

EASTER FAMILY DEVOTION



HOW IT WORKS

Easter is such a special time in the church calendar, and therefore we want to help you and your children spend time reflecting on some key moments in the Easter story.

This 8 day devotional is designed to help you read God's word, reflect on what you have read, and then spend time in prayer together.

There are 4 week day devotions and 4 Sunday devotions, leading up to Easter Sunday. The week day devotions are not assigned to any particular day, providing you as a family with the flexibility to find a day and time that works best for you.

We hope and pray that you and your family find this devotional helpful as we approach Easter.

Day Of The Week 1

JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH

MATT 20:17-19

17 As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside privately and told them what was going to happen to him. 18 “Listen,” he said, “we’re going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die. 19 Then they will hand him over to the Romans to be mocked, flogged with a whip, and crucified. But on the third day he will be raised from the dead.”

QUESTIONS

1. What did Jesus say would happen?
2. How do you think His disciples felt after hearing this?
3. What’s the good news Jesus gives at the end? Do you think this is good news? Why?

PRAY

When Jesus predicted His death He was thinking of you. Thank God that Jesus came to die and rise again for the forgiveness of your sins.

Sunday 30th March

JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

MATT 21:1-11

1 As Jesus and the disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. 2 "Go into the village over there," he said. "As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will immediately let you take them." 4 This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said, 5 "Tell the people of Jerusalem, 'Look, your King is coming to you. He is humble, riding on a donkey - riding on a donkey's colt.'" 6 The two disciples did as Jesus commanded. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt to him and threw their garments over the colt, and he sat on it. 8 Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, "Praise God for the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise God in highest heaven!" 10 The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. "Who is this?" they asked. 11 And the crowds replied, "It's Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

QUESTIONS

1. How did the people feel about Jesus?
2. What did the crowd shout, and what do you think it meant?
3. They ask 'who is this?' Who do you think Jesus is?

PRAY

Jesus came to rule as our king. Ask Him to come and rule over your life, and lead you in His ways.

Day Of The Week 2

THE PLOT TO KILL JESUS

MATT 26:1-5 / 14-16

1 When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, 2 “As you know, Passover begins in two days, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.” 3 At that same time the leading priests and elders were meeting at the residence of Caiaphas, the high priest, 4 plotting how to capture Jesus secretly and kill him. 5 “But not during the Passover celebration,” they agreed, “or the people may riot.”

14 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests 15 and asked, “How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?” And they gave him thirty pieces of silver. 16 From that time on, Judas began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. How did the people in this passage feel about Jesus?
2. What did Judas do?
3. Why do you think Judas decided to betray Jesus?

PRAY

Judas made a decision focused on himself. Ask God for forgiveness for the times you have gone your own way instead of His way.

Sunday 6th April

THE LORD'S SUPPER

MATT 26:19-28

19 So the disciples did as Jesus told them and prepared the Passover meal there. 20 When it was evening, Jesus sat down at the table with the Twelve. 21 While they were eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me." 22 Greatly distressed, each one asked in turn, "Am I the one, Lord?" 23 He replied, "One of you who has just eaten from this bowl with me will betray me. 24 For the Son of Man must die, as the Scriptures declared long ago. But how terrible it will be for the one who betrays him. It would be far better for that man if he had never been born!" 25 Judas, the one who would betray him, also asked, "Rabbi, am I the one?" And Jesus told him, "You have said it." 26 As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take this and eat it, for this is my body." 27 And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, "Each of you drink from it, 28 for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.

QUESTIONS

1. Do you know what the Passover meal is?
2. What did Jesus say the bread & wine represent?
3. The Lord's Supper helps us to give thanks to God. What do you think we are giving thanks for?

PRAY

Jesus came to give us a new life. Thank God that Jesus came and sacrificed His life so we could have eternal life.

Day Of The Week 3

JESUS PRAYS IN THE GARDEN

MATT 26:39-44

39 He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

40 Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? 41 Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!"

42 Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, "My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done." 43 When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open.

44 So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus pray in the garden?
2. Can you spot any similarities in His three prayers?
3. Why do you think it is important for us to pray?

PRAY

Jesus wanted to follow God's plan. Pray that today God would help you follow His plans.

Sunday 13th April

JESUS IS ARRESTED

MATT 26:47-56

47 And even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests and elders of the people. 48 The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: "You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss." 49 So Judas came straight to Jesus. "Greetings, Rabbi!" he exclaimed and gave him the kiss. 50 Jesus said, "My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for." Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him. 51 But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest's slave, slashing off his ear. 52 "Put away your sword," Jesus told him. "Those who use the sword will die by the sword. 53 Don't you realise that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? 54 But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?" 55 Then Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? Why didn't you arrest me in the Temple? I was there teaching every day. 56 But this is all happening to fulfill the words of the prophets as recorded in the Scriptures." At that point, all the disciples deserted him and fled.

QUESTIONS

1. Who lead's the people to arrest Jesus?
2. How does Jesus react?
3. What does this teach you about Jesus?

PRAY

Jesus reacted calmly because He trusted God had a plan. Ask for God's help to trust Him when things are tough or don't make sense.

Day Of The Week 4

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

MATT 27:45-50 / 54

45 At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. 46 At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

47 Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. 48 One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. 49 But the rest said, "Wait! Let's see whether Elijah comes to save him." 50 Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit.

54 The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think darkness fell across the land?
2. Why did Jesus have to die?
3. What did the Roman officer say about Jesus?

PRAY

Thank God that he sent Jesus to die for your sins. Ask Him for forgiveness for the sin in your life.

Easter Sunday!

JESUS IS ALIVE!

MATT 28:1-10

1 Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. 2 Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. 3 His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. 4 The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. 5 Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. 7 And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you." 8 The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel's message. 9 And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there."

QUESTIONS

1. What did the angel say about Jesus?
2. How did this good news make Jesus' friends feel?
3. Why is this good news for us?

PRAY

Today Jesus is not dead. He is alive! Thank God that He rose Jesus from the grave, defeating death & sin.