Topic: Holy Week

*Grades: 1-6*

Length: 45-60 min.

Materials needed:

* “The Easter Story” *–30 min.* (The Greatest Adventures series, or one similar that will tell the story of Holy Week)
* Holy Week Memory game

Resources:

<http://www.catholiceducation.org/articles/religion/re0535.html>

<http://www.catholicmom.com/2007_lesson_plans/holy_week.pdf>

<http://catholicicing.com/2010/03/holy-week-games-and-lesson-plans/>

Students will be able to:

* Describe some of the events that occurred during Holy Week
* Explore different emotions they feel when remembering the events of Holy Week

PROCEDURE

Introduction:

* Begin class with prayer (either your own or the one below)
* *Lord, during this Lenten season, may we remember you and all the sacrifices you made for us. Whenever we are faced with difficult decisions and temptation, help us to turn to you and remember to choose the choice that will make you smile. Thank you for your strength and graces. (Take 3-5 prayer intentions) We ask this in your name. Amen.*
* Play the song: *Love Never Fails* (<http://youtu.be/2Npvp3Pt1C4>)
* Allow for a few moments of silent individual prayer

Body:

* Have a brief discussion about what Holy Week is, and what some of the events that occur are.
	+ It includes the activities that occur between Palm Sunday all the way to Easter Sunday
	+ Begins with Palm Sunday, when Jesus comes to Jerusalem and people are excited and wave palm branches for him!
	+ Last Supper—when Jesus ate with His disciples and gave them bread and wine as His body and blood; He also washes the feet of His disciples at this time
	+ The Garden of Gethsemane—Jesus goes to pray with His disciples; His disciples fall asleep and He prays and is in such distress that He sweats drops of blood
	+ It includes all of the “Stations of the Cross” (from when Jesus was condemned to death, up until His death on the cross and being laid in the tomb)
	+ Ends with Easter—his coming back to life and resurrection into heaven!
* Watch “The Easter Story” *–30 min.(*The Greatest Adventures series, or one similar that will tell the story of Holy Week)
	+ Option: have pretzels as a snack during the movie, and relate it to how pretzels is a traditional Lenten snack (According to pretzel maker Snyder’s of Hanover, a young monk in the early 600s in Italy was preparing a special Lenten bread of water, flour and salt. To remind his brother monks that Lent was a time of prayer, he rolled the bread dough in strips and then shaped each strip in the form of crossed arms, mimicking the then popular prayer position of folding one’s arms over each other on the chest. The bread was then baked as a soft bread, just like the big soft pretzels one can find today. (To be fair, some traditions date the story to even the 300s.) (From <http://www.catholiceducation.org/articles/religion/re0535.html> March 27, 2012)
* Once the video is over, review the movie and the different emotions that came with it.
* Finish the lesson with a Holy Week Memory game (unfortunately I could not reproduce it on this website, but that cards and instructions are free do download and use at <http://catholicblogger1.blogspot.ca/2009/10/holy-week-memory-game.html> --you will need to prepare these in advance as you will most likely want to laminate them.)

Closure:

* End the class in a prayer of thanksgiving and asking for strength for their Lenten journey.