



Holy Week

The Road to Salvation

Daily Devotional

HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL

Easter is the true story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Jesus came to earth and died on a cross for every one of us and He resurrected so that we could be rescued. God provided a way for us to be forgiven from all of our sins and to be saved in order to receive the gift of eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 ESV

This devotional is designed to take you on a journey with Jesus, to discover and understand his life and what he did for you. Each day gives you scriptures to read and meditate upon as well as an inspiring message that you can apply to your life. There is an optional family activity to bring the story of Jesus to life for your children or grandchildren as well. Feel free to alter or adapt this to fit your style and schedule each day. Grab your Bible and allow Jesus to become a part of this each day with you. Write down how His word speaks to you. There is life in God's word and there is power for your life in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ!



Palm Sunday

Theme: Praise

Matthew 21:1-10 ESV, John 12:12-16 ESV, Zechariah 9:9-13 ESV

JESUS ARRIVES

Jesus had just left the town of Bethany and he had entered Jerusalem. Jesus sent his disciples to get a donkey colt for him to ride into Jerusalem as it was prophesied hundreds of years ahead of time by the prophet Zechariah in Zechariah 9:9. There were crowds of people waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!" The word, "Hosanna" means "come save us" and the people had been waiting on a King who would save them from the Roman oppression. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, in humility, with a completely different type of salvation, an eternal salvation. As the crowd praised Jesus, it confirmed his position as King, the one who came to save us all. He is still our Savior, he longs for relationship with us and our praise confirms our devotion to Him. As you spend time with Jesus today, put aside all the distractions that get in the way and just praise Jesus as your Savior and King!

Reflections

1. What spoke to you out of these scriptures?
2. How has Jesus rescued you?
3. Why do we praise Jesus?
4. How can you demonstrate praise to Jesus today?

Family Activity:

Make green palm leaves using your own palms. Either dip your child's hand in green paint and make several handprints on white construction paper in the shape of a palm leaf, or trace your child's hand on green construction paper. Cut out the handprints and glue them onto craft sticks or "branches" made from strips of cardboard. You can then pretend to be part of the crowd on Palm Sunday and practice praise!



Monday

Theme: Purity

Matthew 21:12-22 ESV, Psalm 8:4-2 ESV, Isaiah 56:7 ESV

JESUS CLEANS THE TEMPLE

After Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people were asking, who is this Jesus? Who is this King that has been sent to save us? The religious leaders in charge of the temple had made it harder for people to worship God. The temple was God's house. Jesus went into the temple and saw that people were profiting off of one another, selling sacrifices and exchanging money, taking advantage of people and disregarding the purpose of the temple. It needed to be cleaned up so that people could focus on pure worship and prayer to God. So Jesus, in righteous anger, drove them all out, overturning their tables and their seats. He said to them, "It is written, My house will be called a house of prayer. But you are making it a den of thieves!"

Jesus also proved that He was God's Son by performing miracles. A miracle is something that only God can do. Jesus healed people who couldn't see or couldn't walk. The children who were in the temple were so excited to see Jesus and His miracles that even they shouted out praises to Him. Jesus walked in the temple as a Holy King to cleanse and purify God's temple. God wants our pure worship, our absolute devotion, he wants a clean and pure temple. Whenever we put something above Him, that thing, person, activity, or addiction may have become an idol. Jesus came to clean it out so we can have freedom, healing, and wholeness in Jesus.

Reflections

1. What are you worried about, what has your attention?
2. What idols need to be overturned by Jesus so you can be whole again?
3. Why do you need to purify in your heart?
4. How can you show your pure devotion to Jesus today?



Family Activity:

Get a glass and fill it with clean water. Talk about that this water is pure and clean. Add a few drops of food coloring or dye. This represents sin and impurities that can enter our lives. No matter how much water we add, it is still contaminated. You have to pour it out, clean the glass and refill it. A clean glass of water represents our good choices to obey God's word like being honest, following the rules, obeying your parents. It only takes one lie, or one act of sin to pollute the water. The only way to truly restore purity is to ask forgiveness and start over. The only person who can truly forgive us and purify us is Jesus.



Tuesday

Theme: Wisdom

Matthew 24:23-27 ESV, John 13:1-30 ESV, Psalm 19:4 ESV

JESUS TEACHES

Jesus began to teach the people as he modeled the power of words. Jesus found himself in a conflict with the chief priests and elders who were indignantly questioning who he was. They were questioning Jesus, authority and who or what gave him the right to teach, heal and perform miracles. Jesus, in his wisdom, began to share parables that would teach on the very things that the religious leaders were asking about. He didn't waste His words, but always chose to speak in a way that would honor God, his father, and would help those He was speaking to. The religious leaders were trying to trick him into breaking the law, but Jesus used his words to teach that the whole point of the law is for us to love God and love each other.

Reflections

1. What areas of your life have you been reacting with words without thinking first?
2. How can you model how Jesus spoke to difficult people and situations?
3. What words and responses do you use that need to conform to the way of Jesus?
4. How can use words to show love to God and to one another today?

Family Activity:

Get an inexpensive tube of toothpaste and ask your child to squeeze all of the toothpaste out on a plate, encourage them to use all their strength to get it all out. Then ask them to put all the toothpaste back into the tube. Offer them a spoon to help or maybe a toothpick. Our words are very much like this toothpaste, once the words come out of our mouth, it's very difficult to put them back in. Jesus was careful how he used his words, he didn't argue or try to fight, he was wise. Jesus wants us to use wise words. How can you use wise words with someone today?



Wednesday

Theme: Worship

Matthew 26:6-16 ESV

JESUS IS ANNOINTED

While Jesus was in Bethany, he went to the house of Lazarus, Martha and Mary where Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. The miracle of Lazarus is part of what stirred the people to follow Jesus. While there, Mary came and broke an expensive bottle of perfume, worth a year's wages and anointed Jesus. The visual of Mary anointing Jesus is so profound, there is no proof that Mary fully understood the significance of what she was doing when she was anointing Jesus before his death and Resurrection. This was the only anointing he received for his burial. Mary boldly chose Jesus in this moment. Her bold actions went against what society and the religious leaders of the time deemed to be appropriate and acceptable. This act of worship confronted the culture and even enraged Judas to seek to betray Jesus. Mary reminds us that even when the world tries to define us, the only person who defines us is Jesus.

Reflections

1. Why did Mary's worship affect Jesus in such a profound way?
2. How does culture interfere with our worship to Jesus?
3. How can you demonstrate your love for Jesus through worship?
4. What areas of your life do you need to allow Jesus to define?

Family Activity:

Gather some essential oils such as lavender, vanilla extract, perfume, or some other item you have at home that smells nice. Smell the oil or fragrance together and imagine using it on Jesus' feet to let Him know how much we love Him. You can even put some in a small jar to remember what Mary did for Jesus. The perfume Mary used to anoint Jesus' feet smelled good. Mary showed how brave she was and how much she loved Jesus by using the expensive perfume. Judas didn't think it was brave. He told Jesus she should have sold the perfume and given the money to the poor. Jesus said that what Mary did was right. She was showing her love for him. How can you show your love to Jesus?



Thursday

Theme: Serving

John 13:1-20 ESV

JESUS SERVES

The disciples had been invited to have Passover dinner with Jesus. As the disciples arrived, before the meal, Jesus humbled himself as a servant and began to wash the feet of each of his disciples. The disciples wore sandals and walked on roads that were dusty, so their feet got very dirty. Washing feet was a job that usually only the lowest servant would do. When He surprised them by washing their feet. The disciples didn't think someone as important as Jesus would wash feet, but He washed their feet to be an example for them-and for us-to follow. Jesus wants us to humbly serve other people just like He did. Jesus didn't come to be served, he came to serve and we should do likewise.

Reflections

1. Why is serving others valuable?
2. How can you serve Jesus?
3. What are some practical ways you can serve others?
4. Serving is a heart-attitude, pray for a heart that is willing to serve.

Family Activity:

Follow Jesus's example by washing each other's feet. You might choose to go on a walk together barefoot first to get your feet dirty. Then, using a washcloth and a large bowl, pan, or tub filled with water, take turns washing each other's feet. (You'll probably want to do it either outside or in the bathroom, where splashes and spills won't cause problems.) Use a towel to dry feet after they are cleaned. Explain to your kids that there are a lot of different ways you can humbly serve each other. Try to think of one way your family can serve someone else this week.



Good Friday

Theme: Sacrifice

Matthew 27:1-56 ESV, Mark 15:1-32 ESV

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Jesus begins this day by celebrating the Passover meal with His disciples, a meal they ate every year to remember God's deliverance from Egypt. This meal is also known as the "The Last Supper", the final meal Jesus had before going to the cross. Imagine being at the Last Supper with Jesus, the meal probably would have included lamb, bitter herbs, olives, unleavened bread, stew, wine, and dates. The disciples didn't realize the significance of enjoying the Passover celebration with the very Lamb of God who was about to be sacrificed on the Cross for them and for all of us. During the meal, Jesus makes everyone aware that one of his disciples would betray him. It happened just as he said, Judas betrayed him and Jesus was arrested and put on trial. The judge could not find a reason to punish Jesus, however, the leaders who had arrested Jesus stirred up the crowd against Him, yelling that Jesus should be crucified and hung on a cross to die. Jesus had the power to save Himself from the cross, but He didn't. This was God's plan all along. Jesus, the only person who never sinned, took the punishment for everyone else's sin because He loves us so much. When Jesus died, the curtain in the temple was torn in two, showing that people no longer had to be separated from God. When we admit we are sinners, believe Jesus paid for our sins on the cross, and trust Him with our hearts, we are forgiven and He rescues us.

Reflections

1. When you think about Jesus' intentional self-sacrifice, what does that say to your present concerns?
2. Why did Jesus choose to be die on the cross?
3. Since Jesus gave everything for you, is there anything holding you back from giving Jesus you whole heart?



Family Activity:

Help your child make a cross. It can be made out of almost anything: sticks, pipe cleaners, play dough, paper, etc. Then, have your child draw or write down (or you can write down for them) something they've done that is wrong. It can either be written directly on the cross or written on a piece of paper that you then attach to the cross. Next, take something red—like red paint, a red marker, red stickers, or other red craft supplies—and cover the cross (along with the sin written on it) with red. Explain to your child that the red represents Jesus's blood. When Jesus died on the cross, His blood paid for our sins so He can offer forgiveness to everyone who believes in Him.



Saturday

Theme: Waiting

Matthew 27:57-66 ESV, Mark 15:33-47 ESV

JESUS IN THE TOMB

The day after Jesus died on the cross is known as "Silent Saturday". Jesus was dead and His body was taken down and placed in a tomb. The tomb was like a cave with a large stone rolled in front of the opening to seal it. The stone was so large and heavy that it would've required several people to try and move it. (Mark 16:3)

The tomb was sealed and Roman guards were placed in front of the tomb so no one could open it. Jesus' disciples were afraid and they went into hiding. But Jesus had said He would come back to life and so everyone waited, hoping that what Jesus had promised would come to pass.

Reflections

1. How do you think the disciples were feeling after Jesus was buried in the tomb?
2. What are things you feel have been buried in your life that only Jesus could resurrect?
3. Why is it difficult to wait and see the promises of God fulfilled in your life?

Family Activity:

Help your child make props to retell the story of Jesus and Easter. You can use a wooden craft stick to represent Jesus, and have your child draw a face on it. For clothes, wrap the it with fabric scraps and tie it with string or yarn. To make the cross, have your child glue two craft sticks together and decorate with markers. Grab a toilet paper roll, tissue paper, and a rock to make the tomb. Let your child cover the toilet paper roll with tissue paper so that it looks like a cave and seal the tomb with a rock the size of the end of the toilet paper roll. Now your child can retell the story using the props.



Resurrection Sunday

Theme: Life

Matthew 28:1-10 ESV

John 20:1-28 ESV

JESUS IS ALIVE

On Sunday, Mary, one of the women who was a friend of Jesus went to visit the tomb where he was buried. When they arrived, the stone that had been in front of the tomb, had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. An angel told the woman Jesus wasn't there because He was ALIVE! Jesus had risen just as He promised. Death did not win, Jesus did! Mary was so excited, she ran to tell the disciples the amazing news. Jesus Himself appeared to the disciples and showed them his scars from the cross. Even Thomas who doubted it could be true, Jesus came to him and showed his scars so he would believe. Jesus is alive today! When we believe in Him and we know that He paid for our sins on the cross, we can be forgiven and have eternal life with Him in heaven. Jesus has promised us that He will come back again and we will live with him forever in heaven. His resurrection is the promise of eternal life!

Reflections

1. How did the women and disciples react when they saw Jesus?
2. What are some things you have been doubting that you can give to Jesus?
3. What needs to be resurrected in your life?
4. How can you celebrate Jesus resurrection today and every day?



Family Activity:

Help your child make a set of resurrection eggs: 12 Easter eggs that tell the story of Jesus's death and resurrection. You'll need a dozen empty plastic eggs, which you can number from 1-12 with a marker. Each egg will then be filled with small items representing parts of the Easter story. You can have a family scavenger hunt to find the items. Once the eggs are filled, you can take turns opening each of them in order and explaining which part of the Easter story that each item represents.

Below are the items for the scavenger hunt, along with their significance to the Easter story and Bible verses you can read for each one:

1. Palm branch (a small leaf): When Jesus first came into Jerusalem, people waved palm branches in honor of Him. (John 12:4)
2. Bread (a small cracker or piece of bread): Jesus broke bread while sharing the Last Supper with His disciples. (Luke 22:19)
3. Coins (three pennies): Judas did a very bad thing and betrayed Jesus for just 30 coins. (Matthew 27:3)
4. Rope (yarn or string): After they brought Him to trial, Jesus was whipped with a big rope. (John 19:1)
5. Robe (a small piece of fabric): The bad people teased Jesus and put a robe on Him after beating Him up. (Matthew 27:28)
6. Crown of thorns (a toothpick or small stick): Because Jesus said He was the King, they took sharp thorns and made a crown. (Matthew 27:29)
7. Nail (thumb tack or small nail): Soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross by His hands and feet. (Acts 2:23)
8. Cross (two sticks taped together): Jesus was killed on a big cross. (John 19:7)
9. Sponge (cotton ball): While Jesus was on the cross, He got very thirsty, and they sent up a sponge of vinegar. (John 19:29)
10. Spices (cloves or other spice): When Jesus was buried, they brought spices to put on His body to preserve it, sort of like a mummy. (Luke 24:1)
11. Rock (small stone or pebble): When Jesus was buried, a large stone was placed over His tomb so that nobody could come and take His body. (Mark 16:4)
12. Nothing (an empty egg): The last egg is empty because the tomb was empty. Jesus is alive! He is risen! (Matthew 28:5-6)

