



THE JOURNEY THROUGH

*Holy Week*





# WELCOME!

Hello Families,

This Easter guide is designed to focus on the events of Holy Week, from Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to His Resurrection on Easter morning. We have these events broken into daily readings, family discussions and an activity, worship or video resource to support the Scripture. These daily reflections are meant for your whole family to participate in together and should take no more than 15 minutes -- we understand family life is busy!

Our goal is to create a liturgical rhythm in our homes that sets this time in the Church year apart as holy + sacred, to give special attention to the journey to the cross and break it down into smaller, digestible themes for our kids to process. We encourage you to show your child how to find the different passages in the Bible, read what Scriptures they are able to read and to lead the family discussion times.

We hope you will utilize this guide in your home this Lenten season and that you find it meaningful and helpful!

Warmly,  
Great Lakes Kids



# PALM SUNDAY

## *Jesus in Our King*

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, as Jesus makes a triumphal and celebrated entrance into the gates of Jerusalem. Many of His Jewish followers believed their Messiah would be a strong political leader that came to free them from oppression and build a mighty kingdom. But Jesus entered the gates as a humble king, riding on a simple donkey. This fulfilled the prophecy in the Zechariah 9:9 about the king who would come "lowly and riding on a donkey." Jesus was announcing to the people that He was the Son of God sent bring salvation to this fallen world!

### READ

The Triumphal Entry: *Matthew 21:1-11*

### DISCUSS

What is a king? How do people treat a king? How can we treat Jesus as our King? What distracts us from making Jesus our King in our daily lives (*friends, video games, tv, sports*)?

### WATCH:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITmbTuutBgg>



# MONDAY

## Jesus Wants to Make Us Holy

Jerusalem was a bustling city during the Feast of the Passover, as many people went there to celebrate. As Jesus walked through the temple, He witnessed money changers charging people high prices for the animals the Jewish people required for their sacrifices. The sight of this angered Jesus. His Father's House was a holy place and was not meant for making money! Jesus was full of passion to keep His Church holy and pure, just like He wants our hearts to be made holy and pure in Him.

### READ

Cleansing of the Temple: *Matthew 21:12-17*

### DISCUSS

Jesus wants our whole-hearted devotion, undistracted and pure. What does Jesus need to chase out of our temples (our hearts)? Are we struggling with pride, unforgiveness, complaining, arguing, using unkind words? How can we ask Jesus to help us overcome these struggles?

### ACTIVITY

As a family, pray together over the struggles you are facing that are consuming your hearts and distracting you from Jesus. Ask Him to clear away anything in the way to a pure and holy heart.



TUESDAY

## Jesus Came as a Humble Servant

Jesus knew His time on Earth was coming to an end within hours. While they were eating their final meal together, Jesus did something very important for His friends. Jesus lowered Himself to His knees and began to wash His disciple's dirty feet, a job that was meant for a lowly servant.

The disciples were confused why Jesus would do such a thing. Jesus understood the significance of His humbling actions. He was setting an example for His disciples for how they should treat one another. He also foreshadowed the final act of servanthood He would make, humbling Himself to the point of death on a cross.

### READ

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet: *John 13:1-17*

### DISCUSS

Why did Jesus wash His friends' dirty feet? Why was this simple act such a big deal? How can you serve someone this week like Jesus served His disciples when He washed their feet?

### ACTIVITY

Think of one way you can humble yourself and serve someone in your home or neighborhood today... then go do it!





# W E D N E S D A Y

## *Jesus is the Ultimate Sacrifice*

Jesus' final meal with His disciples was the Feast of the Passover. After Jesus washed their feet, He broke bread and shared wine with them. Jesus told them to do the same in remembrance of His sacrificed body and blood on the Cross. Before Jesus, the Jewish people celebrated the Passover supper to remember everything God did to deliver them from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12). Jesus' death on the cross as the new Passover sacrificial lamb made the final exchange to free us from our sins.

### READ

The Feast of Passover: *Luke 22:7-38*

### DISCUSS

Why did Jesus want His disciples to break bread and drink with Him? What do the bread and wine stand for? What does sacrifice mean? What does a sacrifice look like in your life?

### ACTIVITY

As a family, make your dinner tonight extra special. Light candles, break bread together, and listen to "*Nothing But the Blood*" by Hillsong United. Talk about how Jesus might have felt during His Last Supper with His closest friends.



# HOLY THURSDAY

## Jesus Knows How We Feel

Jesus was feeling the depth of what was going to happen to Him on the cross so He retreated with His closest disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray and be alone with His Father. Jesus experienced deep sorrow and grief in the garden, as He thought about His crucifixion. He even asked God if there was another option, to let that happen instead. But Jesus loves God and each of us so much that He finished His sorrowful prayer with, "Not my will, but Your will be done."

### READ

Praying in Gethsemane: *Matthew 26:36-45*

### DISCUSS

What do you think Jesus was feeling when He thought about what was going to happen to Him? Why did Jesus obey God? When do you feel anxious or worried? What do you do when you have those feelings?

### WATCH

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x\\_D9un-Moe8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_D9un-Moe8)



# GOOD FRIDAY

## Jesus Died so We Don't Have To

While in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Roman soldiers arrested Jesus, even though He had committed no wrong. The political leaders could not find guilt in Him, but still Jesus was condemned to death by crucifixion. Jesus was beaten, mocked, whipped and made to carry His cross through the city to Golgotha, "place of the skulls." Jesus was nailed to the cross and left to die. The Son of God suffered terribly so one day we wouldn't have to - He exchanged His life to save ours. Crucifixion was reserved for the worst kind of criminals because of the excruciating pain and humiliation, yet it was suffered by Jesus - a perfect man who committed no sin.

### READ

The Crucifixion: *Luke 23:26-43*

### DISCUSS

How does it feel to be accused of something you know you didn't do? Can you imagine what Jesus was feeling? Why do you think He didn't defend Himself? What does the cross mean for your life?

### WATCH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL8R158Ujp4>





# HOLY SATURDAY

## Jesus Lies Dead so We May Live

Despair. Hopelessness. Devastation. Fear. Jesus' disciples were in disbelief over His crucifixion and death. They believed He was suppose to be their mighty King, the one to overthrow the Roman empire in Israel. How could He laying dead in a stone tomb? The disciples didn't fully understand who Jesus was or what He came to earth to accomplish. It was the Jewish sabbath and they were in hiding, afraid for their own lives. The disciples were mourning and grieving their fallen leader. It wasn't suppose to be this way. What were they going to do next?

### READ

The Burial of Jesus: *Matthew 27:57-66*

### DISCUSS

Can you imagine what Jesus' disciples were feeling after He died? What does it feel like when things don't work out the way you expect them to? How does it feel to lose something or someone you love?

### ACTIVITY

Make a card of encouragement for someone you know who may be experiencing loneliness, despair or grieving a loss. Mail it to them!



# EASTER SUNDAY

## *Jesus is Our Risen Savior!*

Despite what His disciples may have been feeling, Jesus' death is not the end of the story! A few women close to Jesus went to the tomb early Sunday morning, only to find His body gone. They were met with an angel of the Lord announcing that Jesus was not there, He is alive! Jesus defeated death and sin and He is risen from the dead! And here's the best news of all: Jesus' resurrection is for YOU, every one of us! No matter what we've been through or what we've done, Jesus' death and resurrection bring us back to life in Him. Jesus conquered sin with His death on the cross and resurrection three days later - once and for all - so that we can live with Him for eternity in Heaven. Alleluia, He is risen!

### READ

The Resurrection of Jesus: *Matthew 28:1-10*

### DISCUSS

What do you think the women who found the tomb empty were feeling? Would it be hard for you to believe the news that Jesus is alive again? What does the Resurrection mean for us?

### ACTIVITY

Turn up worship music and have an Easter Sunday dance party, celebrating Jesus' defeat over death and sin to give us a new life!

