

## WEEK 44 — JESUS' JOURNEY TOWARD JERUSALEM

**Date:** about AD 28-29

**The Story:** God, continuing to reach out to the Jewish people through Jesus, leads him to Jerusalem, where he will spend the week leading up to the Passover festival. Miracles continue, but the focus of his ministry now turns toward teachings as Jesus uses his access to the masses to lead them toward greater godliness. His following is vast, but opposition to him intensifies, too, and he does not back down from it. More and more, the Jewish leaders, particularly in Jerusalem, want to arrest or kill him. He himself tells his followers privately that he will indeed be killed. But if Jesus is the Messiah from God, how could that happen?

\* Kids' readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

### OCTOBER 30 MATTHEW 20-21

**Today's reading** picks up with more of Jesus' teaching, then tells us that "Jesus was going up to Jerusalem" (20:17). This will be the theme of this week's readings: Jesus is gradually making his way to Jerusalem one last time. He arrives in chapter 21 and spends most of his time there teaching at the temple. From John we know his arrival takes place on Sunday that week; Passover will be Thursday evening/Friday daytime. Mark indicates that Jesus "entered the temple courts" and drove out the merchants there the next day, Monday; and so Matthew's "Early in the morning" actually introduces his activities on Tuesday that week (21:18-46).

**Date:** about AD 28-29

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Matthew 20:1 to 21:27

**Kids' Reading\*:** Matthew 20:1-16 • Matthew 21:1-22

### OCTOBER 31 MARK 10-11

**Today's reading** brings us Mark's version of the stories we read from Matthew yesterday. Again, "They were on their way up to Jerusalem" (10:32), and they arrive in 11:11 (on Sunday). Jesus clears the temple courts "the next day", Monday, then returns to the temple courts again on Tuesday (see 11:19-20). Notice how James and John sense that a transition in Jesus' status is coming (and want to be involved in it; 10:35-40). Also notice how some treat Jesus as a king (11:7-10), Jesus himself acts like a king making reforms (11:15-17), and the Jewish leaders question his authority (11:27-28). Where does Jesus think his authority is from?

**Date:** about AD 28-29

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Mark 10-11

**Kids' Reading\*:** Matthew 21:23-46 • Mark 10:13-16

### NOVEMBER 1 MARK 12 • LUKE 13

**Today's reading** continues Mark's account of Jesus' teaching on Tuesday of his final Passover week, three days before the Passover. Jesus spends this time teaching at the temple, including responding to questions—traps—from his opponents and questioning them in turn (12:13-37). Moving to Luke, we back up in time. At Luke 13:10 we begin a set of stories found only in Luke (13:10 to 18:14). These events take place as Jesus "made his way to Jerusalem" (Luke 13:22); he is heading gradually toward that final visit to Jerusalem.

**Date:** about AD 28-29

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Mark 12 • Luke 13

**Kids' Reading\*:** Mark 10:17-52 • Mark 12:41-44

### NOVEMBER 2 LUKE 14-16

**Today's reading** continues the section of stories unique to Luke as Jesus is traveling gradually toward Jerusalem (13:22). Especially notable here are the three parables of "lost" things (sheep, coin, son) in Luke 15, parables about the value of every person to God. The parable of the rich man and Lazarus is also very important, teaching us that our eternal destiny depends in part on how we help those in need—or don't.

**Date:** about AD 28

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Luke 14-15 • Luke 16:19-31

**Kids' Reading\*:** Luke 13:10-21 • Luke 15

### NOVEMBER 3                      LUKE 17-19

**Today's reading** reminds us that Jesus was “on his way to Jerusalem” (17:11). Luke’s unique series of stories from this time winds down at 18:14. Then we join the sequence of events we read from Matthew and Mark earlier this week as Jesus finally comes to Jerusalem. Zacchaeus’s story is found only in Luke. As mentioned earlier, Jesus enters Jerusalem Sunday of his final week before his death, and drives the merchants out of the temple on Monday. Luke tells us that “Every day he was teaching at the temple” (19:47).

**Date:** about AD 28-29

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Luke 17:1 to 18:14 • Luke 19

**Kids' Reading\*:** Luke 16:19-31 • Luke 17:11-19 • Luke 18:1-14

### NOVEMBER 4                      LUKE 20 • JOHN 11

**Today's reading** begins “One day”—Mark revealed that it was Tuesday—“as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts” (Luke 20:1). Here we review some of his teachings from that day and catch up with our readings earlier from Matthew and Mark. Then we turn to John, who alone tells us the story of Lazarus, which apparently takes place not long before Jesus comes to Jerusalem.

**Date:** about AD 29

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Luke 20 • John 11

**Kids' Reading\*:** John 11:1-44 • John 12:1-11

### NOVEMBER 5                      JOHN 12 • MATTHEW 22

**Today's reading** begins “Six days before the Passover” (John 12:1) upon which Jesus will be crucified. The story of Mary anointing Jesus (12:3) will be told later in Matthew and Mark and takes place in Bethany, outside Jerusalem, the day before Jesus’ grand entry into the city (12:12). John provides us with some of Jesus’ teaching in Jerusalem that is not recorded elsewhere, including hints of his impending death. Returning to Matthew, we again read Jesus’ teaching from that Tuesday of Passover week, reviewing the questions his opponents ask and his question in return, which stumps them.

**Date:** about AD 29

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** John 12 • Matthew 22

**Kids' Reading\*:** Matthew 22

#### Parents' Guide

##### PG preview for young children

**Mt 20:**18-19 (V)

**Mt 21:**19 (T), 31-32 (S), 35-41 (V), 44 (V), 46 (V)

**Mt 22:**6-7 (V), 13 (T, V)

**Mk 10:**1-12 (T), 11-12 (S), 19 (S, T, V), 33-34 (V)

**Mk 11:**15-16 (V), 18 (V)

**Mk 12:**3-9 (V), 12 (V)

**Lk 13:**1-5 (T, V), 28 (T), 31 (V), 33-35 (T, V)

**Lk 14:**26-27 (T), 31 (V)

**Lk 15:**13-17 (T), 30 (S)

**Lk 16:**5-8 (T), 13 (T), 18 (S, T), 20-31 (T)

**Lk 17:**25 (T), 27 (T), 29 (T), 37 (T)

**Lk 18:**11 (S), 20 (S, T, V), 32-33 (V)

**Lk 19:**27 (V), 45 (V), 47 (V)

**Lk 20:**10-16 (V), 18-19 (V)

**Jn 11:**1-44 (T), 8 (V), 50-51 (T), 53 (V), 57 (V)

**Jn 12:**6-7 (T), 10 (V)

##### PG-13 preview for under age 13

**Lk 19:**43-44 (V)

##### R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

none

C = Circumcision

N = Nudity

S = Sexuality

T = Dark/Sensitive Themes

V = Violence