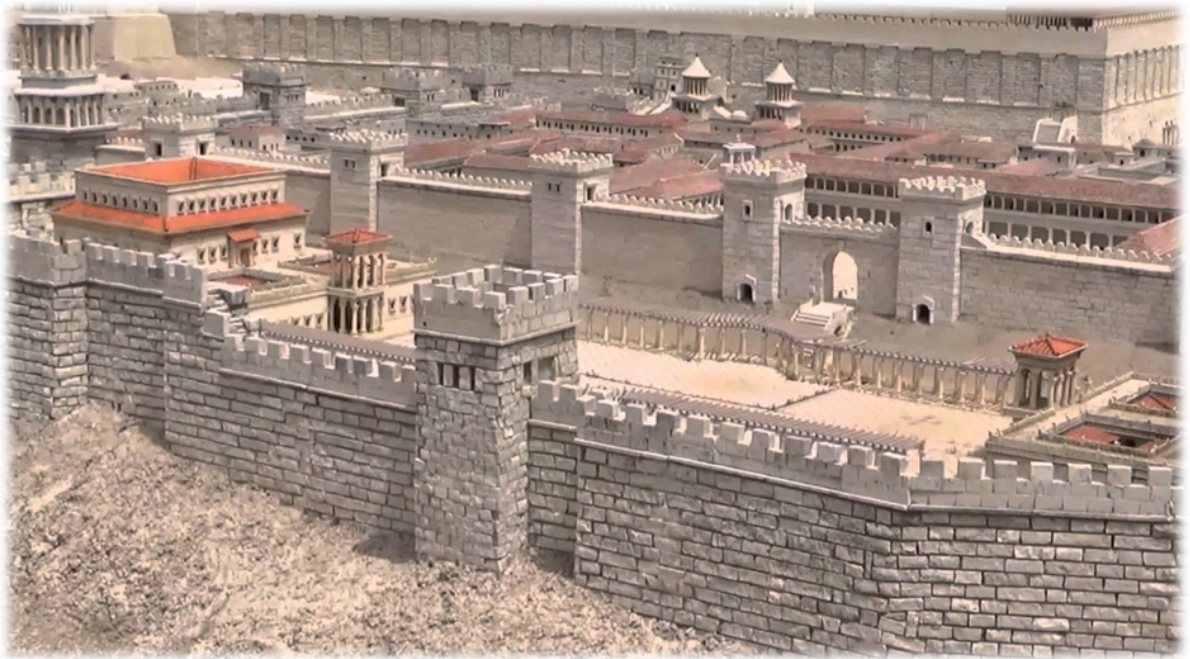


# INTRODUCTION TO THE CITY OF JERUSALEM



**Presentation Guide**





# The Jerusalem Model



## Core Concepts:

At the time of Jesus, the City of Jerusalem was the spiritual centre for the Jewish people. It was the setting for the events from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem through to the Resurrection.

# Presentation

Here is a model of the City of Jerusalem. This was a very important city because Jesus came here to teach and pray. It is where he died and rose again from the dead.

Point out the different places on the model and place each building as it is described. This presentation is tailored for Holy Week, the culmination of Christ's life on earth. The additional elements provided highlight other aspects of Jerusalem at the time of Our Lord.

## 1. Here are the **city walls**.

There was a big wall around Jerusalem to keep it safe from attackers. Here is the road through the "**Golden Gate**", by which Jesus entered the city on Palm Sunday.

Here is the **Temple**. It is surrounded by its own **wall**. The temple was a very important place for the Jewish people. People from all of Israel tried to visit it at least once a year, especially at Passover.

## 2. This is the **Cenacle** where Jesus and his disciples celebrated the Jewish feast of Passover. While they were there he blessed the bread and said to his disciples, "This is my body." Then he took the wine and gave it to his disciples saying, 'This is my blood.'

3. After singing a song of praise to God, they left for the **Garden of Gethsemane**, on the **Mount of Olives**. At the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed. While he was praying, the religious leaders sent soldiers to arrest him.

4. Meanwhile the Jewish leaders were having a meeting about Jesus. Here is the **House of Caiaphas** where they met to talk. They asked, "What should we do? This man is working many miracles. If we let him continue, everyone will believe in him. Then the Romans will take away our Temple and destroy our nation." Caiaphas, who was the high priest, said, "Don't you understand? It is better for one man to die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed."

They sent soldiers to arrest Jesus while he was in the garden. He was brought to the **House of Caiaphas**. The religious leaders questioned him and treated him badly. Many people spoke lies about him. They agreed that he must die. Caiaphas sent Jesus to Pontius Pilate, who was the Roman official in charge of Israel at the time.

5. Here is the **Antonia Fortress**, where Pilate lived. From here he could see the whole city. Pilate talked to Jesus and saw that he was not guilty of any crime. He decided to send Jesus to Herod, who was the King of the Jews.

6. Jesus was taken to one of Herod's palaces. Here is one of King Herod's palaces. This is another of King Herod's palaces, called the Hasmonean Palace. Herod had always wanted to meet Jesus and see one of his miracles. He asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus said nothing. Neither did he perform any miracles. Herod saw nothing wrong with Jesus and sent him back to Pilate.

7. Back at the **Antonia Fortress**, Pilate told the people once again that he believed Jesus did not deserve to die. However, the Jewish leaders insisted that he should die. Pilate gave way and Jesus was given his cross to carry to Calvary. On his way Jesus passed through the **Judgement Gate**.

8. Here is **Calvary**. When Jesus reached Calvary, he was nailed to the cross and there, after three hours, he died.

9. Here is the **tomb** where Jesus was buried. It seemed that the light of the world was extinguished. But did Jesus remain dead? No, he rose again! The light of Christ came back into the world! This is what we celebrate at Easter. It is the greatest celebration of all time!

## Additional Elements

There are other significant places on this model that relate to events in the life of Jesus.

10. This is the Pool of Bethesda. Jesus performed miracles here.

11. This is the Pool of Siloam. Jesus performed miracles here too.

12. This is the **Roman Theatre**, where plays were performed. It is not mentioned in the Gospels, so there is no wooden piece to match it. However, Jesus would have passed by it many times.

13. This is the **Roman Hippodrome**, where chariot races were held. It, too, is not mentioned in the Gospels.

14. These **Steps** indicate the upper and lower parts of the city.

15. This **black dot**, close to the Pool of Bethesda, marks the place where Stephen, one of the first deacons and the first Christian martyr, was stoned to death. (Perhaps omit this when introducing to younger children.)

# Suggestions for Pondering through Choices

- Use the map to recall Jesus' time in Jerusalem.
- Position the place labels on the model.
- Position the art cards where the events took place.
- Write a prayer to Jesus.
- Draw one or more of the buildings and write about what happened there.
- Draw a picture of one or more of the events that took place in Holy Week.

Demonstration videos are available for all SALT resources. These are for the benefit of teachers, catechists and parents and can be freely accessed at The Learning Hub.

<https://saltapproach.org/the-learning-hub/>



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