

2023

EASTER

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

FOR FAMILIES

The cover art features a vibrant sunset or sunrise scene. A large, bright yellow sun is partially obscured by a dark brown cross silhouette. The sky is filled with orange and yellow rays of light, and several birds are shown in flight. The foreground consists of dark brown, rolling hills. The overall color palette transitions from a teal blue at the top to a bright yellow in the middle, and finally to a dark brown at the bottom.

Lifeway[™] kids



HAPPY EASTER FROM LIFEWAY KIDS!

Easter is an important opportunity for families to celebrate what Christ has done. As you go through this week, this devotional will help you lead kids through the events of Holy Week, including the Triumphal Entry, the Last Supper, and the death and resurrection of Jesus.

With talking points, discussion questions, prayer, and activities, our hope is that kids will grow a greater understanding of who they are in Christ and the victorious hope we have in Him and that your families will engage in meaningful gospel conversations. Happy Easter!

JESUS'S TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Bible Story

Explain that during Jesus' public ministry, He taught people, healed them, and did other miracles. Large crowds followed Jesus, and one of those crowds was waiting for Him on His final trip into Jerusalem.

Open your Bible to Matthew 21:1-11 and read the Bible story. With older children, read the passage aloud and encourage your family to follow along in their Bibles as you tell the story. You can even take turns reading the verses. With younger children, consider reading the provided Bible story with your Bible open.

Jesus' Triumphal Entry
(Based on Matthew 21:1-11)

Jesus and His disciples walked toward Jerusalem. As they neared, Jesus sent two of the disciples into a village. "Go to the village. You will see a donkey and a colt. Untie them and bring them to Me." Jesus fulfilled a prophecy Zechariah made, "Tell Jerusalem that their King will come riding on a donkey. He will come with gentleness and humility." The disciples obeyed Jesus and brought the donkey and the colt. They laid their robes on the animal and Jesus sat on the animal.

A large crowd gathered. The people spread their robes on the road, and some cut palm branches and placed them on the road. The people shouted, "Hosanna! The King who comes in the name of the Lord is blessed!" The crowds of people kept saying, "This is Jesus!" And everything Jesus did was exactly as the prophet Zechariah had said would happen.

Today's Point

Share that as Jesus entered Jerusalem, He rode on a donkey and a colt to fulfill Zechariah's prophecy from long ago. The prophet Zechariah told of a future King, a Savior, who would humbly come on a donkey and proclaim peace. Jesus came to fulfill God's promise. He is the King the people had been waiting for. Jesus is King over everything, and He is worthy of praise.

Talk About It

How did the people react to Jesus' entering Jerusalem? (laid their robes and branches on the road; shouted praises of "Hosanna!")

What does it mean to worship God? How can we worship and praise God today? (Worshiping God means responding to God with honor and praise. We can worship God through singing, praying, telling God, "Thank You," reading our Bible, and obeying God in our words, actions, and attitudes.)

Pray Together

Pray, praising Jesus as the Messiah and thanking God for providing a plan for salvation because He loves us.



SUNDAY, APRIL 2

PRAISE BANNER

LIVE
IT OUT

You will need: 8 sheets of construction paper, markers, stickers (optional), tape

Explain that the people shouted, “Hosanna” as Jesus rode into town. Hosannah means “save now.” Some people hoped that Jesus would become king and save them from their enemies, but God’s plan was not for Jesus to be an earthly king. Jesus is the King of kings. God sent Him to save people from their sins. God provided this plan because He loves all people.

Guide your kids to make a praise banner. Lead them to write one letter of H-O-S-A-N-N-A-H on each sheet of construction paper and decorate the paper. Tape the banner onto a wall in your home. Throughout the week, add drawings or words of how your family can praise God.

Encourage your family to praise Jesus again with praise prayers. Suggest kids begin by praying: “I praise You, Jesus, because...” and then add their own endings.



JESUS WASHED DISCIPLES' FEET

Bible Story

Open your Bible to John 13:1-20 and read the Bible story. With older children, read the passage aloud and encourage your family to follow along in their Bibles as you tell the story. You can even take turns reading the verses. With younger children, consider reading the provided Bible story with your Bible open.

Jesus Washed the Disciples' Feet
(Based on John 13:1-20)

When it was time for the special Jewish Feast of the Passover, Jesus knew that it also was almost time for Him to leave this earth. He planned to have a special supper with His disciples, whom He loved. During the supper

Jesus got up, wrapped a towel around Himself, and poured some water in a bowl. Then He began to wash the disciples' feet. They were surprised! Jesus went from one man to the next, washing each man's feet in the bowl and drying them with His towel.

When Jesus came to Peter, Peter asked, "Lord, are You going to wash my feet?" Peter did not want Jesus to do such a lowly act of service for him.

Jesus answered, "What I'm doing you don't understand now, but afterward you will know."

Peter insisted, "No! You will never wash my feet!" Jesus explained, "If I don't wash your feet, you have no part with Me."

Immediately, Peter said, "Lord, then don't just wash my feet, but wash my hands and my head also." Peter loved Jesus very much.

After Jesus had washed the feet of every disciple, He returned to the supper and asked, "Do you know what I have done?" Jesus explained to them why He had washed their feet. "You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right. That is who I am! So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have served you by

washing your feet, you also should serve one another. Follow My example and serve others. Do the things you have learned from Me, and you will be blessed."

Today's Point

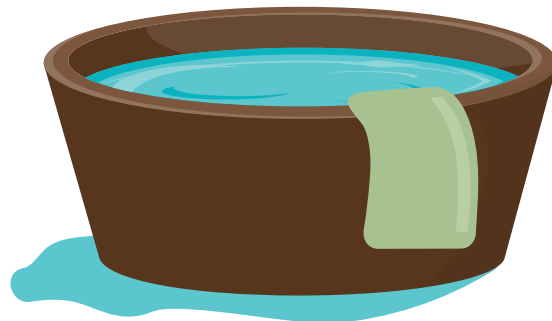
Explain that during the week of Easter, Jesus did something important to help His friends and followers know how to love others. Jesus washed His disciples' feet and cared about them by serving them. Help your child know that the greatest way Jesus served was when He died on the cross and came back to life. Share that we show our love to Jesus as we also serve and obey Him.

Talk About It

What motivated Jesus to wash the disciples' feet? What did He want them to learn? (Jesus served His disciples by washing their feet. Only a few hours later, He would serve them in a much bigger way through His death and resurrection. Jesus wanted His followers to know that they can obey Jesus as a response to His love.)

Pray Together

Pray and thank Jesus for teaching us what it means to serve. Ask God to help your family serve others and show them Jesus' love.



MONDAY, APRIL 3

EASTER EGGS-ERCISES

LIVE
IT OUT

You will need: a printout of this page, scissors, pen, plastic eggs

Cut out the paper strips with action words below (you can choose to use the action words given or write your own). Place the actions in plastic eggs.

Choose a start and finish location in your home. Explain that family members will choose an egg one at a time and do that activity all the way to the end of the finish line. Play until each person has had a turn and reached the designated finish line. For added fun, encourage family members to follow the leader behind each person.

Say: These exercises were fun, but we may not have been very graceful. Some of us may have even tripped or fallen over, but what mattered most is how we kept going and finished. Jesus came to show us how we can serve others. Sometimes serving people is really fun, and sometimes it can be more challenging, but what matters is how we finish. We can follow our leader—Jesus—and love and serve others around us, pointing them to Jesus' love.

SKIP

FROG JUMP

KARATE KICK

BACKWARD STEP

BUNNY HOP

SPIN

Write your own action:



TUESDAY, APRIL 4

THE LAST SUPPER

Bible Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 26:17-30 and read the Bible story. With older children, read the passage aloud and encourage your family to follow along in their Bibles as you tell the story. You can even take turns reading the verses. With younger children, consider reading the provided Bible story with your Bible open.

The Last Supper
(Based on Matthew 26:17-30,
1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Jesus and His disciples were in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast. On the first day of the celebration, Jesus gave instructions to some of His disciples about where they should prepare the Passover meal. The disciples followed Jesus' instructions and prepared the meal. That evening while Jesus and His twelve disciples were eating, Jesus told them that one of them would soon betray Him. The disciples were upset and each of them began to ask Jesus, "I'm not the one, am I, Lord?"

Jesus explained to His disciples that He knew it was God's plan for Him to die, but the one who betrayed Him also would face bad consequences. Jesus said, "It is the one who dips his hand in the bowl with Me." That person was Judas Iscariot.

During the supper Jesus prayed, broke the bread into pieces, and gave it to the disciples. He said, "Take and eat this bread. It is My body, given for you."

Then Jesus took the cup and gave thanks. He passed it to the disciples and said, "Drink from this cup, all of you. It is My blood that I will pour out for you so that your sins can be forgiven. As often as you drink it, remember Me."

Jesus wanted the disciples and all believers to remember Him each time they observed this special supper. By eating the bread and drinking from the cup, people would know what Jesus did through His death until He comes again.

After Jesus and the disciples sang, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Today's Point

Explain that Jesus knew that He soon would die on the cross. At this special supper He gave the disciples instructions for remembering Him that believers still follow today. Comment that the Lord's Supper is a way we remember God's plan for Jesus. Explain that the Lord's Supper is a way for us to remember all that Jesus did for us when He died on the cross for our sins. Because God sent Jesus, we have a way to live forever with God.

Talk About It

Why did Jesus want believers to observe the Lord's Supper? (so that, until Jesus comes again, people would know what Jesus did through His death and resurrection)

Pray Together

Pray and thank God for sending Jesus to be the Savior of the world.



TUESDAY, APRIL 4

SUPPER SYMBOLS

LIVE
IT OUT

You will need: 5 household objects

Instruct your family to stand. Make sure there is enough room for everyone to move around. Display the five objects. Explain that each object will be a reminder of something. Hold up the objects one at a time. Identify what action the object should remind your family of, and then allow everyone to practice the action. When you set the object down, everyone should stand still.

After reviewing the actions, hold objects up one at a time in random order. Everyone should react accordingly. Vary the pace and the order of the objects for an added challenge.

- Cup—Clap three times.
- Plate—Stomp three times.
- Fork—Wiggle your arms.
- Spoon—Do a jumping jack.
- Napkin—Turn around.

Share that today's Bible story took place before Jesus died on the cross. Jesus died to rescue people from sin and give us a new life of freedom with Him. Followers of Jesus share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death and to proclaim Him until He returns.



PRAYER IN THE GARDEN

Bible Story

Open your Bible to Luke 22:39-46 and read the Bible story. With older children, read the passage aloud and encourage your family to follow along in their Bibles as you tell the story. You can even take turns reading the verses. With younger children, consider reading the provided Bible story with your Bible open.

Jesus Prayed in a Garden

(Based on Mark 14:32-40; Luke 22:39-46)

Jesus and His disciples often went to the Mount of Olives just outside the city of Jerusalem. At the bottom of the Mount of Olives was the garden of Gethsemane.

Just before Jesus was arrested, He went to the garden with His disciples. Jesus told the men, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James, and John and walked a little farther. He said to them, "I am so sad. Stay here and watch."

Jesus walked a short distance away from them, knelt down, and began to pray. He knew that He would die soon. "Father," He prayed, "If You are willing, take this hard thing away from Me." Jesus continued, "But may Your will be done and not Mine."

An angel from heaven appeared and cared for Jesus. Jesus' prayer was strong and powerful. As He prayed, His sweat fell like drops of blood to the ground.

When Jesus finished His prayer, He went back to find Peter, James, and John sleeping. Jesus said, "Why are you sleeping? Couldn't you stay awake one hour? Get up and pray, that you will not give in to temptation."

Jesus walked farther ahead and prayed the same thing. Then He went back to the disciples and found them sleeping again.

Today's Point

Share that the night before Jesus died, He went to a garden to pray. Jesus knew that God's plan was for Him to die on the cross and take the punishment for sin that we deserve. Jesus could have said, "No, I won't do it," but He wanted to obey His Father no matter what.

Emphasize that because Jesus prayed for God's will to be done and then followed it, forgiveness from sin and eternal life is available to all people.

Talk About It

What did Jesus pray in the garden? (He asked God to take away the hard thing that was about to happen, but also for God's will to be done and not His own.)

Guide your family to talk about the definition of God's will. Explain that God's will is His perfect plan for His creation and each person. When Jesus prayed that God's will be done, Jesus was saying that He knew God was perfect and right. Jesus wanted God to do what He planned to do.

Pray Together

Pray that God would work His perfect plan in the lives of the people you know and love. Guide your child to pray that family members and friends would know God's will and follow it.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

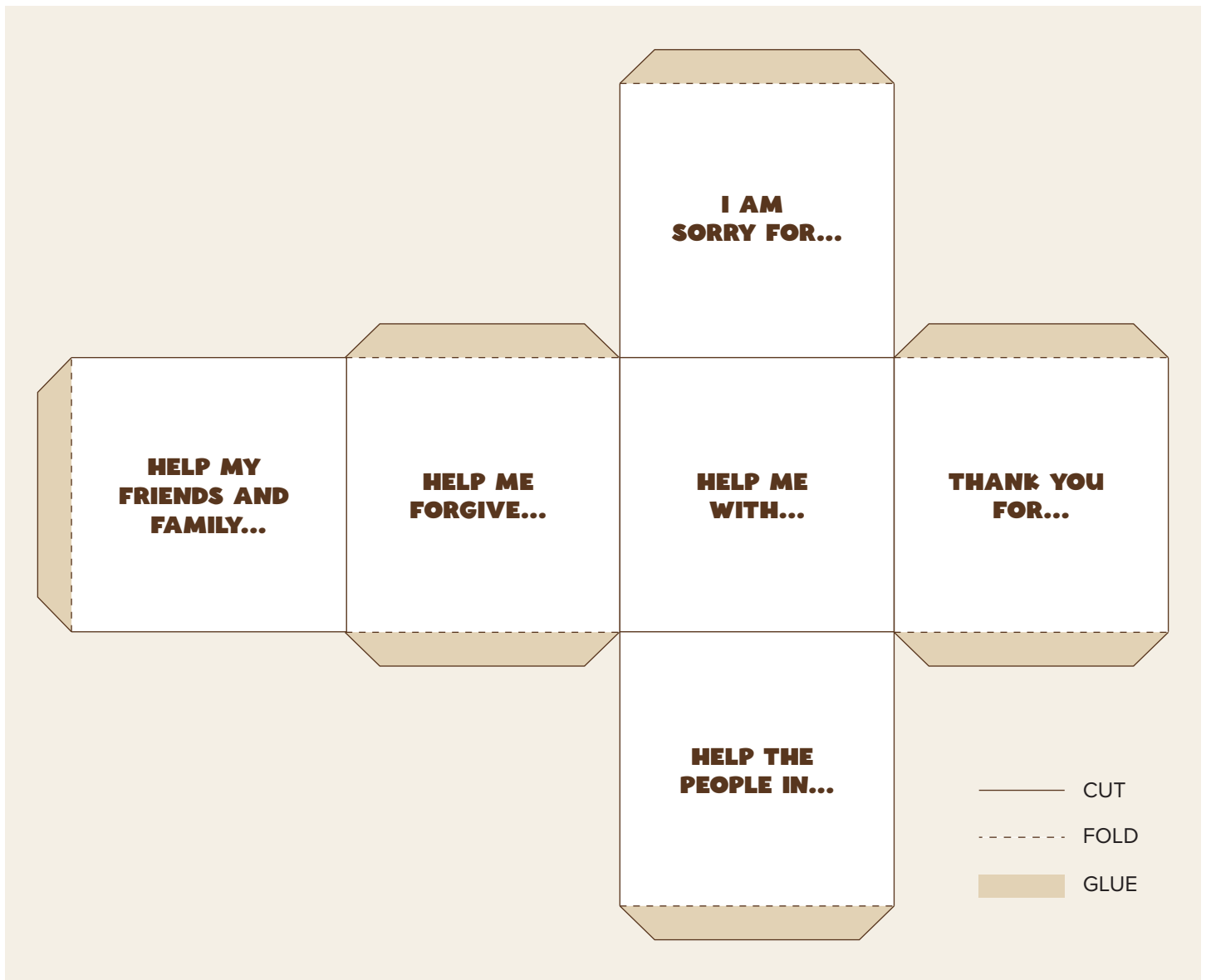
PRAYER TIME

LIVE
IT OUT

You will need: a printout of this page, crayons to decorate (optional), glue stick

Cut out the template below and allow your child to color and decorate it. Glue and assemble the cube and talk about the prayer prompts on each side. Take turns as a family rolling the cube and spending time praying for the prompt that it lands on.

Remind your family that when Jesus was in the garden, He prayed to the Father three times. Explain that God hears us when we pray. He wants us to talk to Him, and trust His will to be done in our lives.



PETER'S DENIAL

Bible Story

Open your Bible to John 18:1-18, 25-27; 21:12-19 and read the Bible story. With older children, read the passage aloud and encourage your family to follow along in their Bibles as you tell the story. You can even take turns reading the verses. With younger children, consider reading the provided Bible story with your Bible open.

Peter Denied Jesus
(Based on John 18, 21)

On the night before He was crucified, Jesus went to a garden to pray. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, planned to betray Jesus. Judas brought soldiers and the temple police. The men came to the garden with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

Peter grabbed his sword and cut off the ear of the high priest's servant. Jesus scolded Peter. "Put your sword away!" Jesus commanded. "Am I not to do what My Father has planned for me?" The men arrested Jesus. Peter followed the soldiers to the high priest's courtyard. Three times, someone asked Peter, "Aren't you one of Jesus' disciples?" Three times, Peter said, "I am not." Immediately, a rooster crowed.

Jesus died, was buried, and was resurrected, just as He had promised. Several days later, Peter and some of the other disciples went fishing in Galilee. They fished all night and caught nothing. Jesus called to them from the shore, but the disciples didn't recognize Him. "Cast your net on the other side!" Jesus said. When they obeyed, the net was full of fish. The disciples recognized Jesus. Peter plunged into the water and swam to the shore. After breakfast, Jesus asked Peter. "Peter, do you love Me?" Peter said, "You know I love You!" Jesus asked Peter this two more times. Each time Jesus told Peter: "Feed My sheep." Then Jesus told Peter: "Follow Me!"

Today's Point

Explain to your child that Peter lied and said he did not know Jesus three times. When Peter realized what he had done, he was very sad. Point out that Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him the same number of times that Peter denied Jesus. Share that Jesus loved Peter and forgave him, even though he lied and denied knowing Jesus. Jesus came to forgive us. He died on the cross and came back to life so we could be forgiven and have life with God.

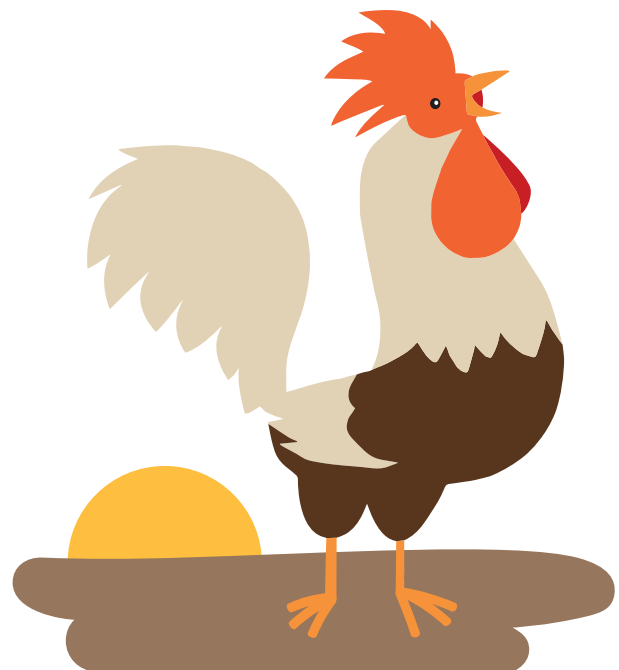
Talk About It

What did Jesus ask Peter three times?
(Do you love Me?)

What is one way you can show others you love and trust Jesus? (Answers will vary.)

Pray Together

Pray, asking God to help your family love, trust, and follow Him.



THURSDAY, APRIL 6

JELLY BEAN BALANCE

LIVE
IT OUT

You will need: craft sticks (one per person), jelly beans

Distribute craft sticks, one per person. On your cue, players will place the craft stick in their mouths and try to balance three jelly beans on it. The first player to successfully balance three jelly beans for ten seconds wins. For an added challenge, add more jelly beans!

Invite your family to share the sinful thing Peter did in today's Bible story. (Peter lied three times and denied knowing Jesus.

He betrayed Jesus and was not faithful to Him.) Share that Peter was a sinful person. Like Peter, we are all sinful, but God changes people from sinful to faithful. Everyone sins and disobeys God, but God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sin. You had to try to balance the weight of the jelly beans. But thankfully, we don't have to carry the weight of our sin anymore. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives us.



FRIDAY, APRIL 7

GOOD FRIDAY

Bible Story

Explain that in today's Bible story, something happened to Jesus that His friends and followers did not understand at first. Jesus came to die on the cross to take the punishment for sin. Jesus suffered many things because He loves us. He was betrayed by Judas and arrested by people who wanted to kill Him.

Open your Bible to Matthew 26:1-4,47-68 and read the Bible story. With older children, read the passage aloud and encourage your family to follow along in their Bibles as you tell the story. You can even take turns reading the verses. With younger children, consider reading the provided Bible story with your Bible open.

Jesus was Betrayed and Arrested
(Based on Matthew 26-27)

Jesus and His disciples went to a garden called Gethsemane. Jesus prayed, "Father! If it is possible, take this suffering from Me. But only if it is part of Your plan." Suddenly Judas arrived with a large crowd. Judas betrayed Jesus by kissing Him so the crowd would know who Jesus was. The crowd grabbed Jesus and arrested Him.

Jesus was led to the high priest. The religious leaders were trying to find a reason to kill Jesus, but they could not. The high priest asked, "Are You the Messiah, the Son of God?" Jesus replied, "Yes, that's right." The high priest said, "He has spoken against God! He deserves to die!" The religious leaders refused to believe that Jesus was God's Son.

The leaders took Jesus to Pilate, the governor. Pilate could not find that Jesus had done anything wrong. He tried to set Jesus free, but the crowds shouted, "Crucify Him!" Pilate agreed to put Jesus to death.

Today's Point

Share that God sent Jesus to earth to pay the penalty for sin—death. Jesus died on the cross and rose again so we can be forgiven. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives us of our sin because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. God's salvation is a gift that every person needs and can receive.

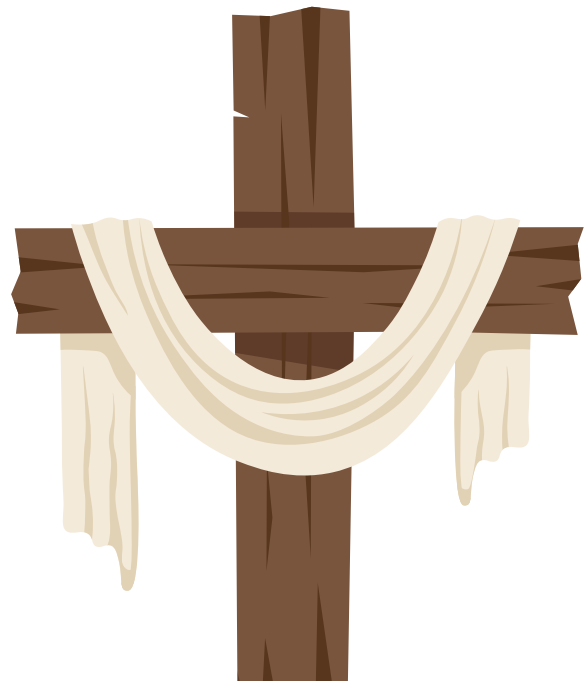
Talk About It

Why did some of the people want Jesus to be arrested and crucified? (They did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God.)

Why is it important that Jesus died on the cross for our sins? (Jesus died to take away the penalty of our sins. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives us and gives us His gift of life forever with Him.)

Pray Together

Pray, thanking God for sending Jesus for us. Ask God to help your family remember the valuable cost of God's plan for salvation—His own Son. Thank Him for the gift of salvation that is possible because of Jesus' death and resurrection.



FRIDAY, APRIL 7

OUT OF CONTROL

LIVE
IT OUT

Give each family member a moment to think about a situation where something felt out of his or her control. Engage in discussions about what is out of our control (circumstances) and what is in our control (responses). Read the following scenarios and guide family members to move to one side of the room if the statement is in our control and to the opposite side of the room if it is out of our control. Allow kids to create additional scenarios.

- Your brother spills milk on your homework (out of our control)
- You yell at your brother for spilling milk on your homework (in our control)
- You lie to your mom about cleaning your room (in our control)

- You choose to clean your room before playing video games (in our control)
- The neighbor rakes all of her leaves into your yard (out of our control)
- You complain about your neighbor to your friends (in our control)

Challenge family members to think of ways to encourage each other when things feel out of control. Maybe think of a family codename (“GIIC”—God is in control) or a hand signal (like two thumbs up and then point up to mean, “It’s okay, God’s in control”).

Remind your family that we can respond to difficult circumstances in ways that demonstrate our faith in God and belief that He is in control of all things.

**“GOD IS IN
CONTROL”**

CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL

Bible Story

Explain that bad things happen to everyone, but sometimes they end up being good things. Sometimes, when we do not expect it, something good will come from something bad. Tell kids that they will hear the story of when Jesus died, which was a bad thing. Something good came from that bad thing. He rose from the grave and is alive again! God sent Jesus to be the Savior, which is the best thing. Jesus died on the cross for people's sins, and He is alive!

Open your Bible to Matthew 27:27-31,45-54 and read the Bible story. With older children, read the passage aloud and encourage your family to follow along in their Bibles as you tell the story. You can even take turns reading the verses. With younger children, consider reading the provided Bible story with your Bible open.

Jesus Was Crucified

(Based on John 19:1-42; Matthew 27:62-66)

The religious leaders did not like Jesus. They wanted to get rid of Him. A mob of people found Jesus and arrested Him. They took Him to Pilate. Pilate allowed Jesus to be beaten up. Pilate told the people, "I can't find any reason to charge Him (Jesus)." But the religious leaders yelled, "Crucify Him!" The religious leaders did not believe the truth about Jesus.

Pilate tried to release Jesus. He was afraid of what was happening, but the crowd of people would not give up. They wanted Jesus to be crucified. Finally, Pilate agreed. Pilate had a sign made for the top of Jesus' cross that said, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." While Jesus was dying on the cross, Jesus asked John to take care of Jesus' mother Mary. Jesus knew that every Scripture prophesied about Him would be fulfilled, so He said, "It is finished." Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sin.

Joseph of Arimathea was a follower of Jesus. Joseph went to Pilate and asked permission to bury Jesus' body. Nicodemus and Joseph took Jesus' body and wrapped it in linen cloths. They placed Jesus' body in a new tomb in the garden. The next day, the religious leaders asked Pilate to give orders for the tomb to be guarded because Jesus had said, "After three days I will rise again."

Today's Point

Jesus's crucifixion (the way Jesus died on the cross) took place to pay for the sins of people. Because of Jesus' death on the cross, people can have a relationship with God that is personal and true. God loved people so much that He sent Jesus to provide the sacrifice for sin. Celebrate today for God's good gift for everyone who believes in Him.

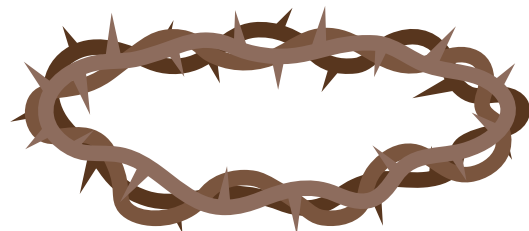
Talk About It

What did the religious leaders want to happen to Jesus? (They wanted Jesus to be crucified, even though He had done nothing wrong.)

Why was Jesus' sacrifice a special gift to us? (Jesus died on the cross in our place. He took the punishment for sin so we could have the gift of life with God.)

Pray Together

Lead your family in prayer, thanking God for Jesus' sacrifice. Ask God to help your family to remember the great cost of salvation and to praise God for this amazing gift.



SATURDAY, APRIL 8

GOSPEL BOOKMARK

LIVE
IT OUT

You will need: a printout of this page, kid-friendly scissors, markers or crayons, strip of construction paper, glue

Guide your child to share examples of ways people (including kids) sin. Emphasize that everyone has sinned. Sin separates people from God and deserves God's punishment of death.

Explain that God sent Jesus to be the Savior. He lived a perfect life, died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, and rose again. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins—past, present, and future.

Lead your child to cut apart and color the gospel icons below. As she works, talk about the different icons and how they help us remember the gospel story. Encourage your child to place the bookmark in her Bible. As she reads and learns about God, she can remember the gospel story and share it with others.

God Rules. The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. (Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17)

We Sinned. Since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God Provided. God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9)

Jesus Gives. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18)

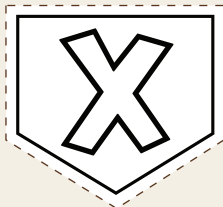
We Respond. We can respond to Jesus. We can admit to God that we are sinners, believe that Jesus is God's Son, and confess our faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Explain that the word gospel means "good news." When we talk about the gospel, we are talking about the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. The Bible teaches us that Jesus is our Redeemer. This means that He came to make a way for us to be forgiven of our wrong choices (sins) and have a relationship with God. God loves every person, and He wants everyone to trust in Jesus for salvation. When we share this good news with others, we can help others know more about God and how to trust in Jesus for salvation.

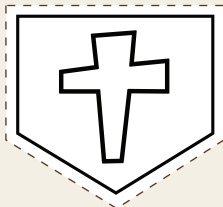
God Rules



We Sinned



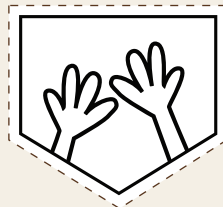
God Provided



Jesus Gives



We Respond



RESURRECTION SUNDAY

Bible Story

Explain that today is Easter Sunday. This is the day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Jesus died on the cross and was buried in a tomb, but He didn't stay dead. After three days, Jesus was raised to life!

Open your Bible to Matthew 27:62–28:10 and read the Bible story. With older children, read the passage aloud and encourage your family to follow along in their Bibles as you tell the story. You can even take turns reading the verses. With younger children, consider reading the provided Bible story with your Bible open.

Jesus' Resurrection

(Based on Matthew 27:62–28:10; Luke 24:1–12)

After Jesus died on the cross, He was buried in a tomb. Jesus' friends and disciples were very sad and did not know what to do. Three days later, on the morning after the Sabbath (Saturday), some of Jesus' followers took spices and perfumes to His tomb. When the women arrived, the stone was rolled away and Jesus was not there. They were confused.

Suddenly two men appeared and asked the women, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here. He has been resurrected! Remember, He told you, 'The Son of Man will be betrayed, crucified, and rise on the third day.'"

The women remembered and went to the disciples and shared the good news! Peter ran to the tomb to see. He looked inside and only found the cloths Jesus' body had been wrapped in. He was amazed at what had happened! Jesus is alive!

Today's Point

Jesus died on the cross to provide forgiveness for sin, but He didn't stay dead. Three days later, Jesus rose from the grave. Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sins, and He conquered sin and death. We can celebrate that God brought Jesus back to life and that Jesus is alive today!

Talk About It

Where was Jesus' body placed? (in a tomb sealed with a big stone)

What did the angel tell the women at the tomb? (Jesus is not here. He has been resurrected!)

Why do we celebrate Jesus' resurrection at Easter? (We celebrate Jesus' resurrection because Jesus is alive! He paid the punishment for sin and conquered death so we could have life with God. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can be forgiven of our sin and have a right relationship with God.)

Pray Together

Lead your family in prayer, thanking God for sending Jesus to save people from their sins by dying on the cross and rising again.



SUNDAY, APRIL 9

EGG-CELLENT RELAY

LIVE
IT OUT

You will need: plastic eggs, plastic spoons, timer (optional)

Decide as a family the best route to take in your home (Ex: Start at the couch, walk around the coffee table, walk into the kitchen, and back to the couch.) Explain that each person will balance a plastic egg on a spoon. On your cue, the first person will walk the route while balancing his egg on his spoon. If he drops the egg, he must start again. The first person to complete the course in the fastest time wins.

Remind your family that when the angel told the women that Jesus' tomb was empty, they were filled with fear and great joy! The angel told them to go quickly and tell the disciples.

The women couldn't wait to share the good news that Jesus was alive. Just like we hurried in this relay race, we should also be in a hurry to tell others the good news that Jesus is alive.

Explain that God sent Jesus to be the Savior. He lived a perfect life, died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, and rose again. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins—past, present, and future. Share that because Jesus is alive today, they can ask Him to be their Savior and Lord—the One who saves them from sin and leads their lives.



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