

## Celebrating Holy Week 2018 Disco Group Ideas

This time of year is THE BIGGEST celebration for a Jesus-follower... but the truth is that in many of our Protestant, evangelical churches we don't do a very good job at remembering, contemplating, celebrating the momentous events of Holy Week. We love Easter - but we often skip straight to it. The Gospel writers, though, dedicated between 25-40% of their entire writings to the events between Palm Sunday and Resurrection Sunday. It seems fitting for our Groups to slow down just a bit and take some time to make a big deal out of something that is a BIG DEAL!

Whatever you decide to do with your Group, make a point of giving them an opportunity to share about Easter invitations they've extended or are praying to extend!

Here are some ideas for meaningful ways that you can change things up with your Group during Holy Week:

- 1. Take a Field Trip to Worship.** Many of these events fall on evenings when many of you are meeting in your Groups - but if there's an event your Group wants to do that is NOT on your Group evening, check in with everyone and see if they want to flex! All of these give an excellent opportunity for your Group to cross a cultural barrier or to experience a different expression of our faith. Most of these congregations have strong traditions of kids participating in services, so you can bring your Group's kids along and take advantage of the excellent opportunity for shaping the kids. If you've never been to a church that wasn't a lot like Discovery, then you should DEFINITELY make one of these happen...
  - Solemn Chanted Vespers: Sunday 3/25 @ 6pm at [Our Lady of the Holy Rosary](#) in downtown Tacoma
  - Tenebrae Services (Liturgy of the Shadows): Weds 3/28 @ 7pm at [St. Patrick's Catholic Church](#) OR Weds 3/28 @ 8pm at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary
  - [Holy Week Revival Services with Evangelist Rev. Aaron Williams](#): Tues, Weds & Thurs 3/27-3/29 @ 7pm at Eastside Baptist Church, an African American-led congregation
  - [The Sanctuary Prayer & Missions Base](#): This is a North Tacoma, Life Center location that has been completed dedicated as a Prayer Base for the 253. Join one of their Holy Week Worship & Intercession Services Tues 3/27-Thurs 3/29 from 6:30-8pm.
  - Good Friday Joint Service: Fri 3/30 @ 7pm at [Tacoma First Baptist](#), a Korean-led congregation (this service joins with their English ministry, so will be bi-lingual)
  
- 2. Take a Field Trip to Serve.** Get your Group signed up to serve dinner at the [Rescue Mission](#) (or serve with another excellent organization in our city). This is the easiest Mission project ever -- and when you're done serving, spread out at the tables and meet some of the guests there. You can gladly extend invitations to Easter services, just be sensitive to the

fact that many may have transportation challenges. When you're finished, gather your Group together to pray for each other and for those you've just met.

3. **Have a Movie Night.** Right now, [St. John in Exile](#) is on Amazon Prime. I think I've probably seen this movie a dozen times. At about a 1.5hr run time, it honestly doesn't get much better as far as a movie that will deeply move your Group with the magnitude of what Jesus has done for us. Take a few minutes to let everyone share what was most meaningful to them. There are other profound movies as well - consider sharing your favorite!
4. **Wash Some Feet - and then Take Communion Together.** John 13:1-17 is the account of Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Read it together and discuss it a bit... and then do it! You'll need towels and large bowls of water for this. *Note: This is an intimate act... and is supposed to be! With the exception of married couples, have men wash the feet of other men and women wash the feet of other women.* When you are finished, read together one or more of the Communion passages (Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14:22-26, Luke 22:19-20 and 1 Cor 11:23-26) and then take Communion together. Close by praying together!
5. **Observe your own "Stations of the Cross" together.** The Stations of the Cross were developed nearly a thousand years ago as a way to communicate the Jesus' Passion Week to an illiterate population. The Stations made use of artwork to tell the story and provided worshippers with opportunities for prayerful reflection at each station. While you may not be able to create impromptu artwork (though if you have really artistic people in your Group, maybe they will want to!), you CAN all walk together through a modern liturgy created to reflect on Jesus' Passion. This [liturgy](#) is created by a Lutheran pastor.

He readily admits that the traditional Stations 4 & 6 are not biblical, but holds that there are principles that can be drawn from them. You can choose whether to include them or not. The 3 Stations of Jesus falling are also not included in the biblical writings - but are a very logical assumption to include in the account.

I recommend that you rotate the role of "Leader" (subtly reminding your Group that you're raising THEM up as Leaders!) - and also that you take some time when you are finished for prayerful reflection and potentially for some discussion about their responses.

Oh - and unless you know the tune to "Stabat Mater", just speak those words :)

6. **Celebrate Passover.** This is a big endeavor, but is one of the most beloved ways that we prepare our hearts for Easter in our home - and we've always included some kind of Group! The Bible declares Jesus to be our Passover Lamb (1 Cor 5:7). Walking through the story and the remembrance of the Exodus, with Jesus as the capstone of the story has been priceless to us.

Here are the materials we use: <http://www.crivoice.org/haggadah.html>. There are instructions outlined at the beginning - and then the actual script begins at "Beginning of the Seder". And you can find Passover menu ideas all over the internet!

We celebrate our Passover dinner by clearing out the living room, spreading out towels and tablecloths on the carpet and eating on the floor like Jesus and his disciples would have. Because who can resist eating on the floor?!

*Note: There have been expressions of concern about cultural appropriation when Christians practice Passover. Concerns about appropriation can be very valid. Passover, however, is a biblical celebration that belongs to Jesus-followers as much as to Jews. For various reasons (including prejudice), Christians neglected much of our Old Testament heritage for centuries - and one cannot help but wonder if the "Christian" church might have valued and treated the Jewish people completely differently over the centuries, avoiding the atrocities committed in Jesus' name, if the Church had honored its Old Testament heritage.*

Here's a bit of what it can look like in the Zinn home! If it looks like a bit of a mess, you're right...



