



April 9-11, 2020

# HOLY WEEK *at home*

Parent Guide For

# KIDS

# THURSDAY

Take time to read through the whole guide before beginning - it will help

**Suggested Space:** Outdoors

**Supplies:** Large bowl and pitcher of water, towels, Bible



# 1. Read

Begin by reading a summary of what Jesus has been up to all week:

On Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Remember how the Old Testament predicted that the Messiah, Jesus, would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey! The large crowd knew this and began cheering, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

On Monday, Jesus enters the temple and sees people selling goods. The temple was supposed to be a place where all people could come meet God, but they made it a place to make money. Jesus kicks all of the sellers and buyers out of the temple. After this, the religious leaders begin to plot a way they might kill Jesus because He had claimed to be God's Son.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Jesus teaches the people and religious leaders many things. Jesus tells a religious leader that the two greatest commands in the law are to love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength and to love their neighbors as themselves. You know that verse! Jesus also reminds his disciples that he must die on a cross for the forgiveness of their sins.

On Thursday, Jesus and His disciples sit down to have the Passover meal. All Jewish people would eat this meal on the same day to remember God saving them from Egypt hundreds of years ago. Jesus tells his disciples that the bread they eat and the wine they drink during the meal are symbols of His body and blood that will be broken and spilled for the forgiveness of their sins. In the middle of this meal, Jesus gets up and does something strange - let's read about it:

## 2. Open Your Bibles

As a family, turn to today's passage in your Bibles.

### First Reading

[John 13:1-15](#)

#### Tip for younger kids:

Help your little ones by reminding them that "big numbers" are chapters and the "little numbers" are verses.

## 3. Read the Passage

If you have kids who are readers, let them read the story or take turns reading it to the family.

#### Encourage active listening:

- What was Jesus doing to the disciples?
- Who told Jesus not to wash their feet?



## 4. Experience the Story

Ask your kids to tell you what they learned from the passage. Review passage as needed.

- **On one of his last days Jesus served the disciples by washing their feet.**

### FOOT WASHING

#### Notes:

- Take turns washing your children's feet.
- Point out how dirty the disciple's feet would have been - they walked everywhere and wore open sandals.

#### Ask:

- Why was it strange that Jesus washed the disciples feet? (He was their Master - usually that was a servant's job.)
- Why did Jesus wash their feet? (To show them how to serve others)
- How can we "wash each other's feet"? (By serving others)

#### Say:

- Just like Jesus washed the disciples' dirty feet, He washes our "dirty feet" too - by dying on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.
- Let's read to see what happens next.

## 5. Optional 2nd Reading (Or skip to #6)

As a family, turn to today's passage in your Bibles.

### Second Reading

[Luke 22: 47-54](#)

If you have kids who are readers, let them read the story or take turns reading it to the family.

### Encourage active listening:

- Where did Jesus go?
- What did Jesus tell them to do?
- Who kissed Jesus?

Jesus was taken to trial.

To be continued tomorrow...

# 6. Pray Together

Pray out loud together. Even if the room isn't still or quiet - pray out loud anyway! Be a family who prays together.

## Consider these prayers:

- God, help me love people like Jesus loves me.
- God, help show me to pray like Jesus encouraged the disciples to do - so I may not be led into temptation.
- God, help me live my life in a way that shows other people what it looks like to love You and love others.



# FRIDAY

Take time to read through the whole guide before beginning - it will help

## Suggested Space:

Intimate setting, low lights

## Supplies:

- Painter's or masking tape
- construction paper (dark),
- chalk or white crayon
- candles if you have them (5)
- Bibles



# 1. Read

Begin by reading what happened next:

After Judas' betrayal, Jesus was taken to the High Priest's house. While Jesus was there, He confessed that He is the Son of God. This angers the religious leaders, so they bring him to the Roman ruler, Pilate, hoping that he will find him guilty of starting a rebellion against Rome. Pilate did not find Jesus guilty, but the religious leaders desperately wanted to kill him, so they brought Jesus to Herod, another ruler of Rome. Herod did not find Jesus guilty either. Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate. Although Pilate did not find anything wrong with Jesus, he gives in to what the Jewish people and religious leaders want: Jesus, the Son of God, who did nothing wrong, be crucified on a cross.



## 2. Open Your Bibles

As a family, turn to today's passage in your Bibles.

### First Reading Luke 23:33-38

#### Tip for younger kids:

Help your little ones by reminding them that "big numbers" are chapters and the "little numbers" are verses.

## 3. Read the Passage

If you have kids who are readers, let them read the story or take turns reading it to the family.

#### Encourage active listening:

- Where did they take Jesus?
- How did they treat Jesus?

Ask your kids to tell you what they learned from the passage. Review passage as needed.

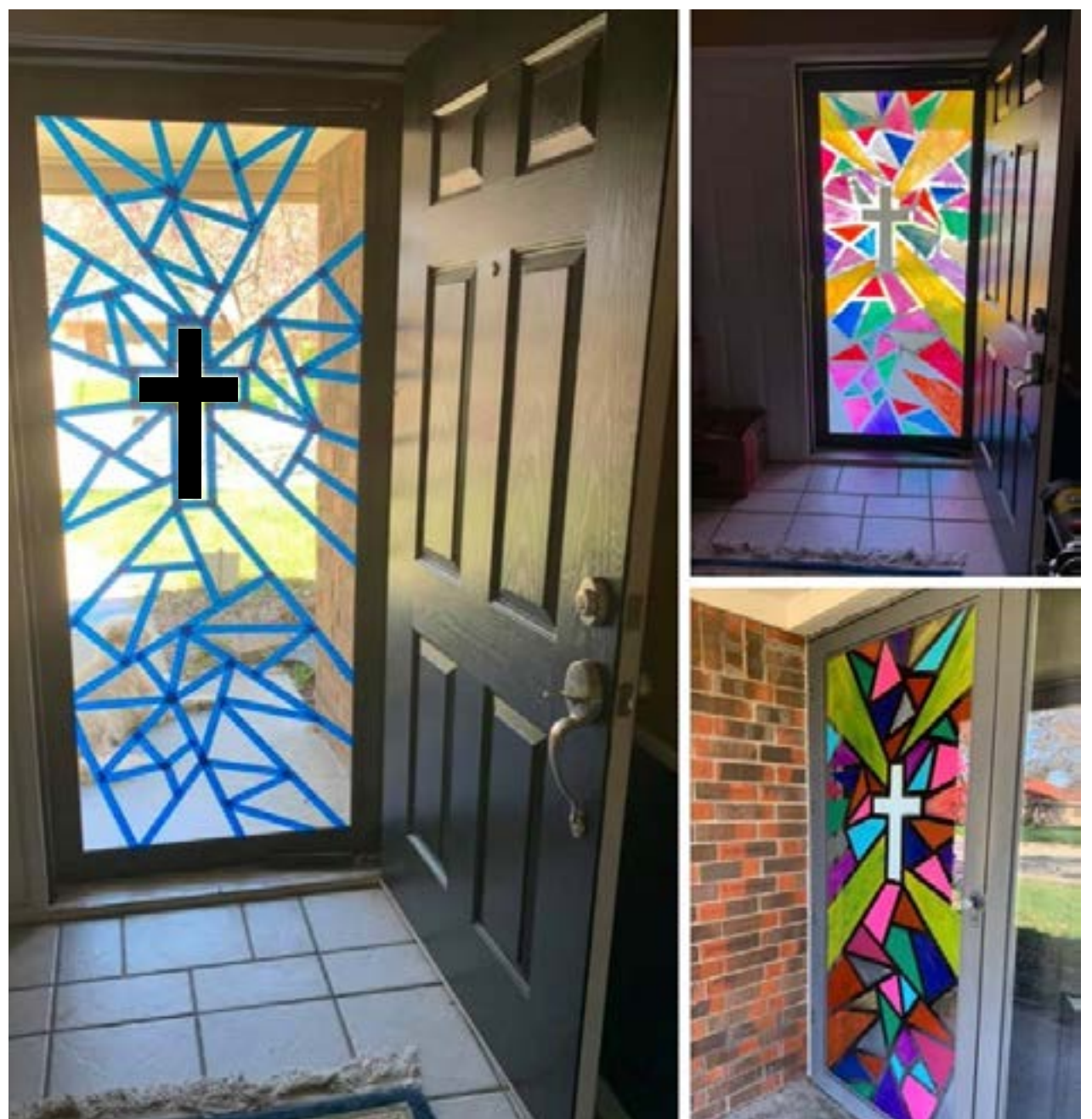
# 4. Experience the Story

**Good Friday is heavy. It is sad. You know best how to discuss this with your kids.**

## Confess and Reflect

### Notes:

- Light five candles (if you only have one, just light one)
- Have a large cross cut out of construction paper.
- Frame the cross on the window/door. OR sidewalk.
- You can add the sections later.
- We will finish the "stained glass" on Easter morning!



### Say (You know your kids-modify as needed):

- The soldiers took Jesus away to be crucified.
- They beat Jesus, spit on him, mocked him. They dressed him up with a crown of thorns to be a king. They made him carry his own cross to a place called Golgotha, where he was to be crucified.
- Jesus was nailed to the cross.

## Do:

- Hang the cross, with tape, on the window or door. (Or sidewalk if you are using chalk on Sunday.)
- Confess your sins: write your confession on a piece of paper to tape on the cross or directly on the cross. You can use chalk or a white crayon. Or, for privacy, black.
- Come and sit around the candle or candles.

## Say:

- Jesus said, Eli, Eli..., My God, My God why have you forsaken me? Then he bowed his head and died.

## Do:

- Read each statement and then blow out one candle after each. (If you only have one candle, blow it out at the end):

## Say:

- Do you remember that Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss? (Blow out candle)
- Do you remember that the soldiers beat him him? (Blow out candle)
- Do you remember that Pilate turned him over to the people to have him crucified? (Blow out candle)
- Do you remember that the crowd laughed at him? (Blow out candle)
- Do you remember that Jesus asked if even God had abandoned Him? (Blow out candle)

**After Jesus' friends took his body down from the cross they laid him in a grave. To make sure none of Jesus' disciples would come and take his body, soldiers sealed the tomb with a huge stone.**



# 5. Worship and Pray

Pray out loud together.  
Even if the room isn't still or quiet -  
pray out loud anyway!  
Be a family who prays together.

## Consider these prayers:

- God, this story is sad. Jesus died on the cross for me. Thank you Jesus, for dying to save me.
- Help me grow closer to You and know that I can always come to You when I have messed up. You love me always.
- God, help me live my life in a way that shows other people what it looks like to love You and love others.

## Worship:

Have your kids lead you in worship  
with "Jesus We Love You".



Branch Kids Worship Motions

# SATURDAY

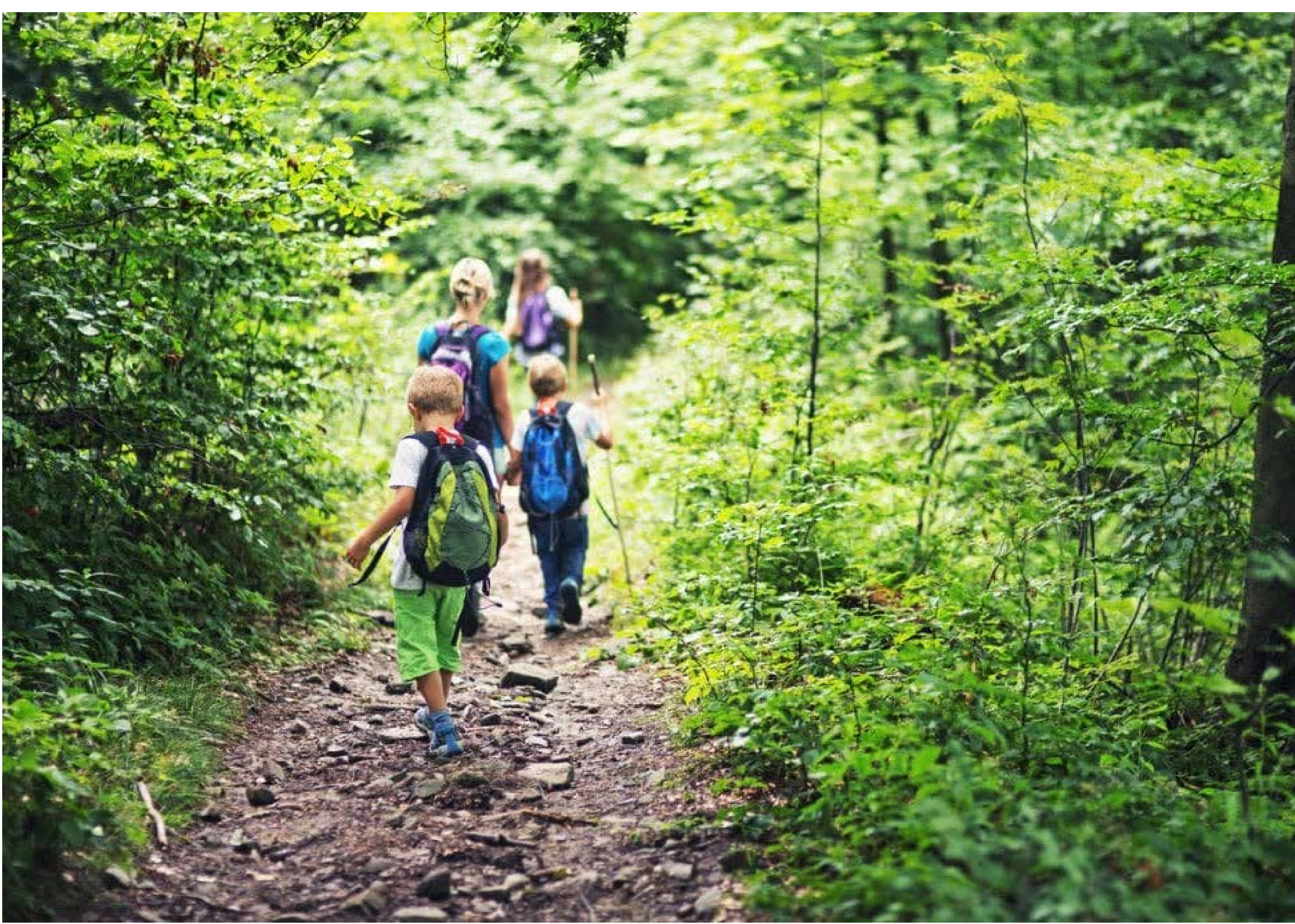
Take time to read through the whole guide before beginning - it will help.

## Suggested Space:

Your favorite walking trail or park

## Supplies:

- Nature Walk Search Items
- Bag to collect items



# 1. Read

Begin by putting the day in context:

Saturday was the Jewish people's Sabbath. On this day all the people rested from their work. The day before, some of the women who had followed Jesus prepared spices and ointments so that they could honor Jesus' body on Sunday. But on Saturday, they rested, knowing the man they had followed for 3 years was dead.

## 4. Experience the Story

### Nature Walk

#### Notes:

- Grab a bag so you can pack your finds
- Go to your favorite park, walking trail, or backyard!
- As you walk, gather items that remind you of the week Jesus had.
- Talk to your kids about how Jesus' followers spent Saturday very sad - they mourned.
- Build anticipation of what is coming tomorrow!



# THINGS TO FIND

1. Something edible
2. Something wet
3. Something in a garden
4. Something shiny
5. Something sharp
6. Something thorny
7. Something made of wood
8. Something dead
9. Something dark in color
10. Something round

**Slide to the next page  
to find what each item  
represents.  
Discuss together.**

# WHAT THEY REPRESENT

1. The Passover Meal
2. Washing the Disciples Feet
3. Garden of Gethsamane
4. Judas betrayed Jesus (Coins)
5. Jesus' pain
6. The crown of thorns
7. The cross
8. Christ's death
9. The darkness that came over the world after his death
10. The stone placed in front of the tomb.

**As you review your items, have everyone take a moment of silence to thank God for sending Jesus to Save us.**



# 5. Pray Together

Pray out loud together. Even if the room isn't still or quiet - pray out loud anyway! Be a family who prays together.

## Consider these prayers:

- God, help me remember that Jesus died for my sin.
- God, give me opportunities to share this story with my family and friends and neighbors.
- God, thank you for Jesus.



If you are reading this and would like more information on building a relationship with Jesus, we would love to talk to you!

Reach out to us at  
[alexis.hall@thebranch.org](mailto:alexis.hall@thebranch.org)

[Join our Branch Families](#)