

Bible Story 40: JESUS BEGINS LAST WEEK

SCRIPTURE: **Triumphal Entry Into Jerusalem:** Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44
Cleanses the Temple: Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19;
Luke 19:45-48
Parable: "The Two Sons" Matthew 21:28-31
Answers Question about Taxes: Matthew 22:15-22

MEMORY VERSE: Mark 11:17

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus began His last week of His life, which is called the Passion Week.

SUNDAY

On Sunday, it was nearing the time of the Feast of the Passover, a Jewish religious ceremony observed once a year in Jerusalem. When Jesus arrived at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples to go to a nearby village and get a colt that was tied. This colt was never ridden before by anyone. They were to tell anyone who asked, that the colt would be returned soon, but the Lord needed the colt now. The disciples obeyed and brought the colt to Jesus.

Jesus sat on the garments that were placed on the colt. A large crowd gathered around Jesus. As Jesus rode the colt toward Jerusalem, some people put their garments on the ground. Others put palm tree branches on the pathway. The people shouted, **"Hosanna! Blessed is the King that comes in the name of the Lord. Glory in the highest!"**

Jesus wept when He saw the city of Jerusalem.

It was late when Jesus entered Jerusalem. Soon Jesus left and spent the night in Bethany, about two miles from Jerusalem.

MONDAY

On Monday morning, Jesus returned and entered the Temple area in Jerusalem.

Jesus saw people exchanging money and selling animals for sacrifices in the place where the Gentiles (non Jews) were to go and worship God.

So Jesus turned over the tables where money was exchanged to buy the animals for the sacrifices. Also, Jesus drove out the buyers and sellers in the

Temple. Then Jesus said, **"It is written, 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all people of all nations.'"**

Jesus healed the lame and blind, taught and preached. Jesus spoke to His disciples about His death. When it was evening, He left, spending the night in Bethany.

TUESDAY

On Tuesday, Jesus returned to the Temple. He told a parable, a story, about two sons:

There was a man who had two sons. One day the father told one son to go and work in the vineyard. The son replied, "No," but later he went. The father asked another son to go work in the vineyard. This son replied, "Yes," but he did not go.

Jesus asked, **"Which of these two sons did what his father wanted?"** They replied, **"The son who went to work in the vineyard."** Then Jesus said that each person must repent and believe in Him.

The Pharisees, religious leaders, wanted to trick Jesus. They asked Jesus, **"Is it right to pay taxes to our ruler Caesar or not?"**

Jesus replied, **"Show me the coin that is used for paying tax."**

They gave Him a coin, a denarius.

Jesus asked, **"Whose picture is engraved on the coin?"**

They replied, **"Caesar's."**

Jesus said, **"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's. Also give to God what is God's."**

They were surprised at what Jesus said. Then they left. Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. When Jesus rode the colt toward Jerusalem, the people shouted, **"Hosanna! Glory to the highest."** Give glory to God the Father and His Son, Jesus.
2. Jesus drove out those who were selling and buying in the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus said, **"My house will be called a house of prayer."** Respect the church, the house of God.
3. In the parable, the first son repented; he turned from disobeying to obeying his father. Obey our heavenly Father's commandments. If you have been disobedient, turn back to obeying God.
4. Jesus said, **"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's."** Pay the required taxes to the government, and give to the Lord His rightful portion.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What religious ceremony did Jesus go to Jerusalem to observe?
2. On Sunday, what did Jesus ride into Jerusalem? How did Jesus get the colt?
3. What did the people do when Jesus rode into Jerusalem? What did the people shout?
4. What do you call Jesus?
5. When Jesus saw the city of Jerusalem, He wept. Why?
6. What are some things that cause you to cry? How can God comfort you?
7. On Monday, what did Jesus see when He went to the Temple?
8. What did Jesus do at the Temple? Why?
9. Why is it important to respect the church, the house of God?
10. What are some things we can do to respect the church, the house of God?
11. Tell the parable of the two sons. What does the parable mean?
12. What did Jesus mean "to repent and believe in Him"?
13. What did Jesus do and say as He answered the question about paying taxes?
14. What does this teach us about paying taxes?
15. What does this teach us about giving to God?

SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

- Ask: "Have you ever ridden a horse? A donkey? Ever ridden a horse that never has been ridden? Please share your experience with us."
- Show pictures of someone breaking in a horse. Or show a portion of a film where someone is breaking in a horse that has never been ridden.
- Say, "On one occasion, Jesus rode a colt that never had been ridden. This is the story."
- Using appropriate expressions, tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Immediately after telling the story, make applications of the lessons taken from the Bible story and apply to the lives of the listeners.

ATTEND CHURCH:

- Invite someone to go to church with you.

- PROJECT: DIRTY HANDS

- Plant some vegetables, grapevines, flowers, etc. Be responsible for taking care of the plants.
- Share a portion of your produce, flowers, etc. with someone. Attach encouraging Bible verses.

GUEST SPEAKER:

- Invite a policeman or someone else to come and talk about reasons to obey the laws. Talk about consequences of disobeying laws - to themselves and others.

OUTING(S):

1. Horse Ranch or Horses on a Farm

- Visit a horse ranch or farm. Talk about different kinds of horses and how to take care of them.
- Pet, feed and/or brush the horse's mane.

Observation: In some locations, there are horse ranches for the disabled. If possible, visit and volunteer to help at one of these facilities.

2. Vineyard, Garden or Farm

- Visit a vineyard, a garden or farm where grapes, etc. are grown. Learn about caring for grapes.
- Pick grapes, make homemade jelly, eat jelly sandwiches, etc.
- Share grapes, etc. with others.

MISSION ACTIVITY: ACTS OF KINDNESS

- As a group or individually, decide on a number of times to do acts of kindness to others during each day.
- At least this number of times each day, do acts of kindness for your family members, friends, colleagues, people in your community, etc. Examples:
 1. Carry groceries to a car or into the house.
 2. Do someone else's chore (cook, wash dishes, do laundry, clean the car, mow the grass, rake the yard, etc.).
 3. Express gratitude to the clerks, cashiers, colleagues, family members, friends, etc.
 4. Encourage others by a phone call, a written note, a card, etc.
 5. Brighten someone's day by giving a gift of flowers, candy, cookies, etc. Attach encouraging Bible verses.

DAILY BIBLE READING - Matthew 21:1-17,28-31; 22:15-22; Mark 11:1-11,15-19; Luke 19:28-48

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
Matthew 21:1-11	Mark 11:1-11	Luke 19:28-48	Mark 11:15-19	Matthew 21:12-17	Matthew 21:28-31	Matthew 22:15-22