

NOTE TO PARENTS:

For kids, Easter can be confusing. All the candy, eggs hunts and bunnies can start to overshadow the reason why we celebrate Easter—1 Corinthians 15:3-4 gives us the answer, "...Christ died for our sins...was buried...and raised to life on the third day..."

Easter is a time for our family to celebrate that **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

We want to equip you with a fun and engaging Easter primer the whole family can enjoy! These daily scripture readings, questions, and resources will help you lead conversations with your kids to understand how and why we celebrate Easter.

Share and use this FREE guide to lead your kids to understand the events of Holy Week and how we can celebrate what Jesus did for us this Easter!

On Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem with his disciples riding on a borrowed donkey. He rode down the streets while people shouted "Hosanna!"

Read MARK 11:1-11
Read ZECHARIAH 9:9-10

Ask these reflection questions:

- Why was it important that Jesus came on a donkey? (Because it fulfilled the prophecy from Zechariah 9:9-10)
- What did seeing Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey mean to the people at the time? (He was entering as the humble King of peace. Traditionally, entering the city on a donkey symbolizes arriving in peace, rather than as a war-waging king arriving on a horse.)

Activity: Make a <u>Palm Leaf Craft</u> and have a Hosanna Parade
OR Watch this: Jelly Telly 5-Minute Family Devotional: Easter Week (Palm Sunday)

DAY 2

On Monday of Holy Week, read the account of Jesus throwing out those who were cheating people out of money in the temple, as well as a passage from Isaiah about God's promises to His people.

Read **ISAIAH 56:1-8** Read **LUKE 19:41-48**

Ask these reflection questions:

- Why did Jesus throw people out of the temple? (He was upset that they were using God's house as a place to cheat people. Their hearts were far from God.)
- What are God's promises in Isaiah 56:1-8? (My salvation is close at hand, I will give my people joy, I will gather my people together, etc.)

Activity: Memorize ISAIAH 56:1

On Tuesday of Holy Week, read the story of Mary, who anointed Jesus' feet!

Read **JOHN 12:1-9**

Ask these reflection questions:

- What did the people at the meal in Bethany say to Jesus about the woman? (Mary) Did they really want the money to be used for a better purpose than perfume? (No, they just wanted to create trouble and wanted the money for themselves.)
- What did Jesus say about Mary's worshipful action? (That it would be remembered throughout history!)

Watch this: "Mary Pours Perfume on Jesus"

DAY 4

On Wednesday of Holy Week, read the biblical account of Jesus washing the disciples' feet before the Last Supper.

Read **JOHN 13:1-17**

Ask these reflection questions:

- What was the act of service that Jesus did for His disciples? (Washing their feet, which was commonly needed due to dusty roads that people walked. This was usually done by a house servant.)
- Why did Jesus do this? (He was showing them His love, showing them that He wanted to serve others by what He was doing).
- What do you think Jesus was trying to teach us by washing His disciples' feet? (Set an example for us to love and serve one another, etc.)

Watch this: "Jesus washes His Disciples' Feet"

Maundy Thursday: (Maundy means "commandment") we read the account of Jesus giving the "new commandment" to His disciples during the Last Supper.

Read MATTHEW 26:17-30

Ask these reflection questions:

- How did everyone know who would betray Jesus? ("The one who dipped his hand in the bowl." It's important to remind our kids that Jesus loved Judas and was sorrowful over his betrayal.)
- What does Jesus want us to remember every time we take communion? (That He gave his body and blood for us on the cross to forgive our sins!)

Activity: Use some sidewalk chalk to draw a Holy Week "themed" drawing on your driveway or sidewalk.

Watch this: Jelly Telly 5-Minute Family Devotional: Easter Week

DAY 6

On Good Friday take turns reading the following passages out loud, a few verses at a time. You may find it more peaceful to do this at night when it is dark and read by lamplight or candlelight for a calmer, more serious mood. Take some time to pray after your Scripture reading.

Read **ISAIAH 53:4-6** Read **LUKE 23:1-49**

Ask these reflection questions:

- Who was hanged on either side of Jesus? (Two criminals)
- · What kind of things did people say about Jesus? (They mocked him. If you're the Messiah, save yourself!)
- What did Jesus say on the cross? (Luke 23:34, 43, 46; John 19:26-28, 30; Matthew 27:46)

Watch this: The Bible Project "The Crucifixion of Jesus"

On Saturday read about the Jewish Sabbath, when all activity stopped, and Jesus' followers had to wait until the next day to properly prepare his body for burial.

Read **LUKE 23:50-56** Read **ISAIAH 52:13-15**

Ask these reflection questions:

- What loving thing did Joseph of Arimathea do for Jesus? (Took him down from the cross, wrapped him and placed him in the tomb. This tomb likely belonged to Joseph of Arimathea because he was a wealthy man.)
- Why did the women from Galilee wait to prepare Jesus' body for burial? (On the Sabbath, the Jewish people were expected to rest and not do anything that could be considered work. They got their spices and ointments ready but had to wait until the next day to finish preparing Jesus for burial.)

Activity: Make Resurrection Rolls OR Easter Snack Mix

DAY 8

On Easter Sunday Celebrate Jesus' Resurrection in a way that's special to your family!

Read **MATTHEW 28:1-10.** Read **LUKE 24:13-35**

Ask these reflection questions:

- What message did the angel give at the empty tomb? (Jesus is alive!)
- What did the women do after they heard the angel's message? (They ran away, terrified then told the disciples the news but nobody believed their report of what happened.)
- Why do you think no one believed that Jesus is alive? (They all saw him die; they didn't think he could come back to life.)
- How can we celebrate that Jesus is alive today? (Come up with a few ideas on how to celebrate that JESUS IS ALIVE!)

Activity: Easter Morning Scavenger Hunt

Watch this: The Bible Project "The Resurrection of Jesus"