butterfly.</p> <p><b>BINS AND BEANBAGS:</b> Kids will use beanbags to indicate whether a statement from the Bible story is true or false.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> None</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Red bandana, green bandana, CD player, CD, beanbags, bins, markers, paper, copies of True or False? sheet (page 45)</p>
<p><b>Upper Elementary</b></p> <p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> Jesus' death and resurrection give us hope.</p> <p><b>RESURRECTION HOPE:</b> Kids will complete a crossword based on Holy Week and Easter.</p> <p><b>KEYS OF HOPE:</b> When keys are dropped, kids will search for an open chair.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Pencils</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Pencils, Resurrection Hope Crossword (page 47), answer key (page 48), set of keys, chairs, CD player, CD</p>
<p><b>All Kids</b></p> <p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> Death can't stop the love of God.</p> <p><b>BRING IT ON:</b> Kids will bounce balls on a parachute to demonstrate that nothing is impossible with God.</p> <p><b>CLUES FOR JESUS:</b> Kids will search for eggs filled with clues and use them to recreate Jesus' story.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Pencils</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Parachute, balls, baskets, plastic eggs, small stick or branch, purple fabric, small cross, nails, heart, stone or rock</p>



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit [www.wearesparkhouse.org](http://www.wearesparkhouse.org) to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Director CD-Rom contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Sparkhouse Digital annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Director CD-Rom and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.



**Workshop Focus:** God raised Jesus from the dead!

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.

## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Holy Week and Easter Storytelling

Welcome kids as they arrive. **It is so great to have you here! Today we are going to learn about Holy Week and Easter. This was a time of Jesus' life when there was both great joy and sadness. What things do you experience great joy about?** Allow time for kids to respond. **What things make you sad?** Allow time for kids to respond.

**In today's stories, we'll hear about the joy and sadness that Jesus experiences. Can you show me a face of joy and a face of sadness?** Allow time for kids to make faces. **We are going to read three stories. When there is joy in the story, stand up, smile, and wave your arms. When there is sadness, lie down on the floor and close your eyes.** Practice with the kids. Read the story aloud, emphasizing the different emotions.

**First we will read the story of Palm Sunday. Turn to it in your Spark Story Bibles on page 454.**

**Next, we will read The Day Jesus Died on page 476.**

**Now, we get to read The Empty Tomb on page 482.**

Spark Resources  
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies  
None

**What joy happened in the stories?** Allow time for kids to respond. **What sadness happened?** Allow time for kids to respond. **Palm Sunday begins with the joy of Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem, but that joy quickly turns to sadness with Jesus' death on the cross. Yet, Jesus' death was not the end. On that first Easter morning everything changed! God raised Jesus from the dead! Jesus died so that we would have forgiveness and eternal life. This means that we will live forever with Jesus. What an amazing thing! Thank you, God, for loving us so much!**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Caterpillar and Butterfly Tag

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**In our stories today, we learned that Jesus died and God raised him back to life. Let's play a game called Caterpillar and Butterfly Tag. A butterfly is a symbol of Jesus' resurrection, God raising Jesus from the dead. So when we see a butterfly, we can think of the resurrection.**

1. Gather in an open space in the room.
2. Select two people to be "It" (one will be the caterpillar tagger, and one will be the butterfly tagger).
3. Explain the game. **In this game, two people are "It." One is a caterpillar and one is a butterfly. To tell them apart, the caterpillar will wear a red bandana and the butterfly will wear a green bandana.** Give each tagger the correct bandana. **When you are tagged by the caterpillar, you will lie down on the ground with your arms by your side and legs straight out as if you are in a cocoon.** Demonstrate. **To be in the game again, the butterfly must tag you on your arms.**
4. When the group is spread out, start the music and begin the game.
5. Encourage the caterpillar to run around the room and tag the other kids.
6. Invite the butterfly to tag kids in cocoons on the floor.
7. The caterpillar and butterfly are not allowed to tag each other.
8. Remind kids to watch where they are running so they do not trip or step on anyone.
9. If desired, choose more than one caterpillar and butterfly tagger.
10. Every few minutes, stop the music and select new taggers.
11. Play as long as time allows.

Spark Resources  
None

Supplies  
Red bandana  
Green bandana  
CD player  
CD with lively music

12. After the game, discuss the following. **Great job everyone! What did you like best about this game?** Allow time for kids to respond. **When a caterpillar enters a cocoon, it seems as though it is dead. Yet, when the time is right the caterpillar comes out as a beautiful butterfly. The story of Jesus during Holy Week and Easter is like that except when Jesus was placed in the tomb, he really was dead. Yet, on the third day he rose again. Jesus didn't stay dead. God raised Jesus from the dead. It is amazing that God loves us so very much!**

## Bins and Beanbags

**Set Up:** Using markers and paper, create a "True" sign and a "False" sign for each team. Tape one True sign and one False sign onto each bin, and put the bins 5-10 feet from where the kids will be standing in line. Place the two bins for each team a distance away from the others so the teams will know which bins belong to them.

### Activity Instructions

**What is a beanbag?** (*a bag filled with beans*) **Are beanbags all the same?** (*no*)

**What makes them different?** (*the type of beans inside and the size of the bag*) **We are going to play a game called Bins and Beanbags.**

1. Divide the kids into teams of 4-5 kids. When dividing, balance the younger and older kids on each team so they are evenly matched.
2. Explain the game. **In today's game, you are going to listen to statements from our Bible stories and decide whether they are true or false. When you get to the front of the line, if the statement is true, you are going to try to throw your beanbag into the "True" bucket. If the statement is false, you are going to throw your beanbag into the "False" bucket.**
3. Line the kids up in a straight line and give a beanbag to each kid. Encourage the kids to root for one another and help with the answers.
4. Invite the first kid on each team to listen as you read the first statement from the True or False? sheet on page 45 of this guide.
5. Encourage the kids to throw the beanbags into the correct bin and then go to the back of the line.
6. Repeat the process until you have read the first the first eight True or False statements.
7. Review the answers.
8. Retrieve the beanbags and give a beanbag to each kid.
9. Read the last eight statements and have the kids throw the beanbags into the correct bin.

### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

### Supplies

Beanbags, 8 per team of 4-5 kids

Bins, 2 per team of 4-5 kids

Markers

Paper

True or False? sheet, page 45

10. Review the answers.
11. When finished, discuss the following. **That was a fun way to learn more about Holy Week and Easter! What is your favorite part of this story?** Allow time for kids to respond. **It is so exciting that Jesus' death was not the end, but the beginning. God raised Jesus from the dead. What a wonderful thing!**

## Send (5 minutes)

### Wrap Up

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Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it and come together for Wrap Up.

Invite each kid to grab a beanbag. **Thanks for coming today and learning about Holy Week and Easter! We discovered that people were joyful on Palm Sunday, and they experienced great sadness from his death on the cross. Yet, Jesus' death was not the end. God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus is alive for us, and he shows us the way to heaven.**

Spark Resources  
Family Pages



Supplies  
None

### Prayer Time

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Instruct the kids to throw their beanbags into the air after you pray "Amen."

**Before we leave, let's pray together.**

**Amazing Jesus,**

**Thank you for dying on the cross,**

**So that we might live.**

**Like beanbags are all different,**

**We are all unique.**

**Yet, you died for each of one of us.**

**Thank you for your wonderful love!**

**Amen.** (Toss beanbags!)

**Workshop Focus:** Jesus' death and resurrection give us hope.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.

## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Holy Week and Easter Storytelling

Welcome kids as they arrive. **Hi, everyone! Today we are learning about Holy Week and Easter. This was a time of Jesus' life when he experienced both joy and suffering. What does it mean to suffer? (to feel pain, to hurt) Jesus suffered and died for our sins so that we have hope. What are some things you hope for?** Allow time for kids to respond.

**Our stories take place in the book of Matthew during the time of Passover when Jews from all over the world came to remember God delivering his people from slavery in Egypt.** Invite the kids to turn to the Palm Sunday story on page 1094 of their Spark Bibles. Ask for volunteers to read the story. Invite the kids to place a Spark Bible sticker by the story and write their response to the sticker prompt in the margin.

**Spark Resources**  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

**Supplies**  
Pencils

**What happens to Jesus during Holy Week and Easter?** Allow time for kids to respond. **There was joyful celebration on Palm Sunday and tremendous sorrow on Good Friday. But what happens on Easter morning?** (*Jesus is raised from the dead.*) **What a joyful day! Jesus suffered and died on the cross to give life to the entire world. His death and resurrection give us hope. God is at work in our lives and we know that sin and death no longer have hold over us. Thank you, Jesus, for your sacrifice and promise of new life!**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Resurrection Hope

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**Set Up:** Make copies of the Resurrection Hope Crossword found on page 47 of this guide, one copy per kid.

#### Activity Instructions

**The excitement of Palm Sunday, the deep sorrow of Good Friday, and the jubilant joy of Easter morning! Let's take a closer look at all of these events.**

1. Distribute the Resurrection Hope Crossword, one per kid.
2. Explain the game. **This is a crossword that contains clues from the stories we read today. Complete as many as you can without looking in your Spark Bibles. Let's see how well we know the story!**
3. Distribute pencils. If kids are struggling to answer the clues, invite them to use their Spark Bibles. Offer assistance as needed. If kids finish early, encourage them to make a puzzle of their own choosing. Play until all the kids have finished the puzzle. Review the answers.
4. When the game is finished, discuss the following. **Was there anything challenging about this crossword?** Allow time for kids to respond. **What do you find the most interesting about Holy Week and Easter?** Allow time for kids to respond. **So many things happened during that one week of Jesus' life. But the most important of all those things is that Jesus' sacrifice brings us hope for a new life. This hope is not like our hope for ice cream after dinner. This hope is HUGE! This is the kind of hope that gives us joy even when bad things are happening. As Christians, we are hope-filled people! Thank you, God, for loving us that much!**

#### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

#### Supplies

Pencils

Resurrection Hope

Crossword, page 47, 1 per kid

Resurrection Hope Answer

Key, page 48

## Keys of Hope

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**Set Up:** Place chairs in a circle: one fewer chair than kids in the group.

### Activity Instructions

**Let's play a game called Keys of Hope.**

1. Explain the game. **In today's game, someone will have a set of keys. The person in the middle of the circle will have to figure out who has those keys. If the guess is correct, the keys will be dropped and everyone must find a new chair.**
2. Select someone to be the middle person, and ask him or her to leave the room.
3. Invite the remaining kids to sit in the chairs in a circle.
4. Give one person the keys and turn on the music.
5. Invite the middle person to come back into the room. Invite him or her to stand in the center of the circle with eyes closed.
6. Instruct the kids to start passing the keys behind their backs.
7. Encourage the kids to pass the keys as quietly as possible.
8. When the music stops, the kids immediately stop passing the keys.
9. The middle person opens his or her eyes and guesses who has the keys.
10. If the middle person guesses correctly, the key person drops the keys on the floor and everyone races for a new chair. The last person without a chair is the new person in the middle.
11. If the middle person is wrong, the game continues. The middle person gets three guesses. If the middle person does not guess correctly after three tries, a new middle person is selected.
12. Continue to play the game as long as time allows.
13. When the game is finished, discuss the following. **What did you like about this game? Allow time for kids to respond. When you were the middle person, you were hoping that you could figure out who had the keys. When you were the one holding the keys, you were hoping the middle person wouldn't figure out it was you. Well, Jesus is the hope in our lives. When we are unsure of how things may go, Jesus is the one who is always there. He died for our sins so that we may know God's everlasting love and be people of hope, joyful people for all others to see.**

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

Set of keys

Chairs

CD player

CD

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

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Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it and come together for Wrap Up.

Gather in a circle. **Thanks for coming to Bible Skills and Games to learn about Holy Week and Easter. As the joy of Palm Sunday quickly turned into the sadness of Good Friday, there was not much hope. Yet, Jesus changed everything! He suffered and died for our sins and was raised up on the third day. He gave his life so that the world may know love. He altered the course of history forever!**

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

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**Before we leave, let's pray together.**

**Amazing Jesus,**

**Thank you for your ultimate sacrifice, which freed us to love God and one another. You gave the gift of life to the entire world. Your death and resurrection give us joyful hope as Christians.** Invite the kids to change chairs. **As we move about in our lives, help us remember your amazing love and promise of new life!**

**Amen.**

**Workshop Focus:** Death can't stop the love of God.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.

## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Holy Week and Easter Storytelling

Welcome kids as they arrive. **Hi, kids! Today we are learning about Holy Week and Easter. This was the time of Jesus' life when there was tremendous joy as well as deep sadness. When have you experienced celebration and sadness?**

Allow time for kids to respond.

For 30 seconds, invite the kids to run freely around the room. Gather back together.

**Did anything limit where you could run? (walls, doors, etc.) There was freedom, but you still had to stay within certain boundaries. If you ran outside, would there be any limits? (roads, fences, etc.) As we will find out in our stories today, God's love knows no boundaries. God's love never blocks us out like walls and fences do.**

**Let's open our Bibles to the book of Matthew and follow the events of Jesus' life during Holy Week and Easter.**

Invite the younger kids to open their Spark Story Bibles to Palm Sunday on page 454. Assist as needed. Invite the older kids to open their Spark Bibles to Matthew 21:1-11 on page 1084. Ask for volunteers to read the story aloud, and encourage the older kids to place a sticker and their response to the sticker prompt in the margin near the story.

#### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

#### Supplies

Pencils

**The joy of Palm Sunday quickly turned into the great sadness and loss of Good Friday. Yet, Jesus' death was not the end. What happened on that first Easter morning? (Jesus was raised from the dead.) Jesus saved us from sin and death. When Jesus rose on the third day, it showed that God's love really has no limits. Nothing, not even death, can stop the love of God! What an amazing thing!**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Bring It On

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**In our story today, we found out that nothing, not even death, can stop the love of God. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, the gift of life was given to the whole world. God truly is awesome! Let's play a game called Bring It On.**

1. Gather in a large area.
2. Explain the game. **Today we are going to play a parachute game in which you have to try to keep as many balls as you can from going off the parachute.**
3. Invite the kids to grab hold of the parachute. Divide the kids so that younger and older kids are evenly balanced around the parachute.
4. Pull the parachute taut.
5. Encourage the kids to practice moving the parachute up and down.
6. Explain that the kids need to keep the balls from going off the sides of the parachute and the middle of the parachute has a hole.
7. Place one ball on the parachute.
8. Encourage the kids to move the parachute up and down to bounce the ball.
9. As the comfort level rises, add another ball. Then add another. See how many balls they can bounce. (You can use balls of varying sizes.)
10. If a ball falls off the parachute, start over again.
11. Play as long as time allows.
12. When the game is finished, discuss the following questions. **Great job! What was the most difficult part of this game?** Allow time for kids to respond. **Did it ever feel that the task was impossible?** Allow time for kids to respond. **It also seemed impossible that God could raise Jesus from the dead. Yet, that is exactly what God did! God loves us so much. Even death can't separate us from God!**

#### Spark Resources

None

#### Supplies

Parachute

Balls of various sizes (tennis balls, nerf balls, etc.)

## Clues for Jesus

### Set Up:

Place each item listed below inside the proper egg. Complete one set for each team of 4-5 kids:

- Green—small stick or branch (Palm Sunday)
- Purple—purple piece of fabric (Jesus is King of the Jews, God's Son)
- Blue—small cross (Jesus carried his cross, crucifixion)
- Orange—nails (crucifixion)
- Pink—heart (God loves us so much he sent Jesus to die for our sins)
- Yellow—stone or rock (The tomb is empty! Jesus is risen!)
- Hide the eggs outside.

### Activity Instructions

**Jesus did an amazing thing for us. He died on the cross so that we might live with him forever in heaven. Thank you, Jesus! Let's play a game where we recreate Jesus' incredible story during Holy Week and Easter.**

1. Divide the group into teams of 4-5 kids. When dividing, balance older and younger kids so the teams are evenly matched.
2. Explain the game. **You are going to search for six eggs of different colors: pink, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Inside each egg is a clue to Jesus' story. Your team will recreate the story of Jesus' life during Holy Week and Easter with the help of these clues.**
3. Distribute the baskets, one per team.
4. Explain the boundaries for outside and the time limit of five minutes to complete the search.
5. Invite the kids to go outside and find the eggs. Assist as needed.
6. When all the teams have their eggs, go back inside.
7. Invite the kids to open the eggs and retell the Jesus story using the clues.
8. Encourage them to use their Spark Story Bibles and Spark Bibles as needed.
9. If teams finish early, have them think of other clues that could be used to help tell the story.
10. Play until all teams have recreated the story.
11. Encourage the teams to share their stories with one another.
12. When the game is finished, discuss the following questions. **What did you enjoy the most about this activity?** Allow time for kids to respond. **Did any of the items in the eggs surprise you?** Allow time for kids to respond. **Jesus changed history forever. He gave us the promise of new life, and God showed that death is not the end but the beginning. Love, not death, conquers all!**

### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles  
Spark Bibles

### Supplies

Baskets, 1 per team of 4-5 kids

Six different colored plastic eggs, 1 for each team of 4-5 kids:

- Green
- Purple
- Blue
- Orange
- Pink
- Yellow

One of the following for each team of 4-5 kids:

- Small stick or branch
- Purple piece of fabric
- Small cross
- Nails
- Heart
- Stone or rock

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

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Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it and come together for Wrap Up.

Invite each of the kids to hold an egg and gather in a circle. **Thanks for coming as we learned about Holy Week and Easter! Jesus' death showed us that nothing, not even death, can stop the love of God. There are no limits to how much God cares for us. The gift that Jesus gave in his death helps the world to know of a love that never ends.**

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

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**Before we leave, let's say a prayer together.**

**Loving God,**

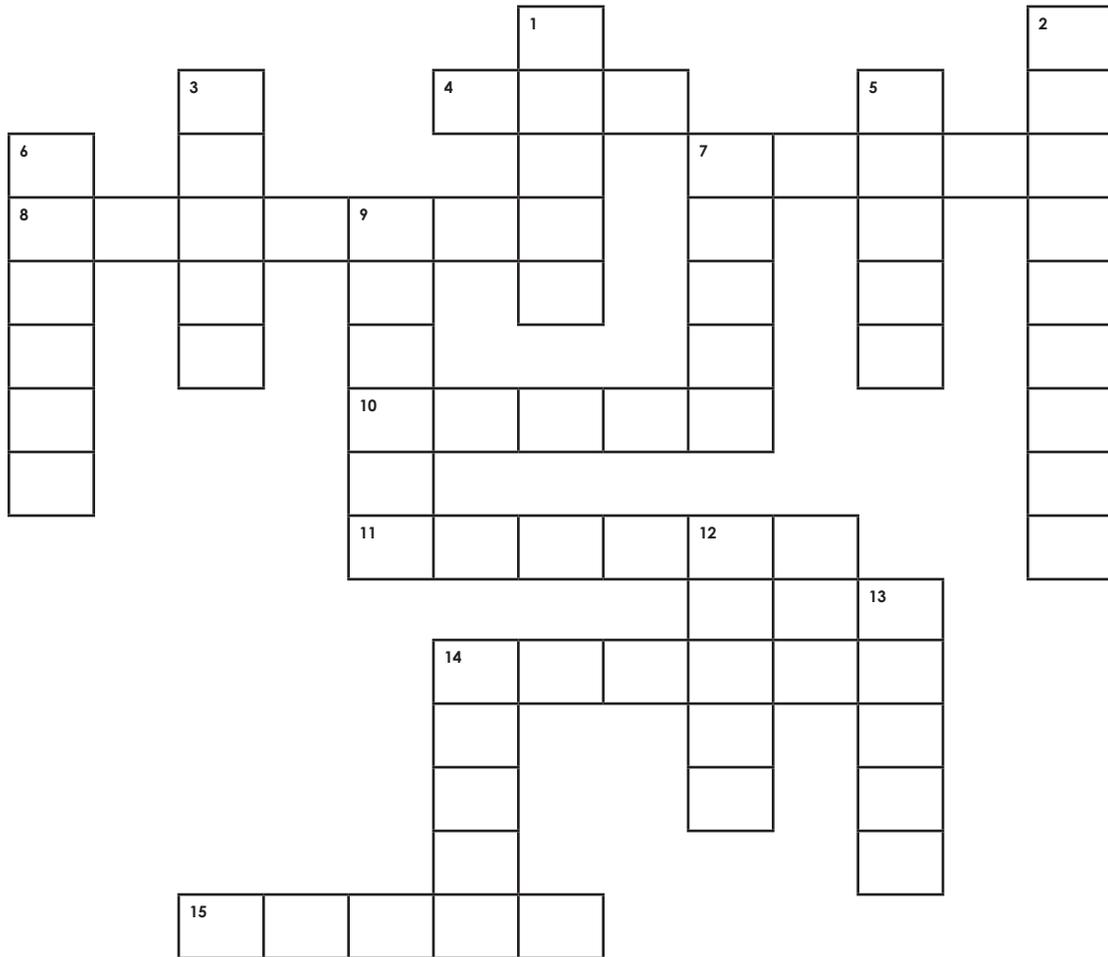
**The joy of Palm Sunday quickly turned into great sadness as Jesus died upon the cross for our sins. Yet, that was not the end. When Jesus was raised from the dead on that first Easter, we realized that even death cannot stop the love of God.** Invite the kids to hold up their plastic eggs. **Each year as Easter comes, may the plastic eggs we see remind us of Jesus' death on the cross and your everlasting love. Amen.**

# True or False?

1. Jesus and his disciples went to Jerusalem for Passover. (*True*)
2. Jesus climbed on the back of a horse and rode into Jerusalem. (*False; Jesus rode on a donkey.*)
3. The people threw palm branches on the ground to make a path for Jesus. (*True*)
4. The crowd gave Jesus a royal welcome, just like a king. (*True*)
5. The soldiers twisted some thorns and created a necklace for Jesus to wear. (*False; Soldiers put the thorns on Jesus' head.*)
6. The soldiers carried the cross for Jesus. (*False; Jesus and Simon carried the cross.*)
7. The soldiers nailed Jesus' hands and feet to the cross. (*True*)
8. God never left Jesus. God was with him the whole time. (*True*)
9. Jesus was glad that people didn't believe he was God's Son. (*False; Jesus taught that he was God's son.*)
10. Jesus asked God to forgive them for killing him. (*True*)
11. Jesus saved the world. (*True*)
12. Jesus rose on the third day. (*True*)
13. There was a huge tree in front of the tomb. (*False; There was a huge rock.*)
14. When the women arrived, Jesus was in the tomb. (*False; Jesus was not in the tomb.*)
15. The angel told the women, "Jesus isn't here. This is a place for the dead. Jesus is alive!" (*True*)
16. Mary bumped into Jesus. He really was alive! (*True*)



# Resurrection Hope Crossword



## ACROSS

4. Who never left Jesus?
7. What did Jesus have to carry until a man from the crowd carried it the rest of the way?
8. People shouted this when Jesus entered Jerusalem.
10. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ !
11. Jesus rode on this when entering Jerusalem.
14. The color of the cloak the soldiers put on Jesus.
15. Who appeared before the women in sparkling white clothes?

## DOWN

1. Jesus received this kind of welcome when he entered Jerusalem.

2. Who did the angel tell the women to go tell the news to?
3. Who did Mary bump into?
5. Who saw Jesus first after he had risen from the dead?
6. The crown placed on his head was made of these.
7. People threw these on the ground to make a path for Jesus.
9. How were Jesus' hands and feet attached to the cross?
12. When the women went to the tomb, it was \_\_\_\_\_ .
13. What can't stop the love of God?
14. Jesus was a king of \_\_\_\_\_ .

