

Holy Week Resources for Intergenerational Home Worship



Illustrated Ministry is supporting local congregations and families by providing **free, weekly, faith formation resources for all ages** as we all work to flatten the curve amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.illustratedministry.com/flattenthecurve>



You'll be asked for your first name and e-mail address, to which free, downloadable coloring pages and resources will be sent weekly. This is a simple yet meaningful way to engage faith. Illustrated Ministry is a trusted company that has provided quality materials by thousands of churches from over 60+ denominations around the world.

5 Illuminating Ways of Spending Holy Week with Children

See plans for a Holy Week Easter egg hunt, baking bread, daily prayers, a coat giveaway, and Seder meal <https://www.illustratedministry.com/category/family-ministry/page/17/>

Ideas to do together as an Intergenerational Home Worship Children's Lesson or follow up to worship (these experiences provide opportunities to discuss Holy Week, Jesus' sacrifice, and the empty tomb)

- **Read the same scripture from a children's bible as was read for adults** – consider using *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible for children ages 4-8*, Editors: Elizabeth F. Caldwell and Carol A. Wehrheim
- **Plant flowers** – Talk about God's Creation as you dig in the dirt together
- **Color** – most children love when older siblings and parents color with them
- **Create a labyrinth** – no need to make it perfect, just fashion a place to be present with God
- **Write a prayer** – include people we love, people who are hurting, people who hurt others, etc.
- **Watch clouds** – imagine Jesus watching the clouds from under an olive tree; discuss Holy Week
- **Create a photo album** – print digital photos from past years at church during Holy Week/ Easter
- **Lectio Divina (with teens)** – First, *read* the scripture slowly. Next, read the scripture again; *reflect* on what God is giving to you – a word? An image? Then, read the scripture and *respond* to God in words or pictures. Finally, *rest* and let go of your thoughts and listen deeply.
- **Go on an indoor picnic** – pretend that you're one of Jesus' disciples eating with Jesus and he's talking about what's going to happen to him in the days ahead (adapt for age-appropriateness)
- **Memorize scripture** – even four year olds can learn the 23rd Psalm by making up hand motions

Intergenerational Home Worship – We Just Might Glimpse the Divine

by Rev. Katy Yates Brungraber

When we worship at home with children,
their wiggles and giggles and questions and crumbs remind us that life is messy...
and in the mess, there is room to wonder...and in the wonder, we just might glimpse the Divine.
When we worship at home with older adults,
their creaky knees and hearing aids and forgetful minds remind us that life is hard...
and in the hardship, we realize we're not in control...and in humility, we just might glimpse the Divine.
When we worship at home with those who require special accommodations,
their need to slow down and adapt reminds us that there is pleasure in being on holy ground...
and on holy ground, we remove our sandals...and barefooted, we just might glimpse the Divine.
May the God of wiggles, creaky knees, and special needs, surround us with love.
May the God of messiness, hardship, and holy ground, walk with us from Gethsemane to glory.
May the God of wonder, humility, and bare feet, grant us the joy of the kingdom of heaven on earth.