

# Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

*He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.*

—Philippians 2:8 NRSV

## Explore

---

4 x 6 inch index cards, dictionaries, concordances, scriptures

### Recipe for Humility

Pass out 4x6 inch index cards to the teens. Ask them to write a recipe for humility listing the ingredients and how to mix them together. Encourage discussion and sharing among the class members. If they find it too difficult to do individual recipes, create one as a whole. Provide dictionaries, concordances, and scripture to use as resources rather than the teacher supplying answers to any questions. Use these recipes as your class definition.

## Extract

---

Bible, prompt for dramatization of movie

Philippians 2:5–11  
Matthew 26:14—  
27:66/26:11—  
27:67 IV

### Jesus, the Humble Servant

Read Philippians 2:5–11. This epistle or letter from Paul was written to early Christians at Philippi to encourage them to be faithful and to serve others in the same manner as Jesus did. Take a look back to the final days of Jesus. Ask the teens to look for examples of humility in the passage. Read Matthew 26:14—27:66 (Matthew 26:11—27:67 IV). It is a long passage. Divide it up between several readers. If the class is large enough, have several teens take on the lead roles and dramatize the story as it is read. You may also wish to show a movie that depicts Jesus' joyful entry into Jerusalem, his final meetings with his disciples, and his crucifixion. Be sure to have appropriate licensing to show the movie. This time of year many television stations show the Easter story. You may choose to gather and watch the movies together at a different time and place. Discuss how the movie portrays Jesus' life in comparison to how the scriptures portray it.

## Experience

---

Bible,  
Matthew 21:1–11  
Matthew 21:1–9 IV

### Sharing The Story of Jesus

After reading Matthew 21:1–11, have the class act out the story as the scripture is read again. Allow each student to play the part of Jesus, so each one can experience what it was like for Jesus. You may want to have palms and coats, or something similar for the students to use during the reenactment. Discuss ahead of time with the worship coordinator, and have the class perform the drama in front of the congregation during the morning worship service. At the end of the reading, invite the congregation to join in shouting “Hosanna” and praises to God. Here, also allow others to play the role of Jesus if they wish.

### Sharing Our Gifts

Before entering into Jerusalem, Christ gave the disciples specific instructions concerning his mode of transportation, “Go over to the village across from you, you’ll find a donkey tethered there; her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you’re doing, say, ‘The Master needs them.’ He will send them with you.”

The scripture goes on to say the disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. What if the disciples ignored Jesus' instructions and came up with their own plan? What if the person with the donkey and colt had said no? Would it have made a difference in Christ's entry?

Has Jesus asked you for something you have to give? How did you respond? Without question or hesitation, yes or no? We all have gifts and when God asks us to share them, do we hesitate, withhold, or give freely? If you didn't give, did you think it wouldn't matter because what you had to give wasn't that much or not important, or not good enough?

Christ knows your gifts and wants you to share them with others, even if we don't see the purpose or reason why. Sometimes we may not see their value in the big picture overall. All he asks is for you to give of yourselves for the service of others.

Have students share experiences of when they were asked to share their gifts and how they responded.

## Anticipating

The atmosphere during Christ's entry into Jerusalem was a celebration of excitement and joy, because they thought the Messiah had come. The disciples were excited, the crowd was excited. The Pharisees and Sadducees were unhappy with the attention Jesus was given by the crowd. His festive entry brought more attention to him and made the local authorities more suspicious. What do you think Jesus was thinking? No one really knew what was coming at the end of the week but Jesus. What kind of mood or feelings do you think Jesus was experiencing? Do you think his entry would have been different if the disciples and crowd knew he was soon to be crucified? On the paper provided describe what you think Jesus was thinking and/or how he felt during the procession into Jerusalem, knowing that soon he would be crucified.

paper, pens

---

## Expand

## Demonstrating Humility

How can the class demonstrate humility? How can each class member become a humble servant, as Jesus did, to those around them and to their congregation? Think of a way to put humility into action. Look at local needs and resources. Devise a plan and carry it out in the next month.

## Celebrating Jesus

Invite students to select their favorite songs celebrating Jesus—hymns, campfire songs, contemporary Christian music—to sing and play .

media players

Form a circle prayer of praise. Invite each student to make a praise and thanksgiving statement, and after each statement is made have the rest respond with "Hosanna," "Praise God," or "Thank you, Jesus." After students have shared their statements, instruct everyone to put a hand in the middle of their circle, and as they raise them high in the air, say together, "Amen!"