

KIDS EASTER WEEK

INTRODUCTION

Easter is about celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. We want your family to go on a journey with us leading up to Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. A lot happens from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem to His appearance outside His tomb. Reading these stories throughout Easter Week gives us a chance to walk with Jesus in the last moments of His life and to experience the miracle of his resurrection. Plus, we've included fun activities for your family to do together to remember and apply these amazing truths of Jesus' resurrection story! We pray these devotionals will help you disciple your kids as we reach and raise the next generation to live out God's Truth. We also want you to share this good news by inviting a friend to join you Easter Sunday.

PALM SUNDAY: JESUS ARRIVES

READ: Matthew 21:1-9

Many people followed Jesus as He taught in Galilee. Some came so He could heal their diseases and injuries. When the time for the Passover celebration came, Jesus and His disciples traveled from Galilee to Jerusalem for the feast. As they came to the Mount of Olives, Jesus' disciples found a donkey for Him to ride into the city. The people along the way shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9) They waved palm branches and laid their coats on the road in front of Jesus. They were happy because they believed that Jesus was the Savior God had promised to send.

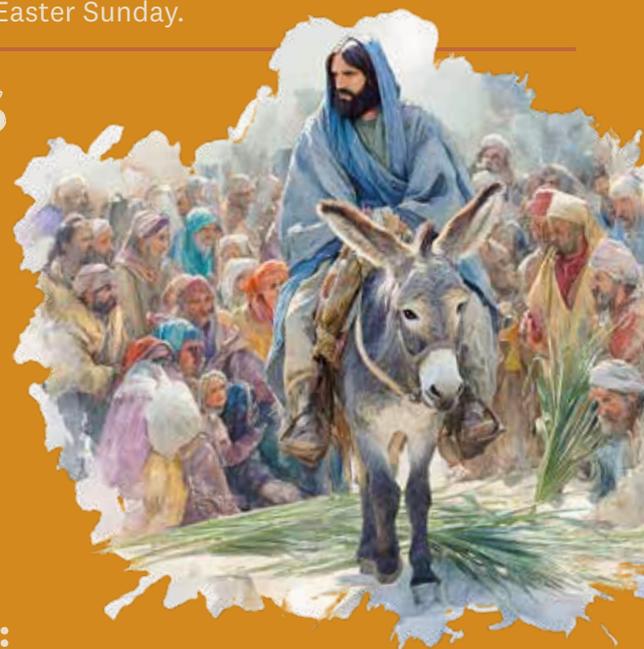
TALK ABOUT IT:

- What did Jesus ride on into the city?
- What does Jesus' choice to ride a donkey tell us about what kind of King He is?
- How do you think Jesus felt as the crowd praised Him, knowing what was coming?

PRAY: Ask God who your family should invite to Easter.

ACTIVITY:

Reenact the story and shout together "Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!". Optional-make your own palm branches out of construction paper and attach to a craft stick or straw.



MONDAY: JESUS CLEARS THE TEMPLE

READ: Matthew 21:12-17

During the Passover celebration, Jesus and His disciples went to the temple. In the temple, they found people buying and selling animals for their sacrifices. It may have been a noisy place with so many people there. Jesus made those who were selling animals and exchanging money leave the temple. Jesus told them Scripture says, "My house will be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves!" (Matthew 21:13) Then, Jesus taught the people about God.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- What were the people selling in the temple?
- Why do you think Jesus was angry at the people who were selling things and exchanging money?
- What kind of worship pleases the Lord?

PRAY: Pray for a friend or family member who needs to hear about Jesus.

ACTIVITY:

Build a temple with legos and include the money changing tables that Jesus overturned.



TUESDAY: JESUS TEACHES

READ: Matthew 22:34-40

Jesus taught many things in the temple during Passover week. Once, a temple leader asked Jesus, "Which command is the most important of all?" Jesus answered by quoting the Scriptures, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other command greater than these." (Mark 12:28-31) The temple leader knew Jesus was right. Jesus wanted everyone to love God more than anything else. He also wanted everyone to understand that God wants them to love other people. After Jesus answered the man's question so well, no one else tried to trap Him by asking other questions.



TALK ABOUT IT:

- What did Jesus say is the most important thing we can do?
- What is one thing you can do to love God this week?
- What is one thing you can do to love others this week?

ACTIVITY:

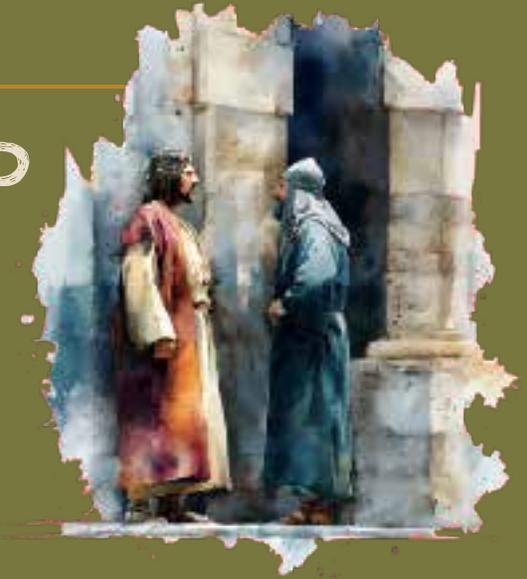
Plan to do a kind deed for someone your family knows. Decide who you will help, how you will help them, and what supplies you will need.

PRAY: Ask God to show your family who you can share His love with this Easter.

WEDNESDAY: JESUS IS BETRAYED

READ: Luke 22:1-6

The religious leaders didn't believe Jesus was the Messiah, and they wanted to get rid of Him. There were a lot of people in Jerusalem for the Passover holiday who did like Jesus, so the leaders planned to wait until after Passover to arrest Him. That way, the holiday crowds would not see them do it. But Judas, one of Jesus's 12 disciples, offered to help them find Jesus and arrest Him at night, away from the crowds. The leaders were happy about this and agreed to pay Judas 30 silver coins for betraying Jesus. They thought they were being sneaky, but Jesus knew what they were doing because it was all a part of God's plan.



TALK ABOUT IT:

- How many silver coins did Judas take to betray Jesus?
- Why did the religious leaders dislike Jesus and want Him gone?
- When was the last time you thought, said or did something that did not please God?

ACTIVITY:

Have your child find either a snack or toy with the following colors: black, red, white, green and yellow. Talk to your child about the gospel using the different colors.

- **Black** stands for sin, which we all have.
- **Red** represents Jesus' blood shed on the cross.
- **White** means forgiveness, which Jesus gives us when we believe in Him.
- **Green** stands for growing in God by praying and reading His Word.
- **Yellow** stands for heaven, and that's where all believers will get to be with God forever!

PRAY:

Ask God to give you courage to invite someone to celebrate Easter with you at Christ Place.



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

CENTRAL CAMPUS | 6PM

Gather for a time of communion and reflection of what Jesus did for us on the cross. This all-campus event will be a family worship service at 6pm. There will be childcare available for birth-PreK. Don't miss this special kids moment in our service and the fun-filled kids bag provided.

THURSDAY: JESUS' LAST SUPPER

READ: Luke 22:14-20

Jesus and His disciples ate the Passover meal together. The Passover meal is a celebration of how God brought the Jews out of slavery in Egypt. During the meal, Jesus picked up the bread and thanked God for it. He broke it into pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." A little while later, Jesus took a cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:19-20) Christians still eat the bread and drink from the cup to remember what Jesus did. This is often called Communion or the Lord's Supper because it reminds us of Jesus' last meal with His disciples and what He taught them.



TALK ABOUT IT:

- What did Jesus give the disciples to eat?
- What might God want people to think about as they watch or take part in the Lord's Supper in their churches?
- What are other ways we can remember Jesus' sacrifice for us?

PRAY: Pray for friends or families you can invite to the Good Friday Service.

ACTIVITY:

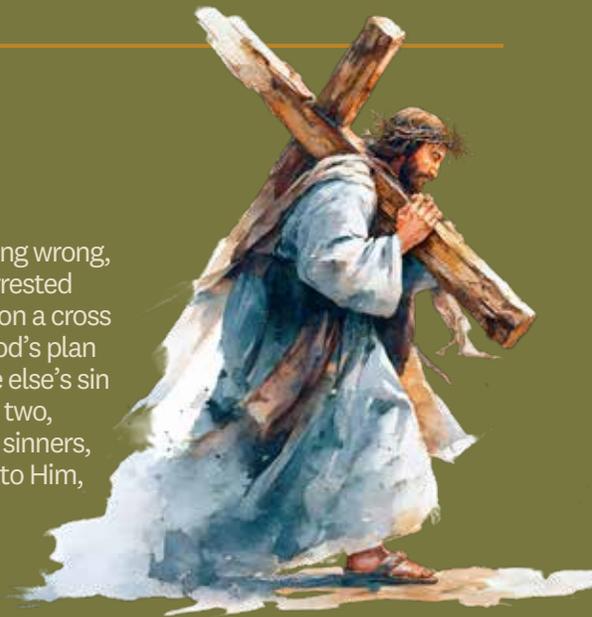
Make unleavened bread

- **INGREDIENTS** • 1 cup all-purpose flour • 1/3 cup vegetable oil • 1/8 teaspoon salt • 1/3 cup water
- **DIRECTIONS** 1. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. 2. Mix flour, oil, and salt together in a bowl; add water and mix using a pastry cutter until dough is soft. 3. Form dough into six balls and press into disks using your hands onto the prepared baking sheet. 4. Bake in the preheated oven until bread is cooked, 8 to 10 minutes.

FRIDAY: JESUS DIES

READ: Mark 15:16-39

Jesus was betrayed by Judas, arrested, and put on trial. Jesus had never done anything wrong, so the judges could not find a reason to punish Him. However, the leaders who had arrested Jesus stirred up the crowd against Him, yelling that Jesus should be crucified—hung on a cross to die. Jesus had the power to save Himself from the cross, but He didn't. This was God's plan all along. Jesus, the only person who never sinned, took the punishment for everyone else's sin because He loves us so much. When Jesus died, the curtain in the temple was torn in two, showing that people no longer had to be separated from God. When we admit we are sinners, turn from our sin, believe Jesus paid for our sins on the cross, and surrender our lives to Him, we are forgiven and can be part of God's family.



TALK ABOUT IT:

- How did Jesus die?
- Why do we call the day Jesus died on the cross "Good Friday?"
- Why did Jesus allow Himself to be crucified?

ACTIVITY:

- Draw a cross on a piece of paper and decorate the cross however you choose. Write the word "sin" on the cross. Display it in your home as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice.

Pray for the people you invited to Easter. Pray that their hearts would be open to the truth of Jesus.

SATURDAY: JESUS IS IN THE TOMB

READ: Matthew 27:57-66

After Jesus died on the cross, His body was taken down and placed in a tomb. The tomb was like a cave carved into solid rock. A big stone was rolled in front of the entrance to close the tomb. The stone was so big and heavy that it would take many people to move it (Mark 16:3). The tomb was sealed, and guards were placed in front of it to make sure that no one could open it. Jesus' disciples were afraid and went into hiding. But Jesus had promised them that He would come back to life, and Jesus always keeps His promises.



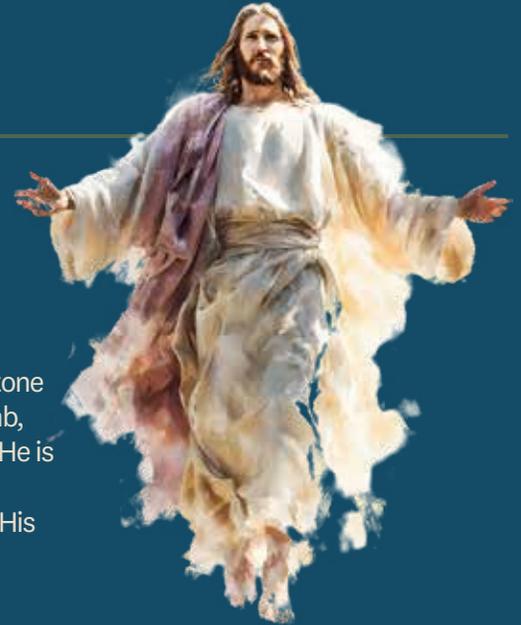
TALK ABOUT IT:

- Where did they put Jesus' body after he died?
- What do you think Jesus' friends were feeling after He was buried?
- What would you have been thinking about on the day Jesus was dead in the tomb?

ACTIVITY:

Write the name JESUS on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the house. Play hide and seek multiple times taking turns with your kids. Explain that Jesus was in the tomb but is alive today and we can find Him when we seek Him!

PRAY: Pray over your invitations for tomorrow and invite someone today!



SUNDAY: JESUS IS ALIVE!

READ: Matthew 28:1-10

On Sunday morning, some of the women who followed Jesus went to His tomb to put sweet-smelling spices on His body. When the women arrived, they discovered that the stone had been moved from the opening of the tomb. Instead of finding Jesus' body in the tomb, they found angels! The angels said, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen!" (Luke 24:5-6) Later that day, Jesus showed Himself to His disciples, proving that He was no longer dead but fully alive just as He had promised. All His disciples worshiped Him.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- What did the angels say to the women at Jesus' tomb?
- How could Jesus come back from being dead?
- What does Jesus' resurrection mean for us and for our salvation today?

ACTIVITY:

Come to Kids Celebration Day today at church and celebrate with your church family that Jesus is Alive! Optional-make resurrection eggs. Instructions can easily be found online.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

CENTRAL CAMPUS AT 9:15 + 11AM

NORTH CAMPUS 9:30AM

Join us in worship on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus together! Our Central Campus will have birth-5th Grade Kids programming. Our North Campus will have birth-PreK Kids programming.

Easter
AT CHRIST PLACE