A JOURNEY THROUGH

Holy Week

ChildDiscipleship.com

HOW TO Journey Through Holy Week WITH YOUR FAMILY

This resource is designed to help your family engage with the story of Jesus' death and resurrection in a meaningful and interactive way. Each day includes a Scripture reading, a short devotional and a hands-on activity to help your children connect with the message.

GETTING STARTED

1. **Read the Scripture** or watch the video provided as a QR code on each page.
2. **Share the Devotional**
   - After the Scripture reading, read the short devotional provided.
   - Feel free to pause for questions and discussion to help your kids reflect on the meaning of the passage.
   - After reading the short devotional, allow your children to ask questions using the prompt provided as a springboard for discussion.
   - Finally, pray together using the provided guide or feel free to create your own prayer.
3. **Engage with the Activity**
   - While listening to Scripture or the devotional, your children can color the images provided.

HELPFUL TIPS

- Encourage open-ended questions to spark curiosity and understanding.
- And when you don't know an answer, "I'm not sure, let's look together in the Bible," is a great response and an opportunity to grow with your children!
- If you miss a day, don't worry! Simply pick up where you left off.
- Most importantly, enjoy this time together as a family, growing in faith and celebrating the hope of Easter.

MAY THIS HOLY WEEK BE A TIME OF MEANINGFUL DISCIPLESHIP AND JOYFUL CONNECTION FOR YOUR FAMILY!

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SUNDAY:
Triumphal Entry

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1–11

SAY THIS:

Jesus traveled with His disciples. As they drew near the city of Jerusalem, Jesus sent two of His disciples ahead and told them to go to the next village and bring back a donkey and a colt that had never been ridden before.

The disciples did what Jesus told them to do. They brought the donkey and the colt to Jesus. Jesus rode the colt toward the city of Jerusalem, through a large crowd of men, women --- and kids! -- who had gathered. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road to honor Jesus.

WATCH THIS:

ASK THIS:

The people of Jerusalem laid down their coats as a way to say "Jesus is our forever King." What can we give to Jesus to show Him He's our forever King?

Some of the people walked in front of Jesus while others followed behind Him. All of the people shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" (v. 9). The word "Hosanna" means "Save us!" Because that is exactly what Jesus had come to do.

God promised David that a future member of His family would be the forever King. This King the prophets told us about was coming to save the people from their sin. That promised King is Jesus! He came to Jerusalem knowing He was headed there to die on the cross to defeat sin and make a way for us to live with God forever. God is a promise keeper and Jesus came to save us!

PRAY THIS:

Jesus, thank you for being our forever King. Thank you that you came and lived a perfect life and willingly died in our place. We say "Hosanna, Save us." Thank you that you came back to life as our forever King. In your name we pray, amen.

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MONDAY:

Cleansing of the Temple

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:12–17; Mark 11:15–18

SAY THIS:

When Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem, He was angry because of how sellers and moneychangers in the temple were taking advantage of all those who came to worship there. Selling animals for sacrifices in the temple was supposed to be a helpful thing, but it turned into quite the business with people charging very high prices. The focus became on making money, rather than welcoming others.

WATCH THIS:

ASK THIS:

The people loved money more than helping others or serving God. What are the things you love most?

Jesus is completely righteous — He knows what is right and always does what is right. Jesus walked up and turned over the tables of the money changers and the benches of those who were selling doves for sacrifices. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of robbers!" (Matthew 21:13).

The religious leaders saw the amazing things Jesus was doing. They became very, very angry, and began to plot a way to stop Him.

Jesus, in His righteousness, shows how to live life God's way instead of our own. God cares about the way we live, but He knew there was nothing we could do on our own to be saved. Jesus came and lived the perfect life we could not live, lived for us, and then paid the price for our sin on the cross so we could be saved through Him.

PRAY THIS:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for the perfect gift of your Son Jesus. Thank you because He is perfectly righteous and always does what is best. Help me to trust in Him even when I don't understand. Thank you that our forever King is a perfect King. We pray this in your Son's name, amen.

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TUESDAY:

The Greatest Commandment

Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:34–40

SAY THIS:

Yesterday we learned the religious leaders were angry and were trying to stop Jesus. One of the ways they tried to stop Him was by trying to get Him to say something that broke one of their laws. That way they could have Him arrested and put to death.

A religious leader asked Jesus a tricky question. He said, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" (v. 36). He was trying to trip Jesus up. There were over 600 man-made laws that they added to the Ten Commandments that God gave his people. They were trying to get Jesus to pick one so he would make enemies of people who disagreed. But what Jesus did was amazing. He didn't pick a side or make any enemies. He took all of the Ten Commandments and summed them up by telling him, "Love the Lord your God" (v. 37).

But He didn't stop there. He went on to say the second most important thing is to love others more than we love ourselves. He said it this way because we already know how to love ourselves. What we need help with is loving others.

How can we love others? By loving God first and allowing Him to change our hearts. Because if God doesn't change us, we can't love others and will only think about ourselves.

How much does Jesus love us? We are about to see. Jesus is our example. He suffered on the cross for you and me. He showed us that He loved us enough to die in our place.

ASK THIS:

What does it mean to love God first and how do we show our love for Him?

PRAY THIS:

Father, thank you for sending your one and only Son. Thank you for showing us what love looks like. Help us to love you first so we can love others better. We ask this in Jesus' name, amen.

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WEDNESDAY:

Judas betrayed Jesus

Scripture Reading: Luke 22:1–6, 39-53; John 13:1–17

SAY THIS:

Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, met with the religious leaders. He plotted with them to hand Jesus over to be arrested. They offered him 30 silver coins and they made a deal. Judas started looking to betray Jesus when there wasn't a large crowd of people.

At the Last Supper, Jesus shared that He would suffer. He told His disciples that His body would be broken and His blood would be poured out for them. He also told them that one of them would betray Him. The disciples were saddened and asked who it would be. When Jesus told Judas, "What you are going to do, do quickly," many of the disciples were confused (John 13:27–28). But Jesus wasn't. He knew what Judas was planning.

WATCH THIS:

ASK THIS:

Have you ever felt hurt by a friend? What can we learn from how Jesus acted toward Judas?

Jesus loved Judas before he messed up, and He even loved Judas after Judas betrayed Him. Jesus' arrest was part of God's plan for Him to die on the cross for all of our sins. Romans 5:8 says, "God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Jesus loved us so much that He took the punishment for our sin. He made a way for us to be forgiven and turn back to God.

PRAY THIS:

Father, we ask for your help. We need to forgive others even as we have been forgiven. We need to trust you. Thank you that Jesus came and lived modeled a life that pleased you and died and rose again so that we could know you and experience the forgiveness we are called to give to others. Help us forgive because we have forgiveness in Christ. In His name we pray, amen.

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THURSDAY:

The Last Supper

Scripture Reading: Luke 22:1–6, 39-53; John 13:1–17

SAY THIS:

Jesus' disciples were His closest friends. They were with Him through His entire ministry. They saw Him heal people, heard all of the words He taught, and saw firsthand the many miracles He performed.

The disciples were closer to Him than anyone else. If anyone knew Jesus, it was these twelve men. As Passover approached, the religious leaders were looking for a way to get rid of Jesus. They were jealous of how the people loved Him and they were angry about what Jesus taught.

ASK THIS:

What are some ways other people have served you? What are some ways you can serve the people who love you as well as those who don't like you?

Jesus ate the Passover meal with His disciples. During the meal, Jesus served His friends by washing their feet.

Even Judas.

At the Last Supper, Jesus showed His disciples what kind of King He is. He didn't sit at the head of the table and ask to be served. Instead, He got down on His knees and washed their feet. Even Judas's feet. Jesus knew the suffering that was coming, but He chose to love and serve anyway.

When Jesus broke the bread and shared the cup, He was pointing to what He was about to do on the cross. His body would be broken. His blood would be poured out—not because He had done anything wrong, but because we had. Jesus chose to obey God's plan so our sins could be forgiven.

PRAY THIS:

Lord, thank you for Jesus. Thank you that Jesus served us by stepping into this broken world and overcoming our two greatest enemies, sin and death. Help us by the power of your Holy Spirit to love and serve others. We pray this in the Name above every other name, amen.

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Good Friday

Scripture Reading: Mark 15:13–16:8; Luke 23:26–24:9

SAY THIS:

The religious leaders grabbed Jesus, arrested Him and took Him away to the high priest's house. He was taken before the authorities to be judged. He was beaten up and made fun of.

As they led Jesus away, they forced a man named Simon of Cyrene to carry Jesus' cross. They reached a place called The Skull, or Golgotha. They nailed His hands and feet to the cross and raised it up in the air. They hung a sign over His head to mock Him that said, "This is the King of the Jews."

WATCH THIS:

ASK THIS:

Why do we call today Good Friday? Why did Jesus need to die?

Jesus said, "*Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing!" (see Luke 23:34)*. At noon, the whole sky became dark. The giant curtain in the temple that separated the people from God's presence was torn right down the middle. Jesus cried out, "*Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" (Luke 23:46)*. He breathed one last time, then He died.

Jesus' body was taken down from the cross, wrapped in fine linen and placed in a tomb cut into the rock. A large stone was placed in front of the tomb. Jesus did nothing wrong, yet He was treated like the worst kind of criminal. He was mocked, beaten, and nailed to a cross. In saying, "*Father, forgive them,*" Jesus was showing the depth of God's love. Jesus took the punishment for our sin so we could be forgiven. Jesus chose the cross. He gave His life so we could know God. His death was not an accident. It was part of God's loving plan to rescue us.

PRAY THIS:

Heavenly Father, on this Good Friday we remember the weight of our sin and the cost of our redemption. Because of our sin, Jesus willingly suffered and died on the cross. Yet even in our sorrow, we give thanks, for through His wounds we are forgiven and brought back to you. Grant us hearts that grieve our sin and rest in the mercy won for us at the cross. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

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Holy Saturday

Scripture Reading: Mattew 27:62–66

SAY THIS:

The next day, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "*Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise'*" *(v. 63).*

The religious leaders came to Pilate because they were worried. They had killed Jesus, but they remembered what He had said about coming back to life. So they asked Pilate to place guards at Jesus' tomb so no one could get in and no one could get out.

DO THIS:

There is no video and no discussion today. Spend extra time in prayer, reflection and anticipation.

For the disciples, Holy Saturday — the day after Jesus' death — was a time of intense grief and shock. They had run away and were hiding in fear, trying to make sense of the murder of their Lord, the betrayal of friends and the broken dreams they had witnessed.

Traditionally, churches observe Holy Saturday as a day of somber reflection, contemplating the darkness that would exist without the hope of Christ's resurrection.

PRAY THIS:

Have each person present take a turn offering a brief prayer of thanksgiving, asking God for courage to love Him and courage to follow Him. Close with a prayer of anticipation.

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Resurrection Sunday

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:1–10; Luke 24:1–12

SAY THIS:

The women who had served with Jesus watched where He was laid and then went home to prepare the spices and perfumes they would need to place on His body.

On the first day of the week, the same women hurried to the tomb, carrying their spices. They were shocked when they arrived. The stone had been rolled away! They quickly entered, but Jesus' body was not there. They were very confused.

ASK THIS:

Because Jesus died and came back to life, there is nothing He can't do. What is something you need God's help with because it feels impossible?

Two men were standing there, wearing dazzling, bright clothes. *"Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" they asked (Luke 24:5). "He is not here, for He has risen, as He said" (Matthew 28:6)*. The women ran out, astonished at what they had seen. Jesus was alive!

Jesus was alive, and everything was about to change. Romans 6:23 tells us that the "wages of sin is death." Death is the punishment we all deserve because of the things we think, say or do that disobey God. Jesus died for our sins, but He didn't stay dead. He rose again, defeating death and making a way for us to live forever with Him. Paul ends by saying, "The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Because Jesus is the only way to be forgiven, and because we can trust Him as our Savior, we have hope even when all seems lost. In 1 Corinthians 15, the Apostle Paul says, "Christ died for our sins ... was buried ... and raised on the third day." Because that is true, we can trust Him with everything we have and with all that we are. Rejoice! Jesus is alive. Jesus is alive.

PRAY THIS:

Father, we are filled with joy today! We are overwhelmed by Your power and Your grace that raised Jesus from the dead. Thank you for sending Jesus to live a perfect life, to die in our place and to rise to new life. Help us to trust Jesus alone for life and salvation. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

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Palm Sunday

Holy Monday

Holy Tuesday

Holy Wednesday

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Holy Saturday

Resurrection Sunday