

# HOLY WEEK

*at home*



Holy week is a time to reflect on the amazing sacrifice Jesus Christ made for you. We invite you to take time out each day in prayer and reflection.

Use the verses and activities in this packet to get your started. We encourage you use whatever works well for your family and to modify the plan as needed.

The prayers provided are just to get you started. Please make them your own.

# Sunday, April 5, Palm Sunday:

## Jesus's Triumphant Entry

Bible Verse: Matthew 21:6-11 (See also Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44 and John 12:12-19)

*"The disciples went and did what Jesus told them to do. They brought the donkey and the colt. They placed their coats on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their coats on the road. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Some of the people went ahead of him, and some followed.*

*They all shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"*

*When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. The people asked, "Who is this?"*

*The crowds answered, "This is Jesus. He is the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."*

### Supplies:

- Coats
- Paper
- Markers
- Scissors

### What to Do:

- Choose a family member to read the Bible verse.
- Talk about these questions:
  - What do you think the people in Jerusalem thought when they heard Jesus was coming to town?
  - How would you have prepared?
- Have all family members toss a coat or two on the floor of the main hall of your house.
  - The people during Jesus' time walked along dirt paths. Talk about how tossing your coat on the ground would have been a way to honor Jesus.
  - Ask each member of your family to share one way they can honor Jesus today.
- Cut strips of paper. Have each family member write or draw way they can honor Jesus.
- Have everyone wave their paper strip "palm branch" and say, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"
- Place your "palm branch" paper strips in the hallway on top of your coats to honor Jesus's coming.

### Prayer Starter:

"Jesus, you are blessed indeed. We welcome you into our lives. Amen"

# Monday, April 6: Jesus Clears the Temple

Bible Verse: Luke 19:45-48 (See also Matthew 21:12-22, Mark 11:15-19 and John 2:13-17)

*Then Jesus entered the temple courtyard. He began to drive out those who were selling there. He told them, "It is written that the Lord said, 'My house will be a house where people can pray.' (Isaiah 56:7) But you have made it a 'den for robbers.' " (Jeremiah 7:11)*

*Every day Jesus was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests and the teachers of the law were trying to kill him. So were the leaders among the people. But they couldn't find any way to do it. All the people were paying close attention to his words.*

Supplies:

- Paper and markers OR stuffed animals, Legos, etc.

What to Do:

- Choose a family member to read the Bible verse.
- Talk about why Jesus was so angry. Instead of using the temple to worship God, people were using it as a marketplace, selling good, cheating people, not respecting the sacred space.
- Talk about times when it's okay to be angry about things. Discuss ways that our anger about things may lead to positive changes.
- Ask kids to draw out or set up the scene described in the story.

Prayer Starter:

"God, help us to use our anger about things that are wrong to make positive changes in the world around us. Amen"

## Tuesday, April 7: The Greatest Commandment

Bible Verse: Matthew 22:34-40 (See also Mark 12:28-34)

Background: Jesus spent this day being confronted by those out to kill him and warning them about the future. Among the things He is recorded as saying comes the greatest commandment.

*So the Pharisees got together. One of them was an authority on the law. So he tested Jesus with a question. "Teacher," he asked, "which is the most important commandment in the Law?"*

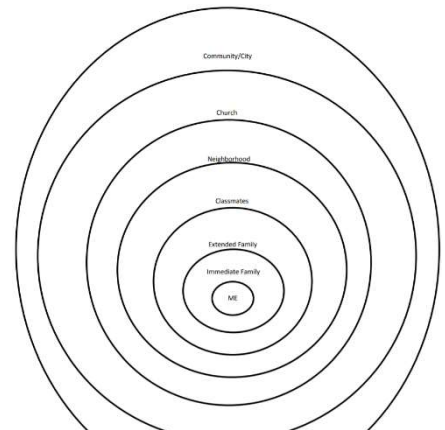
*Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind." (Deuteronomy 6:5) This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' (Leviticus 19:18) Everything that is written in the Law and the Prophets is based on these two commandments."*

Supplies:

- Paper & pen

What to Do:

- Choose a family member to read the Bible verse.
- Talk about how there were many, many commandments in the Old Testament, all before Jesus arrived.
- Discuss how the Pharisees thought following the law and commandments was the most important thing they could do and how Jesus said loving God and loving others were more important than anything else would have made them angry.
- Talk about what it means to love God and how we can show that.
- On the paper, make a series of circles (as shown.) Label them, starting from the smallest, "Me, Immediate Family, Extended Family, Kids at School, Neighborhood, Church, Community/City, World"
- Have family members identify who falls into those categories. Make sure to talk about those who are easy to love, and those who are hard to love.
- Point out that Jesus loves everyone. And Jesus died for everyone.



Prayer Starter:

"God, we love you. Help us to love others the way you have commanded. Guide us to see opportunities to love as you did. Amen"

## Wednesday, April 8:

# Jesus Prays at Gethsemane

Bible Verses: Matthew 26:36-39 (See also Mark 14:32-42 and Luke 22:39-46)

*Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ... He began to be sad and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sad. I feel close to death. Stay here. Keep watch with me."*

*He went a little farther. Then he fell with his face to the ground. He prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering away from me. But let what you want be done, not what I want."*

### Supplies:

- Black marker
- Paper

### What to Do:

- Choose a family member to read the Bible verse.
- Talk about how it feels to go through a difficult time in your own life.
- Say, "While Jesus was praying in the garden, he knew what terrible things were ahead of Him. He prayed that God take them away if possible. But ultimately, Jesus prayed for God's will to be done. Good always wins in the end, even if sometimes we have to go through very dark things."
- Say the prayer below while holding the black marker.
- Use the marker to write, "Your will, not mine" on some paper and post it somewhere prominent in your house as a reminder that even Jesus faced hard things but had to trust God.

### Prayer Starter:

"God, We face very hard things sometimes, but none of it compares to what Jesus went through for us. Help us to use Jesus's example and always trust You, no matter how hard it gets. Your will be done, not ours. Amen"

## Thursday, April 9: The Last Supper

Bible Verse: Matthew 26:26-28 (See also Mark 14:12-25 and Luke 22:7-38)

*While they were eating, Jesus took the bread. He gave thanks and broke it. He handed it to his disciples and said, "Take this and eat it. This is my body."*

*Then he took a cup. He gave thanks and handed it to them. He said, "All of you drink from it. This is my blood of the covenant. It is poured out to forgive the sins of many people."*

Supplies:

- Cups of juice
- Bread

What to Do:

- Choose a family member to read the Bible verse.
- Say, "Jesus broke the bread to show what would happen to His body – it would be broken for us as He died on the cross. When we take communion, we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us."  
  
"Jesus used the wine to confirm the promise God makes to His people. Because Jesus died on the cross, He takes the punishment that we deserve for all the bad things we do. This means we are forgiven! Because we are forgiven, we can be close to God. We get to live in Heaven with Him forever."
- Have each family member take turns sharing in communion.

Prayer:

"Jesus, as we share communion today, we remember that you were broken and died for us. We are forgiven because of what you did for us. We love you!"

## Friday, April 10: Arrested, Convicted & Crucified

Bible Verses: Matthew 26:57-67, 27:11-31 (See also Mark 15:1-40, Luke 23:1-48 and John 19:1-30)

*Summary:* After Jesus prayed, he was arrested and brought before the priests and high council. These were the people who were supposed to be religious, but they were jealous and scared of Jesus, and didn't believe He was God's Son. They looked for people to lie about Jesus and ways they could convict Him of wrong doing. They beat Jesus up and made fun of Him.

Jesus was then brought before Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate couldn't find that Jesus had done anything wrong. As was the custom during that time, Pilate planned to release one prisoner. The priests and elders convinced the people that Jesus should be put to death while a guilty criminal be set free. The crowd yelled "Crucify him."

Jesus was whipped and sentenced to be crucified. He was forced to carry a heavy wooden cross. Then, he was nailed to the cross and left to die.

### Supplies:

- Sheets of paper (dark if possible, but white will work.)
- Chalk or paint
- Red crayon or paint

### What to Do:

- Choose a family member to read the Bible summary.
- Talk about how much Jesus was suffering for us. He loves us so much.
- Discuss how Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice so all our sins, the bad things we all do, could be forgiven. He paid the price for what we've done.
- Ask each family member to use chalk or paint to cover the palm of their hand. Make handprints on the paper, in a shape of a cross if possible.
- Make a red dot using crayon or paint in the center of each hand to signify the nails Jesus took for you. As each family member does so, they should say, "Jesus died for me."
- At the bottom of the page, write, "Paid in Full."



**Prayer Starter:** "Jesus, we can't imagine the amount of suffering you went through because you love us. Thank you for paying the price for our sins. Amen"



# Saturday, April 11:

## Jesus Laid in a Tomb

Bible Verse: Luke 23:50-51a, 52, Mark 15:46, Luke 23:55-56a

*A man named Joseph was a member of the Jewish Council. He was a good and honest man. Joseph had not agreed with what the leaders had decided and done. ... Joseph went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.*

*...Then Joseph bought some linen cloth. He took down the body and wrapped it in the linen. He put it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb.*

*... The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph. They saw the tomb and how Jesus' body was placed in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes.*

### Supplies:

- Paper and pen

### What to Do:

- Choose a family member to read the Bible verse.
- Say, "Jesus's followers didn't know what to do now that Jesus was dead. They decided to do whatever they could to honor their friend who had done so much for them."
- Talk about ways that your family can honor Jesus's sacrifice, just as Joseph did by taking care of his body and the women did by preparing burial spices.
- Make an action plan. Maybe you will sacrifice eating out once a month and give the money to a charity in Jesus's name. Maybe you will spend an afternoon making a meal for an elderly neighbor or cleaning a local park. Choose something that is important to your family.
- Write out your plan and put it somewhere you will see often to remind you to do what you promised.

### Prayer Starter:

"God, we thank you for the sacrifice you made. Be with us as we honor your name. Amen"

# Sunday, April 12: Jesus is Risen!

Bible Verse: Luke 24:1-8 (See also Matthew 28:1-10 and Mark 16:1-11)

*"It was very early in the morning on the first day of the week. The women took the spices they had prepared. Then they went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from it. When they entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They were wondering about this. Suddenly two men in clothes as bright as lightning stood beside them. The women were terrified. They bowed down with their faces to the ground. Then the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here! He has risen! Remember how he told you he would rise. It was while he was still with you in Galilee. He said, 'The Son of Man must be handed over to sinful people. He must be nailed to a cross. On the third day he will rise from the dead.''" Then the women remembered Jesus' words."*

Supplies:

- 2 sticks from your yard or the park
- Dental floss, yarn, twine, or whatever you have at home

What to Do:

- Choose a family member to read the Bible verses.
- Talk about how Jesus's close friends, the disciples, must have been feeling when they heard the news that Jesus had risen. How did that change when they saw him in person?
- Discuss how the Good News that Jesus rose again should make us feel.
- Create a cross by winding the floss (or whatever you're using) around the sticks.
- Talk about how the cross is empty, just like the tomb. Jesus rose from the dead!
- Display the cross somewhere prominent to remind you to rejoice because Jesus is risen!

Prayer Starter:

"God, we praise you every day because Jesus is risen! Help us to always have that joy and celebrate the good news that we are forgiven because Jesus is alive! Amen."

# HOLY WEEK

## for preschool

Easter is a time for people to focus on why we need Jesus. While some aspects of Jesus and Easter may be confusing for young children, it is never too early to start sharing the stories about Jesus's life on earth and the ultimate sacrifice He made for us.

During this week, the following will be provided for you each day:

**Bible Verse:** This is the Bible verse that our Bible Story is taken from.

**Bible Story:** This story is based off of the Bible verse listed but is written in a preschool age appropriate way.

**Main Idea:** This is what we hope your child learns from a particular story.

**Activity:** Take your time doing the activity and talking about why that activity is important to the Easter story.

**Discussion:** We have provided simple suggested questions for you to discuss together. Be sure to share your own answers with your child. Also, make sure you reinforce the story and what it teaches us about Jesus.

**Prayer:** Complete each day's activity with prayer. Praying with and for your child can be powerful for the whole family.

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Palm Sunday

*Matthew 21:1-11*

**Bible Story:** *On the first Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into the town of Jerusalem. People were so excited because they had heard how special Jesus was. Crowds filled the streets. People spread their coats and palm branches on the road ahead of Jesus. Everyone was so happy to see Jesus that they shouted, "Hosanna" and "praise God". The crowd also waved large palm branches. This was a very special celebration for Jesus, whom everyone adored. Jesus was like a King, but even better because He is God's son. A normal king would order a crowd to cheer for Him but Jesus was able to simply receive cheers and praise because of His kind heart and all of the miracles He had performed for His people.*

**Main Idea:** Jesus is very special

**What You Do:** Lay coats, blankets and towels out on the floor to create a path. Take turns galloping across your path while shouting "Hosanna".

**Discussion:** Jesus was so special on the first Palm Sunday and is still special today!

How do we know Jesus is special?

How can we celebrate Jesus?

**Prayer:** "Heavenly Father, thank You for good days. Thank you for celebrations and fun. We know that all good things come from You. We ask that [child's name] celebrates You and Your love every day. Let us always know how special Jesus is. In Your loving name we pray. Amen."

Monday, April 6th

## The Fig Tree

Mark 11:12-14

**Bible Story** *Seeing a Fig tree in leaf, Jesus walked up to it. Jesus wanted to pick an early fruit but there was no fruit on the tree. The tree was bare. Jesus used this image to teach his friends that just like a tree with no fruit, a person without love for God will be missing out on the most sweet, special parts of life. All good things come from God.*

**Main Idea:** Jesus wants us to love God so that we will have a good life

**What You Do:** Draw a tree. Cover the tree in fruit. If you love God a little draw just some fruit. If you love God a lot, draw A LOT of fruit. (encourage your child to draw a lot of fruit.) Work on this together or individually. Feel free to draw as many different kinds of fruits as you would like. Your tree can be as creative as your imagination.

**Discussion:** Lets name things we love and thank God for those things.

How can we show God and Jesus that we love them?

(ex answers: reading the Bible, going to church, praying, making good choices)

**Prayer:** "Dear Jesus, thank you for teaching us how to be good. Please help us make choices that will make God happy. Help us to be kind to our parents and siblings. Thank you for giving us good things in life. We love you, Amen."

Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

## Washing Feet

*John 13:1-17*

**Bible Story:** *Jesus had 12 special friends that He loved spending time with. Today we call His friends the disciples. The disciples were invited to eat supper with Jesus but they had been walking around the streets of Jerusalem all day. Their feet were dusty, dirty and needed to be washed. In the olden days it was normal for a servant to wash everyone's feet before a nice meal. When Jesus' friends arrived, they didn't see a servant ready to wash their feet. They saw Jesus! Jesus had a bowl of soapy water and wiped down his friends' feet one by one. Jesus did this to show His friends how to love one another through kindness.*

**Main Idea:** Jesus showed us how to love one another

**What You Do:** Fill a bowl with warm, soapy water. Take turns washing each other's feet. Make sure everyone has a turn washing feet and having their feet washed.

**Discussion:** Would you want to wash your friends' feet if they were filthy?

How would you feel if Jesus tried to wash your feet?

What are some other ways we can show kindness to others?

**Prayer:** "Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to be our example of love. Teach us to be kind and helpful to other people like Jesus was. Let us treat everyone with respect. In Jesus' name, amen."

Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

## The Last Supper

*Luke 22:14-20 & John 14:1-6*

**Bible Story:** *Jesus sat down for a meal with His friends the disciples. Eating with friends is nice but Jesus was sad. Jesus knew that this would be the last meal He would eat before something terrible happened. As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke the bread into pieces and gave it to his friends. He told them to eat the bread and remember Him. He gave them wine and asked that they drink it and use that to remember Him too. Jesus explained that the bread and wine would serve as a reminder of the promise between God and the people who believe in Him. God promises us that He will always love us and will be with us forever.*

**Main Idea:** Jesus wants us to remember how much He loves us!

**What You Do:** Draw or make a meal with playdoh that you love to eat. It doesn't need to be fancy, pretend macaroni, hotdogs or grilled cheese work.

**Discussion:** Have you ever had to say goodbye to someone? Jesus knew that he was going to have to say goodbye to his friends and it was going to be hard, but he left us ways to remember Him.

Jesus wants us to remember how much He loves us!

**Prayer:** "Dear Lord, thank you for showing us how to be a friend. Thank you for always taking care of us no matter what. Lord, please help us to be a good friend to others just as you are a good friend to us. Amen."

Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>



# The Gloomy Garden

*Mark 14:32-42*

**Bible Story:** *After Jesus was done eating with the disciples, He went for long walk to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus knelt in prayer and asked His father God if he had to go away. Jesus wanted there to be a way to forgive the world and let them into Heaven without His death. Gods plan had always been for Jesus to make the world a better place through His love and then His death. Jesus cried in the garden but trusted God no matter what. He knew God was with Him and was ready to do what needed to be done. Angry soldiers came to the garden and arrested Jesus.*

**Main Idea:** Jesus trusts God no matter what. We should too.

**What You Do:** Trace hands on a sheet of paper. Cut out the outline of your hands but do not cut through the center. Fold the outline of your hands together like a book. Draw a picture and write a short prayer in the middle thanking Jesus for demonstrating how to trust no matter what.



**Discussion:** Have you ever felt alone?

Loneliness feels sad but we are never truly alone. God is always with us.

**Prayer:** "Father God, I know you are always with us. Help my child know that you are always with them and that they can pray to you about everything. We love you, Amen."

Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>



# The Darkest Day

*Matthew 27:45-54*

**Bible Story:** *Mean, angry soldiers captured Jesus because they didn't believe in Him or that He was God's son. They took him to the governor's head-quarters and they hurt him very badly. The soldiers called Jesus terrible names. They pinned him to a cross with nails. The sun disappeared. The world got dark and cold and sad. Jesus took his last breath and died.*

**Main Idea:** Jesus died

**What You Do:** create your own small cross with sticks and string.



**Discussion:** How do you feel about what happened to Jesus?

Jesus showed us how much He loves us by dying on the cross. Jesus had to die so that our sins could be forgiven and we could be with him forever.

This cross can remind us of Jesus' love.

**Prayer:** "Lord Jesus, we know the sacrifice You made for us. We know that it was all part of Gods plan. Father, please be with us when sad things happen. Help us to know that even though life can be confusing that you love us no matter what. Amen."

Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>

# The Quiet Cave

*John 19:38-42*

**Bible Story:** *Jesus had died on the cross. This made everyone who loved Him so sad. His friends took His body off of the cross. They cleaned Him and wrapped Him in white linen. They laid Him in the cave. They said goodbye. They rolled a huge heavy stone in front of the door. Outside of the cave, two guards protected Jesus' tomb. For three whole days the outside of the tomb was quiet and still. However, inside of the cave, God was performing the most incredible miracle. God was doing something only He could do. He was going to give Jesus a new life.*

**Main Idea:** God can do anything

**What You Do:** Take care of a stuffed animal or doll. Pretend to wash them.

Next, wrap them in a blanket. Take care of your stuffed animal. Take care of them because you love them. Let your doll or animal know that God loves them too!

**Discussion:** What happened to Jesus after he died?

Who took care of Him?

Do you think God wants us to take good care of each other too?

**Prayer:** "Dear God, I am hopeful because you give me hope. Jesus having to die is sad but I know you are good. You have a plan for us to be happy. I am grateful to have a father in heaven who can do all things. I love you and trust you. Amen"

Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

# The Best Day Ever

*Mark 16:1-7*

**Bible Story:** *It was morning and the sun was bright. Three women walked up to Jesus' tomb with spices. They wanted to continue doing nice things for the man who had been so good at loving the world. When they arrived at the tomb, something was strange. The large stone that usually blocked the doorway had moved. The women looked inside and Jesus was gone. Jesus, King of the world was ALIVE. The King of kindness and love and hope had risen! Praise God for this amazing miracle. The best miracle ever!*

**Main Idea:** Jesus is alive!

**What You Do:** Make a paper party horn. Color your paper, roll it into a horn shape. Run around the house joyfully announcing that JESUS IS ALIVE!



**Discussion:** What would you do if you found Jesus' tomb empty?

How do you think people felt when they knew Jesus had risen?

That first Easter really was the BEST DAY EVER!

**Prayer:** "Heavenly Father, thank You for raising Jesus from his tomb. Thank you for sending him. We know how much You love us because of all that You have done for us. Lord, please guide us to raise [child's name] to follow You always and to never forget the sacrifice that was made for [him/her]. You are such a worthy and loving God. In Your Holy name we pray, amen. "