

# LEADER'S GUIDE

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Sermon Discussion - 3/24/24



## **Read John 19:31-42**

Ask someone in the group to read the verses.



**Ask: What is Holy Week? Why are the events in the final week before Jesus' death important? ANSWER: It is the week before the death of Jesus. This week is significant because of the prophecies that were fulfilled and the intentional details that happened this week, all point to the redemption story of Creation as well as who God is.**

**Go through the following timeline with the group. (Leave space for questions or comment)**

**SUNDAY: Most of us know this day as Palm Sunday. This was the day that Jesus comes riding triumphantly into Jerusalem. 2 points of interest - 1. these are some of the same people that only days later will scream to let Barabbas go 2. Though they proclaimed Hosanna (save us) to Jesus they were only concerned with present day political freedom, not eternal salvation.**

**MONDAY: 2 things happen on Monday - 1. Jesus sees a fig tree in full foliage but not producing fruit and curses it. 2. Jesus enters the temple to find leaders and others have turned it into a market, profiting on the misfortunes on those that were bringing their mandatory tithe per the Jewish law. cont...**

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**A key event on Monday was that many were loudly praising Jesus for the miracles he had performed. This was a turning point where the religious leaders escalated their plan to kill Jesus.**

**TUESDAY:** Religious leaders begin to question Jesus' claims of who He is. They tried to trap him with questions and rhetoric. On Tuesday evening, Jesus stops with his disciples at the Mount of Olive, speaking to them about the upcoming trials and persecution they would ALL face.

**WEDNESDAY:** The day Judas decides to betray Jesus. While Jesus and some of the others were resting in Bethany at the house of Mary and Martha, the religious leaders were planning the details of their arrest of Jesus. Judas sees an opportunity of greed and makes himself the prophesied one who would betray Jesus. Another prophecy that had to be fulfilled in order for our redemptive story to be complete.

**THURSDAY:** Also known as Maundy Thursday, was the famous story from scripture of Jesus' last supper with the disciples. This event in an upper room is where we get our example of the communion we take together as a church family of Christians. This was a pivotal meal as we learn who it is that has betrayed Jesus and also who will deny Him. This meal is a picture of what we as Christians do to Christ on a daily basis and yet He still walks the road to Calvary to save us from our own guilt and punishment. Later that evening after the meal, Jesus and the disciples retire to the garden of Gethsemane to pray.

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**FRIDAY:** Known to us as Good Friday, the day Jesus was ultimately found guilty after being questioned and beaten through the night on Thursday, and to be sentenced to death on a cross. During this day Judas' betrayal is complete, Peter denies Jesus just as he said he would, and the disciples scatter, leaving only John to be there at the foot of the cross when Jesus dies.

**SATURDAY:** This is a not a day we historically hear much about in our churches. Silent Saturday as it is called is pivotal. It shows us how silence, lament, and time spent in meditation over the events in our story of salvation must be acknowledged. Silent saturday was filled with grief, confusion, and sorrow for those that were close to Jesus . For those religious leaders and others who decided Jesus was a problem, arrogance and pride most likely filled their spirits. Humility wins on Silent Saturday.

**SUNDAY:** Easter is the day we celebrate with great victory. Clarity is brought to the people who followed Jesus closely. A sigh of relief that he was who he said he was. Jesus comes back to life and supernaturally appears to many people. He is the victor and uses these next hours to explain what is next for His followers. He. Is. Risen. Hosanna!

This next Sunday is the day when most of the world knows why we as Christians celebrate to some degree or another. The challenge for this week is because that door is open, share with someone why we celebrate and invite that person with you to church to see it with their own eyes.