

EIGHT DAYS IN JERUSALEM

by Mark & Karla Jensen



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Eight Days in Jerusalem

Readings for Lent

by Mark and Karla Jensen

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PRODUCTION NOTES

A repeated introduction each week in this series unifies the weeks of Lent and allows worshipers to get on board a memorable trip to Jerusalem, as the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection unfold during a dramatic Holy Week. *Eight Days in Jerusalem* examines both traditional and unexpected entrances, exits, invitations, meals, and prayers; ones we encounter today and those that leave a lasting impression as we travel with Jesus on the road to Calvary. This series of readings breaks down the events day by day, begging the question, "Can one day be that memorable in the life of our Lord and Savior?" The answer arrives in the reiterated closing thought that "One day added to seven others can be life changing."

Eight Days in Jerusalem is set up as a Reader's Theatre, with blocking easily changed to fit your stage area and cast of Voices. The Voices may want to dress in a similar color and place their scripts into black folders for uniformity. We began each sketch with the Voices in the simple formation of a horizontal arc across the front of the sanctuary. We started with our backs to the congregation, had the middle person give the nod, then we all turned counterclockwise to face the congregation, opened our folders in unison, and began reading. The only objects you will need are a train whistle for the recurring weekly introduction and a stepladder for the first week.

Even though there are six weeks of Lent, only five scripts are included here to allow for special services on Palm Sunday or, if performed for midweek Wednesday services, for Ash Wednesday. Often, churches will plan something different on those days, and therefore you won't need to omit any of the readings.

Scripture references have only been cited in the text when they are outside the parameters of the passages included at the beginning of each script. They are for reference purposes only and are not intended to be read.

Week 1
The Triumphal Entry
Based on Matthew 21:1-11

- 5 *(VOICES enter and assume arc formation with backs to*
 6 *congregation until given the signal to turn around.)*
- 7 **VOICE 1:** You've seen it in the mail.
- 8 **VOICES 2 and 3:** *(Together)* You've seen it in the stores.
- 9 **VOICE 4:** You've read it in the newspapers.
- 10 **ALL:** *(Together)* Eight glorious days.
- 11 **VOICES 5 and 6:** *(Together)* Eight memorable days.
- 12 **VOICES 3 and 4:** *(Together)* Eight sun-filled days.
- 13 **VOICE 1:** Getting away.
- 14 **VOICE 2:** Cruising upon the ocean. *(ALL make boat horn*
 15 *noise.)*
- 16 **VOICE 3:** Relaxing upon the beach. *(ALL make lapping noise.)*
- 17 **VOICE 5:** Riding on the train. *(VOICE 1 blows train whistle.)*
- 18 **VOICE 6:** Can eight days be so memorable?
- 19 **VOICE 4:** Can eight days be that life changing?
- 20 **ALL:** *(Together)* Eight days in Jerusalem can.
- 21 **VOICE 3:** Join the journey now to the Holy Land.
- 22 **VOICES 4, 5, and 6:** *(Together)* Without ever leaving your
 23 seats.
- 24 **VOICES 1 and 2:** *(Together)* These are eight days you won't
- 25 **ALL:** *(Together)* Forget! *(Pause)* There are entrances,
- 26 **VOICE 2:** And then there are entrances.
- 27 **VOICE 4:** A doorway is an entrance. *(Mimes opening door with*
 28 *screeching sound.)*
- 29 **VOICE 6:** An account number is an entrance.
- 30 **ALL:** *(Together)* Five-five-five, one-two-one-two.
- 31 **VOICE 1:** A password allows you to enter —
- 32 **ALL:** *(Together)* If you can remember it! *(VOICES 4, 5, and 6*
 33 *step in front of VOICE 3, while she stands on tiptoe to see*
 34 *over other VOICES during her next line.)*
- 35 **VOICE 3:** A gate keeps one from entering.

- 1 **VOICES 4, 5, and 6:** *(Together)* Unless someone opens the
 2 gate. *(VOICES 4, 5, and 6 gently move out of the way while*
 3 *VOICE 3 passes through them to stage front.)*
- 4 **VOICE 5:** A passport allows someone to enter ...
- 5 **VOICES 1-3:** *(Together)* Another country. *(Here all VOICES*
 6 *proceed to form a straight line with VOICE 6 first and the*
 7 *rest in numerical order behind him or her from stage front*
 8 *to back. Each VOICE moves quickly from the front of the line*
 9 *to the back as lines are recited.)*
- 10 **VOICE 6:** I just need a ticket to enter
- 11 **VOICE 1:** The theatre.
- 12 **VOICE 2:** The show.
- 13 **VOICE 3:** The concert.
- 14 **VOICE 4:** The game.
- 15 **VOICE 5:** The ride.
- 16 **VOICE 6:** The plane. *(All VOICES move back into usual*
 17 *formation.)*
- 18 **ALL:** *(Together)* There are entrances,
- 19 **VOICE 2:** Then there are *entrances*.
- 20 **VOICE 3:** As they approached
- 21 **ALL:** *(Together)* Jerusalem
- 22 **VOICE 4:** And came to Bethphage
- 23 **VOICES 5 and 6:** *(Together)* On the Mount of Olives
- 24 **VOICE 6:** Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,
- 25 **ALL:** *(Together)* Go to the village ahead of you at once.
- 26 **VOICE 1:** You will find a donkey
- 27 **VOICES 3-6:** *(Together)* with her colt by her.
- 28 **ALL:** *(Together)* Untie them
- 29 **VOICE 2:** And bring them to me.
- 30 **VOICE 1:** If anyone says
- 31 **VOICES 2, 4, and 6:** *(Together)* Anything to you, anything at
 32 all,
- 33 **VOICE 3:** Tell him the Lord needs them.
- 34 **ALL:** *(Together)* The Lord needs them.
- 35 **VOICES 1-3:** *(Together)* This took place to

- 1 **ALL:** *(Together)* **Fulfill**
2 **VOICE 4:** **What was spoken by the prophet.**
3 **VOICES 5 and 6:** **Say to the Daughter of Zion,**
4 **VOICES 1 and 2:** **See, your king comes to you**
5 **ALL:** *(Together)* **Gentle —**
6 **VOICE 6:** **Not rough, not pompous or arrogant —**
7 **VOICE 3:** **And riding on a donkey.**
8 **VOICES 4-6:** *(Together)* **The disciples did as Jesus had**
9 **instructed them.**
10 **VOICE 5:** **They brought the donkey**
11 **VOICE 6:** **And the colt,**
12 **VOICES 1-3:** *(Together)* **Placed their cloaks on them,**
13 **VOICE 4:** **And Jesus sat on them.**
14 **VOICE 2:** **A very**
15 **ALL:** *(Together)* **Large crowd. (ALL make crowd noises;**
16 *whistling, whooping, etc.)*
17 **VOICE 1:** **How many in the crowd? Fifty?**
18 **VOICE 3:** **A hundred?**
19 **VOICE 6:** **Maybe hundreds!**
20 **VOICE 4:** **The large crowd spread their cloaks on the road.**
21 **VOICES 1, 3, and 5:** *(Together)* **On the road? Really?**
22 **ALL:** *(Together)* **Really! (They all mime spreading cloaks on the**
23 *road.)*
24 **VOICES 2-4:** *(Together)* **While others cut**
25 **ALL:** *(Together)* **Branches**
26 **VOICE 6:** **From the trees, and spread them on the road as**
27 **well.**
28 **VOICES 1-3:** *(Together)* **The crowds went ahead of him. (With**
29 **VOICE 2 in the middle, they move as a group around the**
30 *stage, as if surrounding Jesus.)*
31 **VOICES 4-6:** *(Together)* **Some of the crowds stayed behind**
32 **him.**
33 **VOICE 2:** **They shouted from the streets,**
34 **ALL:** *(Together)* **Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!**
35 **VOICES 3-6:** *(Together)* **Blessed is he**

- 1 VOICES 1-3: *(Together)* Who comes in the name of the
 2 ALL: *(Together)* Lord.
 3 VOICES 2 and 4: *(Together)* Hosanna in the highest! *(All*
 4 *return to usual formation.)*
 5 VOICE 5: So they treated him like a king.
 6 VOICE 3: Like a president.
 7 VOICE 4: Like a hero.
 8 VOICE 5: Like a sports figure.
 9 VOICE 6: Yet Jesus chose not to ride a horse.
 10 VOICES 2 and 3: *(Together)* Like royalty would. *(ALL hum*
 11 *"Pomp and Circumstance.")*
 12 VOICE 5: Go figure!
 13 ALL: *(Together)* No, no, no!
 14 VOICE 4: Jesus chose a common
 15 ALL: *(Together)* Donkey
 16 VOICE 4: Instead.
 17 VOICE 6: When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city
 18 ALL: *(Together)* Stirred.
 19 VOICES 1 and 2: *(Together)* They asked,
 20 VOICES 3-6: *(Together)* Who is this?
 21 VOICE 6: Who is this?
 22 VOICE 5: Who is this?
 23 VOICE 4: Who is this?
 24 VOICE 3: Who is this?
 25 VOICE 1: Someone who will change my life? *(Each VOICE*
 26 *moves onto small stepstool or ladder as they say these next*
 27 *few lines.)*
 28 VOICE 2: Someone who will be remembered for something
 29 he says or does?
 30 VOICE 3: Someone I'll be seeing again? *(Other VOICES not*
 31 *on stool join VOICES that are.)*
 32 ALL: *(Together)* The crowds answered,
 33 VOICES 4-6: *(Together)* This is Jesus.
 34 ALL: *(Together)* Jesus.
 35 VOICES 1 and 2: *(Together)* A prophet from Nazareth in

- 1 Galilee. (VOICES 1-3 step off stool.)
- 2 VOICE 4: Isn't a prophet someone sent by (Steps off stool.)
- 3 ALL: (Together) God
- 4 VOICE 4: Who speaks the truth of God?
- 5 ALL: (Together) Yes, yes, yes!
- 6 VOICE 5: Great, I'm in. Get me a ticket. (VOICES 5 and 6 step
- 7 off stool.)
- 8 VOICES 3 and 4: (Together) A ticket for what?
- 9 VOICE 5: Isn't Jesus going to be singing, dancing, or at
- 10 least performing here in Jerusalem this week?
- 11 VOICES 1 and 2: (Together) It sure looks that way.
- 12 VOICE 1: I'll buy a ticket, too. Maybe he'll sign my CD.
- 13 VOICE 2: Or my T-shirt. "Jesus rocks." That's how I want
- 14 him to sign it.
- 15 VOICE 5: Yeah, he'd be a fool not to be selling T-shirts at a
- 16 time like this.
- 17 VOICE 3: Let's get to the auditorium early.
- 18 VOICE 4: I'd hate to miss his entrance on the stage.
- 19 ALL: (Together) Wait, wait, wait! (All move back into usual
- 20 formation.)
- 21 VOICE 6: Jesus isn't like that, my friends.
- 22 VOICE 3: Jesus was more like —
- 23 ALL: (Together) One of us?
- 24 VOICE 6: Yes. Jesus was both
- 25 VOICES 1-3: (Together) Man
- 26 VOICES 4-6: (Together) And God.
- 27 VOICE 2: He entered Jerusalem
- 28 VOICES 4-6: (Together) Because he knew he had to.
- 29 VOICE 1: Had to what?
- 30 VOICE 3: Make it.
- 31 VOICE 4: You mean like an actor starting out in a small
- 32 town and making it
- 33 ALL: (Together) Big
- 34 VOICE 4: In New York City or L.A.?
- 35 VOICE 6: Sort of.

- 1 VOICE 3: Jesus knew Jerusalem was the Holy City.
 2 ALL: *(Together)* Holy City.
 3 VOICES 2, 4, and 6: *(Together)* Where God's plan for him
 4 ALL: *(Together)* And us
 5 VOICE 5: Might be fulfilled.
 6 VOICES 1, 3, and 5: *(Together)* That was the first day in
 7 Jerusalem.
 8 VOICE 2: Being welcomed like a
 9 ALL: *(Together)* Hero.
 10 VOICE 4: Sounds like a great day!
 11 ALL: *(Together)* A great day!
 12 VOICES 1 and 2: *(Together)* A memorable day.
 13 VOICES 3 and 4: *(Together)* A glorious day.
 14 VOICES 5 and 6: *(Together)* A sun-filled day.
 15 VOICE 2: Is this where the cruise comes in with the
 16 midnight buffet?
 17 ALL: *(Together)* No, no, no!
 18 VOICE 6: There *were* a few boat rides and Jesus walking on
 19 water.
 20 VOICE 5: There's going to be a memorable meal in the
 21 Upper Room.
 22 VOICES 1 and 3: *(Together)* With bread and wine.
 23 VOICE 4: Is there a beach or beautiful scenery?
 24 VOICE 3: There's memorable scenery on a hill with a cross.
 25 VOICE 2: One day can't be that memorable, can it be?
 26 VOICE 4: One day added to seven others
 27 ALL: *(Together)* In Jerusalem
 28 VOICE 5: Can be.
 29 VOICE 6: Can be what? Life changing?
 30 ALL: *(Together)* Is life changing!
 31
 32
 33
 34
 35

Week 2
Jesus in the Temple
Based on Mark 11:15-19

- 5 *(VOICES enter and assume arc formation with backs to*
 6 *congregation until given the signal to turn around.)*
- 7 **VOICE 1: You've seen it in the mail.**
- 8 **VOICES 2 and 3: *(Together)* You've seen it in the stores.**
- 9 **VOICE 4: You've read it in the newspapers.**
- 10 **ALL: *(Together)* Eight glorious days.**
- 11 **VOICES 5 and 6: Eight memorable days.**
- 12 **VOICES 3 and 4: Eight sun-filled days.**
- 13 **VOICE 1: Getting away.**
- 14 **VOICE 2: Cruising upon the ocean. *(ALL make boat horn noise.)***
- 15 **VOICE 3: Relaxing upon the beach. *(ALL make lapping noise.)***
- 16 **VOICE 5: Riding on the train. *(VOICE 1 blows train whistle.)***
- 17 **VOICE 6: Can eight days be so memorable?**
- 18 **VOICE 4: Can eight days be that life changing?**
- 19 **ALL: *(Together)* Eight days in Jerusalem can.**
- 20 **VOICE 3: Join the journey now to the Holy Land**
- 21 **VOICES 4-6: *(Together)* Without ever leaving your seats.**
- 22 **VOICES 1 and 2: *(Together)* These are eight days you won't**
- 23 **ALL: *(Together)* Forget! *(Pause)* There are invitations,**
- 24 **VOICE 2: And then there are invitations.**
- 25 **VOICES 3 and 4: *(Together)* Invites to weddings. *(ALL hum***
 26 *"Here Comes the Bride.")*
- 27 **VOICE 5: Birthday parties. *(ALL sing "Happy Birthday.")***
- 28 **VOICE 6: Anniversaries. *(ALL make popping bubbly sound.)***
- 29 **VOICE 1: Family reunions.**
- 30 **VOICE 2: Fundraisers.**
- 31 **VOICE 4: There are even invitations to**
- 32 **ALL: *(Together)* Holy places. *(ALL stretch arms out and hum in***
 33 *meditation.)*
- 34 **VOICE 5: Would you like to come and worship with me today?**
- 35 **VOICES 1 and 2: *(Together)* Some things require**

- 1 **ALL:** *(Together)* No invitation at all.
- 2 **VOICE 3:** At all.
- 3 **VOICE 2:** Going to a movie.
- 4 **VOICE 4:** Getting the oil changed.
- 5 **VOICE 6:** Seeing the doctor.
- 6 **VOICE 5:** Jesus
- 7 **VOICE 1:** Needed no
- 8 **ALL:** *(Together)* Invitation at all
- 9 **VOICE 2:** To enter the temple
- 10 **VOICES 3 and 6:** *(Together)* In Jerusalem.
- 11 **VOICES 4 and 5:** *(Together)* Jesus knew his presence
- 12 **ALL:** *(Together)* Was required
- 13 **VOICE 6:** At the temple.
- 14 **VOICES 1 and 2:** *(Together)* There are places we are required
- 15 to be as well.
- 16 **VOICE 3:** Work.
- 17 **VOICE 4:** Work.
- 18 **VOICE 5:** Work.
- 19 **VOICE 6:** Oh, yeah. Or school.
- 20 **VOICE 2:** Nobody likes a
- 21 **ALL:** *(Together)* Visit
- 22 **VOICE 3:** From the truancy officer.
- 23 **ALL:** *(Together)* There are invitations.
- 24 **VOICE 1:** And then there are *invitations*.
- 25 **VOICE 4:** In Jerusalem,
- 26 **VOICES 5 and 6:** *(Together)* When Jesus arrived at the
- 27 temple ...
- 28 **VOICE 2:** Hey, followers! I'm here at the temple now, ready
- 29 to teach God's word!
- 30 **VOICE 3:** Jesus presented an invitation
- 31 **VOICES 3 and 4:** *(Together)* To the people
- 32 **VOICE 4:** To listen.
- 33 **ALL:** *(Together)* Shhhh!
- 34 **VOICES 1, 3, and 5:** *(Together)* But what Jesus found
- 35 **ALL:** *(Together)* Instead

1 VOICE 2: Was a desecration.
 2 VOICE 4: A violation.
 3 VOICE 6: A crying shame!
 4 VOICES 5 and 2: *(Together)* Outside the temple,
 5 VOICES 3 and 4: *(Together)* In the courtyard,
 6 VOICE 6: Money was changing hands.
 7 ALL: *(Together)* *Ca-ching! Ca-ching!* *(ALL make the sound of*
 8 *money changing hands.)*
 9 VOICE 1: These sheep —
 10 VOICE 3: *Your* sheep —
 11 VOICE 1: Are blemished.
 12 VOICE 4: You need one of *our* sheep.
 13 VOICE 3: Those coins —
 14 VOICE 4: Let me see those coins.
 15 ALL: *(Together)* Hmmm!
 16 VOICE 3: Those are not the right coins
 17 VOICES 1, 3, 5, and 6: *(Together)* To be used as an offering.
 18 ALL: *(Together)* No way, man!
 19 VOICE 5: You require *temple* money.
 20 VOICES 6 and 2: *(Together)* Jesus became infuriated.
 21 ALL: *(Together)* Infuriated with a capital I.
 22 VOICE 1: Jesus began to
 23 VOICE 3: Drive out
 24 VOICE 5: Those who sold
 25 VOICE 6: And those who bought
 26 ALL: *(Together)* On the temple grounds.
 27 VOICE 2: Because the temple
 28 VOICE 3: Should have been
 29 VOICE 4: Should have been
 30 VOICE 5: Should have been
 31 VOICES 4 and 5: *(Together)* A holy place.
 32 VOICE 6: Jesus overturned tables.
 33 VOICE 1: He overturned chairs.
 34 VOICES 2 and 3: *(Together)* He cleared the courtyard
 35 completely.

- 1 **ALL:** *(Together)* Jesus taught a lesson!
- 2 **VOICE 6:** A lesson.
- 3 **VOICE 1:** Is it not written, "My house will be called a house
- 4 of prayer for ...
- 5 **ALL:** *(Together)* All nations?"
- 6 **VOICE 1:** But you —
- 7 **ALL:** *(Together)* You and you and you!
- 8 **VOICES 3, 5, and 6:** *(Together)* Have made it into
- 9 **VOICES 2 and 4:** *(Together)* A den of robbers.
- 10 **VOICES 1 and 6:** *(Together)* A den of thieves.
- 11 **VOICE 5:** That can't be good!
- 12 **VOICE 6:** Jesus' anger
- 13 **VOICES 1 and 2:** *(Together)* Was a righteous anger.
- 14 **VOICE 3:** Like when I get angry because I lose my car
- 15 keys?
- 16 **VOICE 4:** Like when I get angry because my kids
- 17 misbehave?
- 18 **VOICE 5:** Like when my volunteer doesn't show up?
- 19 **ALL:** *(Together)* No, no, no!
- 20 **VOICE 2:** Not exactly.
- 21 **VOICE 6:** Righteous anger
- 22 **VOICES 1 and 2:** *(Together)* Was an anger for God.
- 23 **VOICE 2:** A protest.
- 24 **VOICE 4:** A way to make things right.
- 25 **VOICES 5 and 6:** *(Together)* The way God intended
- 26 conditions to be.
- 27 **VOICES 3, 4, and 6:** *(Together)* He didn't picket.
- 28 **VOICES 2 and 4:** *(Together)* He didn't use weapons.
- 29 **VOICES 1 and 6:** *(Together)* His intention was not to hurt
- 30 **ALL:** *(Together)* Anyone.
- 31 **VOICE 6:** Jesus took action.
- 32 **VOICE 2:** Just enough action
- 33 **VOICE 3:** To convince people that their actions
- 34 **ALL:** *(Together)* Were contrary
- 35 **VOICE 1:** To God.

- 1 VOICE 2: Jesus showed the chief priests
- 2 VOICE 3: And scribes
- 3 VOICES 4 and 5: *(Together)* That he had the
- 4 VOICE 6: Authority
- 5 VOICE 1: To do this.
- 6 VOICE 2: That's why they were
- 7 ALL: *(Together)* Afraid
- 8 VOICE 2: Of him.
- 9 VOICE 3: That's why they had to
- 10 ALL: *(Together)* Kill him!
- 11 VOICES 1, 3, and 5: *(Together)* The multitude
- 12 VOICES 2, 4, and 6: *(Together)* Was astounded at his
- 13 teaching.
- 14 VOICE 6: They got it!
- 15 VOICE 1: They finally got it!
- 16 VOICES 2 and 4: *(Together)* Jesus was God's anointed one.
- 17 VOICES 5 and 6: *(Together)* He was the
- 18 ALL: *(Together)* Messiah.
- 19 VOICE 3: This was the second day in Jerusalem.
- 20 VOICE 4: This was a day of
- 21 ALL: *(Together)* Cleansing.
- 22 VOICES 1 and 2: *(Together)* Like opening a window.
- 23 VOICES 3 and 4: *(Together)* Like purifying your body.
- 24 VOICE 5: This was a day to remember —
- 25 VOICE 6: A serious day.
- 26 VOICE 2: But where's the Jesus I know?
- 27 VOICES 3 and 5: *(Together)* The loving Jesus
- 28 VOICE 6: From all those Bible stories.
- 29 VOICE 1: The Jesus that calls the little children
- 30 VOICES 2 and 4: *(Together)* To sit beside him.
- 31 VOICE 3: The one who cried when his friend Lazarus died.
- 32 ALL: *(Together)* He has come to make things
- 33 VOICES 5 and 6: *(Together)* Right —
- 34 VOICE 1: To reconcile the world.
- 35 VOICE 2: One day can't be that memorable, can it?

1 **VOICE 4: One day added to seven others**

2 **ALL: (Together) In Jerusalem**

3 **VOICE 5: Can be.**

4 **VOICE 6: Can be what? Life changing?**

5 **ALL: (Together) Is life changing!**

6

7

8

9

Week 3

10 ***The Last Supper***

11 **Based on Luke 22:1-34**

12

13 *(VOICES enter and assume arc formation with backs to*
14 *congregation until given the signal to turn around.)*

15 **VOICE 1: You've seen it in the mail.**

16 **VOICES 2 and 3: (Together) You've seen it in the stores.**

17 **VOICE 4: You've read it in the newspapers.**

18 **ALL: (Together) Eight glorious days.**

19 **VOICES 5 and 6: Eight memorable days.**

20 **VOICES 3 and 4: Eight sun-filled days.**

21 **VOICE 1: Getting away.**

22 **VOICE 2: Cruising upon the ocean. (ALL make boat horn**
23 *noise.)*

24 **VOICE 3: Relaxing upon the beach. (ALL make lapping noise.)**

25 **VOICE 5: Riding on the train. (VOICE 1 blows train whistle.)**

26 **VOICE 6: Can eight days be so memorable?**

27 **VOICE 4: Can eight days be that life changing?**

28 **ALL: (Together) Eight days in Jerusalem can.**

29 **VOICE 3: Join the journey now to the Holy Land**

30 **VOICES 4-6: (Together) Without ever leaving your seats.**

31 **VOICES 1 and 2: (Together) These are eight days you won't**

32 **ALL: (Together) Forget! (Pause) There are meals,**

33 **VOICE 2: And then there are meals.**

34 **VOICE 1: Mom's homemade lasagna!**

35 **VOICE 3: Dad's steak on the grill.**

1 VOICE 4: Aunt Mary's apple pie.
 2 ALL: *(Together)* Mmmm! Mmmm!
 3 VOICE 5: Wayne's peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.
 4 VOICE 6: Wait a minute! Wait just a minute. Peanut butter
 5 and jelly isn't that memorable.
 6 VOICES 1 and 2: *(Together)* You're right. That sounds
 7 common.
 8 ALL: *(Together)* What makes a meal memorable then?
 9 VOICE 3: It's memorable
 10 VOICE 5: When we remember
 11 VOICE 4: Who is at
 12 VOICE 6: The meal.
 13 VOICE 1: And what the meal
 14 ALL: *(Together)* Includes!
 15 VOICE 4: I remember the meal we ate on my first date.
 16 VOICE 3: I remember the elegant Italian restaurant we
 17 went to on our anniversary.
 18 VOICE 2: I remember the bread and wine I shared with a
 19 bunch of guys.
 20 ALL: *(Together)* What?
 21 VOICE 6: That doesn't sound that appetizing.
 22 VOICE 5: Or that memorable.
 23 VOICE 1: A meal is quite memorable
 24 VOICE 2: When you break bread with a teacher you've
 25 cherished for nearly three years.
 26 VOICES 4 and 2: *(Together)* And when the evening came,
 27 ALL: *(Together)* The Twelve
 28 VOICE 6: Were at the table together,
 29 VOICES 1 and 3: *(Together)* Eating.
 30 VOICE 5: Jesus said,
 31 VOICE 2: "Truly, I say to you,
 32 ALL: *(Together)* One of you
 33 VOICE 2: Will betray me.
 34 ALL: *(Together)* One
 35 VOICE 2: Who is eating with me" *(Mark 14:18)*.

1 VOICE 3: Ohhhh, betrayal. That's not polite dinner
 2 conversation.
 3 VOICES 4 and 5: *(Together)* They should have been saying
 4 instead,
 5 VOICE 6: "Wow! What about this awesome unleavened
 6 bread!"
 7 VOICE 1: And, "Don't the curtains look lovely in this upper
 8 room?"
 9 VOICE 4: And, "Isn't the wine superb?"
 10 ALL: *(Together)* And, "Please pass the dipping sauce!"
 11 VOICE 3: But instead,
 12 VOICE 5: Jesus would
 13 ALL: *(Together)* Predict
 14 VOICES 5 and 6: *(Together)* His betrayal
 15 VOICE 1: By one of his own.
 16 VOICE 2: It's true.
 17 ALL: *(Together)* True, true, true!
 18 VOICE 3: Judas betrayed him. *(ALL but VOICE 1 disperse*
 19 *away from formation Center Stage to sides.)*
 20 VOICES 4 and 5: *(Together)* Judas *(ALL stare at VOICE 1)*
 21 VOICE 6: Turned him over to the
 22 VOICES 1, 3, and 5: *(Together)* Authorities.
 23 VOICE 3: It's no surprise, you know.
 24 VOICE 5: Jesus also
 25 ALL: *(Together)* Predicted
 26 VOICE 3: That Peter would deny him.
 27 VOICES 4 and 6: *(Together)* Three times. Three times. Three
 28 times. *(ALL return to usual formation.)*
 29 VOICE 5: But that occurred after the meal.
 30 VOICE 6: Yes, the meal.
 31 ALL: *(Together)* The meal
 32 VOICE 1: Where Jesus took
 33 ALL: *(Together)* Bread,
 34 VOICE 3: Blessed it,
 35 VOICES 3, 4, and 5: *(Together)* Broke it, and gave it to his

- 1 **ALL: (*Together*) Disciples.**
- 2 **VOICE 5: Jesus said,**
- 3 **VOICE 2: "Take and eat.**
- 4 **VOICES 1, 2, 4, and 5: (*Together*) This is my body,**
- 5 **VOICE 2: Given for you.**
- 6 **ALL: (*Together*) Do this in remembrance of me" (*Luke 22:19*).**
- 7 **VOICE 3: Then Jesus took**
- 8 **VOICES 4 and 6: (*Together*) The cup.**
- 9 **VOICE 6: He gave thanks.**
- 10 **VOICE 1: He gave it to them, saying,**
- 11 **VOICE 2: "Take and drink.**
- 12 **VOICES 2, 3, and 5: (*Together*) This is my blood**
- 13 **VOICE 2: Shed for you.**
- 14 **ALL: (*Together*) Do this in remembrance of me."**
- 15 **VOICE 5: That must have stopped the dinner conversation.**
- 16 **VOICE 6: Did his disciples have any idea what Jesus was**
- 17 **talking about?**
- 18 **ALL: (*Together*) Not a chance!**
- 19 **VOICE 1: Not until**
- 20 **VOICES 1, 2, and 3: (*Together*) The Resurrection.**
- 21 **VOICE 3: That's just like us humans.**
- 22 **VOICE 4: The meal is where we can give thanks ...**
- 23 **VOICES 5 and 1: (*Together*) Thank you! Thank you! Thank**
- 24 **you!**
- 25 **VOICE 6: For the sacrifice Jesus made for us.**
- 26 **VOICES 1 and 3: (*Together*) Through his death and**
- 27 **resurrection.**
- 28 **ALL: (*Together*) Forgiveness. Life. Salvation.**
- 29 **VOICES 2 and 4: (*Together*) That's what this day in Jerusalem**
- 30 **represents.**
- 31 **VOICE 5: That's what this meal is really about.**
- 32 **VOICE 3: Forgiveness.**
- 33 **VOICES 3 and 4: (*Together*) Having a clean slate each day.**
- 34 **VOICES 5 and 6: (*Together*) Moving forward in relationships.**
- 35 **VOICES 1 and 2: (*Together*) Making the choice to heal what is**

- 1 **ALL:** *(Together)* Broken.
- 2 **VOICE 3:** It's about life.
- 3 **VOICE 4:** Connection.
- 4 **VOICE 5:** Connection with God now.
- 5 **VOICES 5 and 6:** *(Together)* Right now.
- 6 **VOICES 2 and 4:** *(Together)* What about ... now?
- 7 **VOICE 2:** Or even ... right now?
- 8 **VOICE 1:** How about ... *(Short pause)* now?
- 9 **VOICE 4:** Yes, even right now.
- 10 **VOICE 5:** It's about salvation, too.
- 11 **ALL:** *(Together)* Salvation!
- 12 **VOICE 6:** We're talking heaven, people!
- 13 **ALL:** *(Together)* Heaven.
- 14 **VOICE 3:** Eternal life, my friends.
- 15 **VOICE 4:** Give me some of that!
- 16 **VOICE 5:** I'm up for that action.
- 17 **VOICE 2:** That's what the meal is about.
- 18 **VOICES 2 and 4:** *(Together)* That's what the meal represents.
- 19 **VOICE 6:** But what about the betrayal, when Jesus was
- 20 offering so much?
- 21 **VOICES 1, 2, 4, and 5:** *(Together)* Why did Judas turn Jesus
- 22 over to the authorities?
- 23 **ALL:** *(Together)* Busted. *(Singing some approximation of the*
- 24 *theme from the TV show Cops — "Bad Boy, Bad Boy, What*
- 25 *You Gonna Do?")*
- 26 **VOICE 2:** Judas betrayed Jesus with a
- 27 **VOICES 3 and 4:** *(Together)* Kiss.
- 28 **VOICE 5:** Why a kiss?
- 29 **VOICE 6:** Because a kiss was the agreed-upon sign.
- 30 **VOICE 1:** *(Singing to the tune of "What Child Is This?")*
- 31 What sign is this? He gave a kiss
- 32 In the garden of Gethsemane ...
- 33 **VOICE 2:** OK, that's enough.
- 34 **ALL:** *(Together)* Thank you. That's a wrap.
- 35 **VOICE 3:** So that's another one of eight days in Jerusalem.

- 1 VOICE 5: Thursday, to be exact.
 2 VOICE 6: That sounds like a bad day to me.
 3 VOICE 1: Could be worse.
 4 VOICE 4: Oh, yeah? How?
 5 VOICE 5: Wait 'til Friday.
 6 VOICE 2: One day can't be that memorable, can it?
 7 VOICE 4: One day added to seven others
 8 ALL: *(Together)* In Jerusalem
 9 VOICE 5: Can be.
 10 VOICE 6: Can be what? Life changing?
 11 ALL: *Is* life changing!

12
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Week 4
Jesus Is Crucified
Based on Matthew 26:36-45

- 19 *(VOICES enter and assume arc formation with backs to*
 20 *congregation until given the signal to turn around.)*
 21 VOICE 1: You've seen it in the mail.
 22 VOICES 2 and 3: *(Together)* You've seen it in the stores.
 23 VOICE 4: You've read it in the newspapers.
 24 ALL: *(Together)* Eight glorious days.
 25 VOICES 5 and 6: Eight memorable days.
 26 VOICES 3 and 4: Eight sun-filled days.
 27 VOICE 1: Getting away.
 28 VOICE 2: Cruising upon the ocean. *(ALL make boat horn*
 29 *noise.)*
 30 VOICE 3: Relaxing upon the beach. *(ALL make lapping noise.)*
 31 VOICE 5: Riding on the train. *(VOICE 1 blows train whistle.)*
 32 VOICE 6: Can eight days be so memorable?
 33 VOICE 4: Can eight days be that life changing?
 34 ALL: *(Together)* Eight days in Jerusalem can.
 35 VOICE 3: Join the journey now to the Holy Land

- 1 VOICES 4, 5, and 6: *(Together)* Without ever leaving your
 2 seats.
- 3 VOICES 1 and 2: *(Together)* These are eight days you won't
- 4 ALL: *(Together)* Forget! *(Pause)* There are prayers,
- 5 VOICE 2: And then there are prayers.
- 6 VOICE 1: There are bedtime prayers.
- 7 ALL: *(Together)* "Now I lay me down to sleep,
- 8 VOICES 3, 4, and 5: *(Together)* Pray the Lord my soul to
 9 keep ..."
- 10 VOICE 6: There are mealtime prayers.
- 11 VOICE 4: "Come, Lord Jesus,
- 12 ALL: *(Together)* Be our guest,
- 13 VOICE 5: And let these gifts to us be blessed."
- 14 ALL: *(Together)* Amen!
- 15 VOICE 3: Don't forget the Superman Prayer.
- 16 ALL: *(Together, singing to the tune of the Superman theme song)*
 17 Thank you, God, for giving us food. *(Raise right hand*
 18 *while left hand is placed on hip.)*
 19 Thank you, God, for giving us food. *(Raise left hand*
 20 *while right hand is placed on hip.)*
 21 For the friends that we me-et, *(Raise right hand while left*
 22 *hand is placed on hip)*
 23 For the food that we e-eat, *(Raise left hand while right*
 24 *hand is placed on hip)*
 25 Thank you, God, *(Raise both hands in Superman flying*
 26 *position)*
 27 For giving us food! *(Place both hands on hips.)*
- 28 VOICE 1: What about the doxology?
- 29 VOICE 6: Isn't that a cookie?
- 30 VOICE 2: That's a Hydrox, guys.
- 31 VOICE 4: Isn't "doxology" the study of the end times?
- 32 VOICE 3: That's eschatology.
- 33 VOICES 4 and 6: *(Together)* Then what's the doxology?
- 34 VOICE 1: Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
- 35 ALL: *(Together)* Oh, yeah! I remember that prayer.

- 1 VOICE 5: There are quick, silent prayers.
- 2 VOICE 2: Ones we think in our heads.
- 3 VOICES 2 and 6: *(Together)* That aren't even uttered out
- 4 loud.
- 5 VOICE 4: Don't let the _____ lose the Super Bowl! Don't let
- 6 the _____ lose the Super Bowl! *(Insert your closest*
- 7 *professional football team.)*
- 8 VOICE 5: Please let him sit by me! Please let him sit by me!
- 9 VOICE 3: Let there be a parking spot now. Please let there
- 10 be a parking spot now.
- 11 VOICE 1: Then there are lengthy, drawn-out prayers.
- 12 VOICE 2: On his busiest days, Martin Luther prayed for
- 13 three or four hours.
- 14 ALL: *(Together)* Because Martin knew
- 15 VOICE 6: That he needed God even more on his busiest
- 16 days.
- 17 VOICES 4 and 5: *(Together)* Oh, God. Let me list the one
- 18 hundred ways I love to praise you.
- 19 VOICE 3: Oh, God. Here is my
- 20 ALL: *(Together)* Shopping list
- 21 VOICE 3: Of sins from the last month, detailing ways I have
- 22 not honored you.
- 23 ALL: *(Together)* Forgive us, Lord!
- 24 VOICE 1: There are prayers of the church.
- 25 VOICE 6: Hear us, Oh Lord.
- 26 VOICES 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5: *(Together)* Your mercy is great.
- 27 VOICE 2: God's people pray intercessory prayers.
- 28 VOICES 4 and 5: *(Together)* God, please be involved in my
- 29 life.
- 30 VOICES 6 and 1: *(Together)* Show me your ways, oh Lord.
- 31 VOICES 3, 4, and 5: *(Together)* Almighty Healer, bring your
- 32 hand of healing and comfort to our loved ones who are
- 33 ALL: *(Together)* Ill.
- 34 VOICES 2 and 4: *(Reciting the Serenity Prayer together)* God,
- 35 grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot

1 change, courage to change the things I can, and
 2 wisdom to know the difference.
 3 VOICES 3, 5, and 6: *(Together)* Finally, we call out our
 4 prayers of
 5 ALL: *(Together)* Thanksgiving!
 6 VOICES 1 and 2: *(Together)* Thank you for today. I am
 7 grateful ...
 8 VOICES 3 and 4: *(Together)* For today is all I have.
 9 VOICE 5: Thank you, Lord, for my daughter.
 10 VOICE 6: Thank you, Lord, for my son.
 11 VOICE 1: For my home.
 12 VOICE 2: For a spouse.
 13 VOICE 3: For my health.
 14 VOICE 4: For my parents.
 15 VOICE 5: For my church family.
 16 ALL: *(Together)* There are prayers
 17 VOICE 2: And then there are prayers.
 18 VOICES 3, 4, and 6: *(Together)* Jesus prayed with friends
 19 VOICES 5 and 1: *(Together)* In the Garden.
 20 VOICE 4: Then Jesus went
 21 ALL: *(Together)* With his disciples
 22 VOICE 6: To a place called Gethsemane.
 23 VOICE 2: "Sit here while I go and pray."
 24 VOICE 1: With Jesus in the garden was Peter,
 25 VOICE 3: James,
 26 VOICE 4: And John.
 27 VOICE 5: Jesus was
 28 ALL: *(Together)* Sorrowful
 29 VOICE 5: And troubled.
 30 VOICES 1, 3, and 4: *(Together)* We could all see his pain,
 31 VOICE 6: Though none of us knew why.
 32 VOICE 1: Jesus repeated that he would only be with us
 33 ALL: *(Together)* With us
 34 VOICE 1: For a short time longer.
 35 VOICE 4: We should have known the end was near.

- 1 VOICE 5: He was in pain. He told us, his disciples,
 2 VOICE 2: "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point
 3 of death. Stay here..."
 4 ALL: *(Together)* Stay.
 5 VOICE 2: "Stay here and watch with me."
 6 VOICE 6: And did you?
 7 VOICES 1, 3, 4, and 5: *(Together)* No. We fell asleep.
 8 VOICE 1: You fell asleep first, Peter.
 9 VOICE 3: No, it was James.
 10 VOICE 4: No, it was John who was the first to fall asleep.
 11 VOICE 6: It doesn't matter.
 12 ALL: *(Together)* It didn't matter.
 13 VOICE 5: What happened then?
 14 VOICE 3: Jesus fell with his face to the ground!
 15 ALL: *(Together)* And prayed.
 16 VOICE 2: "My father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken
 17 from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."
 18 ALL: *(Together)* By the cup, he meant his own
 19 VOICE 1: Suffering
 20 VOICE 3: And death.
 21 ALL: *(Together)* By the cup, he meant
 22 VOICE 4: Being hated,
 23 VOICE 5: Being beaten,
 24 VOICE 6: Being nailed
 25 ALL: *(Together)* To the cross!
 26 VOICES 1 and 3: *(Together)* Not a cross! Anything but a
 27 cross.
 28 ALL: *(Together)* Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree
 29 *(Galatians 3:13).*
 30 VOICE 5: No wonder the disciples fell asleep.
 31 VOICES 2 and 4: *(Together)* I'd want to sleep through that,
 32 too..
 33 VOICE 6: Through the pain,
 34 VOICES 2, 4, and 6: *(Together)* The grief,
 35 VOICES 3, 4, and 5: *(Together)* The agony,

- 1 VOICES 1 and 6: *(Together)* The waiting.
 2 ALL: *(Together)* Emotion is uncomfortable.
 3 VOICE 3: And so we slept — all of us —
 4 VOICE 4: Until Jesus
 5 VOICE 5: Returned to us
 6 VOICES 5 and 6: *(Together)* And found us sleeping.
 7 VOICE 2: “Could you men not keep watch with me
 8 ALL: *(Together)* For one hour?
 9 VOICE 2: Watch and pray.”
 10 VOICE 1: Watch and pray for what?
 11 VOICE 6: A sign?
 12 VOICE 5: A signal?
 13 VOICE 4: A person?
 14 VOICE 3: A sound?
 15 VOICE 1: Perhaps Jesus’ enemies.
 16 ALL: *(Together)* Then Jesus said,
 17 VOICE 2: “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into
 18 VOICES 2, 4, and 6: *(Together)* Temptation.
 19 VOICE 2: The spirit is willing,
 20 VOICES 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6: *(Together)* But the body is weak.”
 21 ALL: *(Together)* Then he went away
 22 VOICE 5: A second time
 23 ALL: *(Together)* And prayed,
 24 VOICE 2: “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be
 25 taken away unless I drink it, may
 26 ALL: *(Together)* Your will
 27 VOICE 2: Be done.”
 28 VOICE 4: Why would Jesus have prayed that prayer?
 29 VOICE 1: By praying those words,
 30 ALL: *(Together)* God could do anything!
 31 VOICE 5: Why wouldn’t Jesus want to be in control of his
 32 own life?
 33 VOICE 2: Jesus was in control of his own life. He
 34 ALL: *(Together)* Chose
 35 VOICE 2: To do his Father’s will.

- 1 VOICES 4, 5, and 6: *(Together)* Even unto death?
 2 VOICE 2: Even unto death.
 3 VOICE 3: When he came back,
 4 VOICE 6: He again found them sleeping because their eyes
 5 were heavy.
 6 VOICES 1 and 3: *(Together)* So he left them and went away
 7 once more
 8 ALL: *(Together)* And prayed a third time.
 9 VOICE 6: Jesus prayed the same prayer
 10 ALL: *(Together)* Many times over
 11 VOICES 1, 3, and 5: *(Together)* As we do.
 12 VOICE 2: This showed Jesus' tenacity.
 13 VOICE 3: This showed Jesus' urgency.
 14 VOICES 5 and 6: *(Together)* His need to make certain that
 15 God knew his feelings
 16 VOICE 6: About what lay ahead.
 17 VOICE 4: That sounds like when I prayed to God to give my
 18 father a peaceful release as he lay dying.
 19 VOICE 3: That sounds like my pleading prayer for healing
 20 when the doctor announced my diagnosis.
 21 VOICE 1: That sounds like my prayer when I waited for my
 22 child to return home long after curfew.
 23 VOICE 5: That sounds like my prayer throughout my
 24 painful divorce.
 25 ALL: *(Together)* That prayer sounds like me.
 26 VOICE 6: Then Jesus returned to his disciples and said to
 27 them,
 28 VOICE 2: "Are you still sleeping and resting?
 29 ALL: *(Together)* Look!
 30 VOICE 2: The hour is near, and the Son of Man,
 31 ALL: *(Together)* Who is Jesus,
 32 VOICE 2: Is betrayed
 33 VOICES 4, 5, and 6: *(Together)* Betrayed
 34 VOICE 2: Into the hands of
 35 ALL: *(Together)* Sinners."



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