

Holy Week Family Devotional

AT HOME ACTIVITES





**JESUS SAID,
"LET THE
LITTLE
CHILDREN
COME UNTO
ME!"
MATTHEW 19:14**

Holy Week Devotional

Welcome to the Holy Week Family Devotional. I'm sure like the rest of the world, you are staying inside this year to help combat the spread of COVID-19. While Easter is going to look different this year, the message of Easter never changes. Jesus is our savior and He is ALIVE! Hallelujah!

I invite your family to journey through the stories of Holy week and participate in each days daily activity. I pray this is a fun way to learn more about our savior Jesus!

- Erica Davies
Director of Youth and Family Ministry



Palm Sunday

HERE COMES JESUS

MARK 11: 1-11

Have you ever been really excited for an event? Perhaps you were excited for a concert, to see a movie, or Christmas morning!

In our Bible story today there were people from all over who were excited to celebrate a holiday called Passover. Thousands of people would travel hundreds of miles on foot to a city called Jerusalem, so that they could all celebrate together! It is kind of like when families have big parties for holidays.

Well this Passover was about to be even more special. Crowds of people gathered together in hopes that they might see a man named Jesus. People heard that Jesus was coming to save them all from their sins. They expected Jesus to come in looking all mighty and strong like a big king, but instead Jesus chose to come in humbly riding on a donkey.

It would have been so exciting to be in the crowd when Jesus arrived wouldn't it? People were cheering for Jesus and waving palm branches in the air to get his attention! It would have been a very exciting day to see Jesus- the King of Kings! This week let's get excited for Easter just like the people on palm Sunday! Let's get excited and shout "HERE COMES JESUS!"

DAILY ACTIVITY:

Bundle up and head outside for a family walk. Pretend you are headed to Jerusalem to see Jesus on Palm Sunday! As you walk, have your kids point out cool things they see in creation. Reflect as a family on how Jesus felt when He rode into Jerusalem after his long journey.

THINK ABOUT IT: WHAT WOULD IT HAVE BEEN LIKE TO WALK EVERYWHERE?

WHY DO YOU THINK PEOPLE WERE SO EXCITED TO SEE JESUS?



Holy Monday

LOVE IS NUMBER ONE

MATTHEW 22:34-40

In our Bible story today some important men wanted to know what the most important rule was for them to follow. They were all about following rules. When they asked Jesus, they expected Him to say something like "don't lie" or "don't steal". However, Jesus said something that shocked everyone! Jesus told all the people listening that the greatest rule of all is to love.

What is something you love? Maybe you love your family? Do you love a pet or a friend? Perhaps you really love a yummy food- like ice cream! Yum!

It's okay to love all of those things, but Jesus said that the most important rule is for everyone to love God with all our heart, soul, and minds. That means that we love Jesus with all of our emotions, all our spirit, and all of our actions! He also wants us to love our neighbors just like we want to be loved.

Loving Jesus and others with all our hearts can be difficult. However, Jesus is the perfect example of love! Jesus was patient, kind, faithful, miraculous, and most of all loving. He loved us so much He died for all the rules we didn't follow!

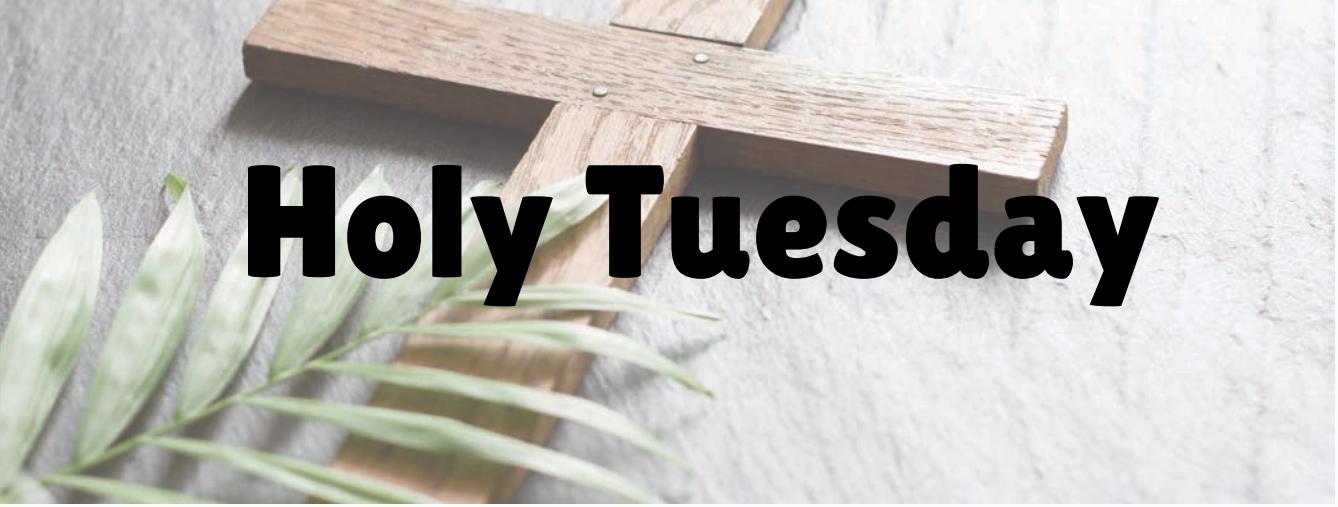
So when you wonder how Jesus would want you to act- just remember love is number one!

DAILY ACTIVITY:

We know Jesus is love. Grab a can of shaving cream and spray on the table. As a family write words that describe Jesus in the shaving cream (i.e - mighty, humble, king). Then write or draw in the cream ways you can love God with all your heart. Get ready to be messy but have a lot of fun!

THINK ABOUT IT: HOW CAN WE LOVE JESUS WITH OUR MINDS?

WHAT IS ONE THING YOU CAN
DO TODAY TO LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBORS?



Holy Tuesday

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

JOHN 8:12, JOHN 12:46

What does it feel like to be in the dark?

Many people are often afraid of the dark. When it's dark you might be feeling alone or afraid. The dark might make us feel confused or scared because we can't see where to go or what to do.

Well the best way to get out of the dark is to shine some light! Light helps to direct our path and see where we are going- like a flashlight in a dark place! Light also can bring us life- like the sunshine which helps to grow and nourish the earth!

Jesus tells us that He is the LIGHT of the world. Jesus doesn't want us to be scared or fearful. Jesus came to bring us direction. We should follow Jesus like we follow the light from a flashlight in the dark.

Right now the world might seem a little confusing or scary, but we can be confident that Jesus is our light even when things are scary. When we turn to Jesus we don't ever have to be afraid.

DAILY ACTIVITY:

As a family grab a flashlight and build a blanket or pillow fort on the ground before you read your devotion! Read the Bible story only by flashlight and candle light. After have your kids using the flashlight point to things around the house that are blessings from God.

**THINK ABOUT IT:
WHAT IS SOMETHING GOOD
JESUS IS DOING DURING THIS
HARD TIME?**

**HOW DO YOU FEEL KNOWING
JESUS IS BIGGER THAN WHAT
SCARES YOU?**



Holy Wednesday

WORTH MORE THAN GOLD

MATTHEW 26:14-16, 47-56

Have you ever had your feelings hurt? When someone hurts us we usually get upset. We can feel sad, mad, or maybe even confused. But, what if our feelings got hurt by a friend? If someone who we love and call a friend hurts our feelings it can hurt even more.

In our Bible story today Jesus had a close friend named Judas who greatly hurt Him. There were some men who didn't like Jesus. Those men were suppose to be taking care of God's people but instead they were jealous that people were listening to Jesus instead of them. They hated Jesus because they didn't know how to love. They hated Jesus so much they wanted to kill Him. Those angry men paid Jesus' friend Judas 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus.

There is no doubt that Jesus was very sad that His friend betrayed Him. What Judas didn't realize was that no amount of money would be worth the love of Jesus. Jesus' love for us is worth more than gold.

Sometimes we sin and hurt others too, let's make sure we always ask Jesus to forgive us!

DAILY ACTIVITY:

Take 30 coins (or however many you have) and hide them around the house. Have the kids search for the coins. Once they have found them try to figure out the value of each coin. Discuss if any amount of money would be enough to betray a friend or even Jesus?

**THINK ABOUT IT:
HAS A FRIEND EVER HURT
YOUR FEELINGS? HOW DID
THAT FEEL?**

**SOMETIMES WE LET JESUS
DOWN WHEN WE SIN. WHAT
CAN WE ASK JESUS TO
FORGIVE TODAY?**



THE BIG MEAL

LUKE 22: 7-23

What's your favorite meal? Spaghetti? Mac & Cheese? Pizza?

In our Bible story today the disciples of Jesus were all coming together for a really big meal. This meal was a big celebration of how God saved the Jewish people. Jesus loved to spend time with His friends sharing great food and fun conversations- just like when we have family meals!

This big meal would be Jesus' last meal before He died on the cross. Jesus spent the time with his friends because he had an important message for them. Jesus wanted his friends to know that He was the Bread of Life. That means that Jesus gives us everything we need. Jesus is better than spaghetti, tacos, pizza, ice cream or any food! Jesus gives us more than a full tummy. Jesus fills us up with His light, His grace, and His love.

Even though Jesus was having His last meal before He had to die, He wanted the disciples and us to know, that He will provide for us everything we need- ALWAYS.

So when you have your dinner tonight- don't forget to thank Jesus for being everything we will ever need!

DAILY ACTIVITY

The Disciples shared a big meal together called the Passover. As a family cook a meal together. Let the kids help make the meal. Then sit down as a family and enjoy the time together.

Optional: Bake Homemade Bread (Recipe Next Page)

**THINK ABOUT IT:
JESUS SAYS HE IS OUR BREAD OF LIFE. WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT MEANS?**

WHY DO YOU THINK JESUS WANTED TO SPEND HIS LAST NIGHT WITH HIS FRIENDS?

Easy Bake Bread

Directions:

1. In a resealable plastic bag place 1 cup flour, sugar and yeast and add in warm water.
2. Seal bag with no air and squish the mixture with your hands until it's well mixed together. Let sit at room temperature for 10 minutes. You'll begin to see a bubbly foam.
3. Reopen the bag and add in 1 cup of flour, oil and salt. Seal bag again and squish until well blended.
4. Add final cup of flour and reseal bag. Squish and mix one more time until well mixed. Remove dough from bag and put onto a lightly floured surface.
5. Knead the bread for 5-10 minutes or until smooth (Stand mixer if available).
6. Cover with a damp towel and allow to rise for about 30 minutes.
7. Bake in a 375 degree oven for 25-30 minutes or until bread is golden brown.

Ingredients:

- 3 C all purpose flour
- 3 Tbsp white sugar
- 1 .25 package rapid rise yeast
(2 1/4 tsp)
- 1 C warm water
- 3 Tbsp olive oil or vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 tsp salt





Good Friday

THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY

LUKE 23:26-56

What's your favorite day of the week? Is it Friday? Most people love Fridays because there is no more work or school for the weekend!

Today is Good Friday. This is the day when Jesus died on the cross for our sins. That doesn't sound very good does it? While this day can be sad we should be thankful and joyful that Jesus took on the heaviness of sin for us.

Have you ever carried something really heavy? When something is heavy we feel pushed down by the weight of the heavy object. It's the same way with the weight of sin. When we do bad things, or disobey God, we begin to feel heavy from all the sin that is in our hearts.

Jesus didn't want us to feel weighed down by the sin in our hearts. That's why Jesus had to die on the cross. He didn't just carry the heavy cross on his back, but Jesus actually took all the heavy sins out of our hearts and took them onto his own back on the cross. He died to save us from our sins!

While it is sad that Jesus had to die, He did it for us! So let's not be sad but instead shout out thank God it's Friday!

DAILY ACTIVITY

Jesus often spent a lot of time in prayer. He prayed before he went to the cross (Luke 22:39-45) and while on the cross. As a family create a prayer board. Add to it first prayers of what you need God to forgive, and then prayers of thanksgiving.

**THINK ABOUT IT:
WHAT IS SOMETHING THIS
WEEK YOU NEED JESUS TO
FORGIVE?**

**WHY DO YOU THINK THEY
CALL IT "GOOD" FRIDAY
WHEN IT'S SO SAD?**



GAME OVER

LUKE 23:50-56

Have you ever played a bored game or a video game and lost? When we lose a game it's -GAME OVER

Well, after Jesus died many of His closest friends and disciples thought that Jesus dying meant it was game over. They thought that all of Jesus' amazing teachings and miracles were all over now. Not only were His friends sad at Jesus dying they were also scared. They were worried that the people that killed Jesus might come and arrest and hurt them too. The disciples were so afraid that they decided to hide in a locked room.

In the Bible passage you just read did you notice that only a few friends followed Jesus to the grave where he would be buried? Almost all of Jesus' other friends and disciples ran away sad, lonely, and scared. The disciples failed to realize that just because Jesus had died didn't mean it was game over- it was far from over!

Jesus had promised His friends that in 3 days He would rise up and be alive again! Jesus wasn't going to be gone long. It's our job to shout out to all our friends that Jesus is will be alive on Easter and we never have to hide or be scared with Him on our side. The only thing that is game over is sin!

DAILY ACTIVITY

Jesus's friends were sad when Jesus died. They forgot that he would rise again so they went into hiding. Play a game of Hide and Seek as a family. Discuss that as Christians we never have to hide that we love Jesus!

**THINK ABOUT IT:
HOW DO YOU THINK JESUS'
FRIENDS FELT AFTER HE
DIED?**

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SHOW
YOUR FRIENDS YOU LOVE
JESUS?**



HERE COMES JESUS— AGAIN!

LUKE 24

Can you say this outloud?
Jesus is alive- I am Free!

Say it again but more excited this time!
Jesus is alive- I am Free!

What is something that always makes you happy when you're sad? Perhaps a nice warm hug, a frosted cupcake, or maybe playing with a friend?

If you remember yesterday, Jesus' disciples were very sad that Jesus had to die on the cross. Nothing could make the disciples happy again, except maybe Jesus coming back to life! Could you imagine how happy Jesus' friends were when they heard that Jesus was no longer dead but ALIVE?

How cool is it that our friend Jesus died for our sins but that He is so powerful that not even death could stop Jesus! He died so that we would be free from all the icky sins that weigh us down. Now, thanks to Jesus, we are free to spend the rest of our life with Him.

So, can you say it with me one more time?
Jesus is alive- I am Free!

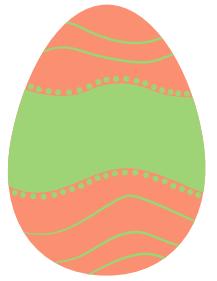
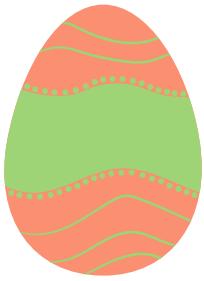
DAILY ACTIVITY

Jesus is alive! Imagine how exciting it would have been to see Jesus ALIVE! It would be worth celebrating. Have a celebration dance party in your living room! Get excited that Jesus is alive!

BONUS: Complete the at home Egg Hunt on next page

**THINK ABOUT IT:
WHAT WOULD IT HAVE BEEN
LIKE TO SEE JESUS ALIVE
AGAIN?**

**WHO IS ONE PERSON WHO
NEEDS TO KNOW THAT JESUS
IS ALIVE?**



Bible Verse Egg Hunt

AT HOME EGG HUNT FOR KIDS

Parents, print out Bible verse eggs and cut them out. Hide them around your house for your kids to find. Once all eggs are found have your kids try to put them in order to complete the Bible verse!

(If you have any plastic eggs you can put the printable eggs inside real eggs for more fun!)

Bible Verses:

"I am the resurrection and the life"

John 11:25

"Jesus is not here, He is risen"

Matthew 26:6a

I

AM

THE

RESURRECTION

AND

THE

LIFE

John
11:25

JESUS

IS

NOT

HERE

HE

IS

RISEN

**Matthew
26:6a**