FAITHFUL Followers

Memory Verse: ***"For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son. God gave His Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost but have eternal life." John 3:16***

Big Idea: ***God saves His people because He loves.***

Bible Story: Holy Week | Jesus' Death and Resurrection

Gear Up - Arrival

Greet children as they enter the classroom. Mark them present using your iPad and/or paper roster.

Opening Activities: Engage with the kids in your room as they play and interact with designated games and activities as time allows. Use this opportunity to ask kids about their week, discuss their interests, and encourage them to connect with one another!

***A variety of activity and coloring sheets will be ready and available for kids.**

Gear Up - Welcome – 5 minutes

Begin 10 minutes after the service time starts (Ex. 9:40 at the 9:30 experience).

Gather kids together in a space where they can see the TV.
Take a moment to **welcome** the kids to KXP and let them know how glad you are that they are here!

PRAY FIRST! We want to model this for our kids. Take a moment to pray for the time together and for the kids in your room.

Lesson Introduction – 5 minutes

Share the Lesson Intro with the class before starting the **KXP lesson video**. Challenge them to listen and pay attention during the Bible Story.

Say: *"Hey everyone! Welcome to KXP! Today we're going to learn about a very special week in the Bible called* ***Holy Week****. It's the week that leads up to* ***Easter****, when we celebrate that Jesus is alive. We will see God's plan unfold during the week that changed the world. This story is all about how much Jesus loves us!"*

Play the KXP lesson video in your classroom.

Bible Story – 10 minutes

Leaders, please read the Bible story below before Sunday to prepare for discussion.

Holy Week | Jesus' Death and Resurrection

Let's go through the week together. The story begins on **Palm Sunday**, which is what we call the Sunday before Easter Sunday. Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey. Crowds of people gathered to see Him. They were excited! They waved palm branches and shouted: ***"Hosanna! Blessed is the King!"*** The people believed Jesus was the King that God had promised to send. But Jesus wasn't the kind of king who wore a golden crown or lived in a fancy palace. He came to love people and save them.

A few days later, Jesus had a special dinner with His twelve disciples. The disciples were Jesus' closest friends. This meal is called **The Last Supper**. During the meal, Jesus did something important. He broke bread and shared it with His friends. Then He shared a cup with them. The Bible describes this in ***Luke chapter 22, verses 19 and 20. "Then Jesus took bread. He gave thanks and broke it. He handed it to them and said, 'This is my body. It is given for you. Every time you eat it, do this in memory of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup. He said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. It is poured out for you.'"***

Jesus was telling His followers to always remember Him-to remember all that He taught them, all they had seen, and all they had heard. They were witnesses to Jesus' life and His mission. ***Jesus says in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that He lay down His life for His friends."***

After dinner, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He knew He would experience pain and death. What an incredibly hard thing to know AND have to face! Even though He knew what was to come, He willingly surrendered His life to His Father's plan. Jesus trusted God and prayed for strength.

Soon after, Jesus was betrayed by Judas, one of His own disciples. Jesus was arrested and taken to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. Even though Jesus had done nothing wrong, He was treated like a criminal. He was sentenced to die a painful death on a cross. Christians remember this day as **Good Friday**. It was a very sad day.

We have all done things that God said wasn't good. That means we've sinned. God wants us to have a relationship with Him forever, but sin separates us from God. So, God sent Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and take the punishment for our sins as a sacrifice on the cross. Jesus willingly went to the cross and died the death we deserve as sinners. He died so that we could have a new life with God.

After Jesus died, His friends placed His body in a tomb. The tomb was like a hollowed-out cave in the side of a large boulder. A huge stone was rolled in front of the entrance, and guards were placed outside to make sure no one tried to steal Jesus' body. It seemed like the story was over. But God had something amazing planned.

Early on Sunday morning, Jesus' friends, Mary of Bethany and Mary Magdalene, walked to His tomb to be close to Jesus. But before they could ask the guards to see Jesus' body, an earthquake shook the ground, and an angel dressed in white came down from heaven and rolled the huge stone away. The angel sat on top of the stone! The guards were so frightened that they fainted! Then the angel spoke: ***"...say to them: 'Jesus has risen from death. He is going into Galilee. He will be there before you. You will see him there.' Then the angel said, 'Now I have told you.'" (Matthew 28:7)*** **Jesus was alive!**

Soon, Jesus appeared to many of His followers. They saw Him with their own eyes! They touched Him with their own hands! Jesus had been buried for three days, but Jesus didn't stay in the grave. Just as God promised, Jesus was resurrected from the dead. He was made alive again by God's power and His plan.

Easter reminds us of something wonderful! Jesus loves us. ***John 3:16 in the Bible says "For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son. God gave His Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost but have eternal life."*** He died for our sins and God raised Him from the dead. Because Jesus is alive, we can have **forgiveness, hope, and new life with God**. And that is why Easter is such a joyful celebration. So, let's remember that Holy Week shows us the greatest love story ever told — the story of God's love for us through His Son, Jesus. And the best part is...**Jesus IS alive!**

Lesson Recap –15 minutes

After the video has ended, **share the Lesson Conclusion** with the class.

Say: *"I'm so glad you were here for Palm Sunday! Next Sunday is Easter! You won't meet in your usual classrooms next week. You will join your family in our worship services. Invite a friend or several friends to join you at church for Easter. We'll see you back in KXP on April 12th."*

Direct the kids to the **Memory Verse** and **Big Idea** posters in your room. Have your class read them together out loud. Celebrate the kids for paying attention and listening well!

Close in Prayer – 3 to 5 minutes

Ask the kids in your room to share any **prayer requests** they have. Give them a moment to **fill out prayer cards** or **choose a prayer prompt** to take home. Then **pray over them**!

- **P**RAISE - *Open with adoration.*
- **R**EPENT - *Recall and connect the Big Idea from the Bible Story to yourself and the kids.*
- **A**SK - *Petition the Lord on the kids' behalf.*
- **Y**IELD - *Close by giving thanks to God for His perfect plan.*

Live It Out – 5 to 8 minutes | **White as Snow**



What you'll need: black & red construction paper, cross cut-outs, glue, white tissue paper squares, title/verse print out

How to:

- Have the kids cut a heart shape out of red construction paper.
- Next glue the heart and title/verse print onto black construction paper.
- Put glue on the cross cut-out and press white tissue paper squares onto the cross.
- Lastly, glue the cross onto the red heart.

Leaders Ask:

1. What did people wave when Jesus entered Jerusalem?
   (Palm branches)
2. What special meal did Jesus eat with His disciples?
   (The Last Supper)
3. What happened on Good Friday?
   (Jesus died on the cross)
4. What did the women find at the tomb on Easter morning?
   (It was empty)
5. Why did Jesus die and rise again?
   (Because He loves us and saves us from sin)

Leave No Trace – End of the Hour

- As parents arrive to pick up children, have the **kids work together to clean up** the classroom.
- **Thank them** for coming and **encourage them to invite a friend** and come back next week!
- Children can **finish opening activities** while waiting on their parents.