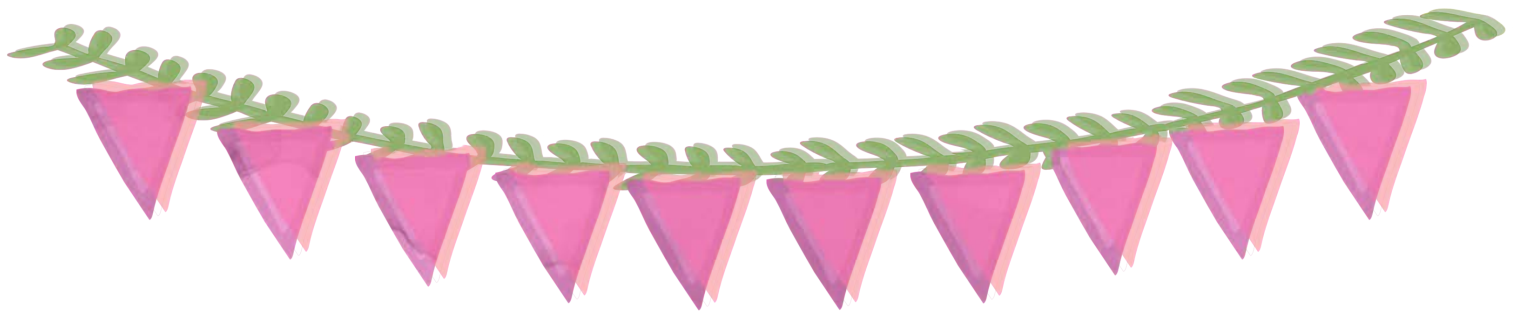




He
is
Risen



A FOURTEEN DAY LENT DEVOTIONAL
FOR MOMS AND KIDS



He is Risen:

A FOURTEEN DAY LENT DEVOTIONAL FOR MOMS AND KIDS

By: Tara Davis

Resurrection Sunday is almost here! As believers, Easter is the most meaningful holiday of the year, and we have the priceless gift of sharing it with our children. In fact, the best thing we can do with our short time here on Earth is to share Jesus with these precious people God has entrusted to us! Your children are never too old or too young to be reminded daily of the message and love of Jesus! This Easter banner and devotional will be a sweet spot for you and your children to rest together in this season leading up to Resurrection Day!

Let's Get Ready!

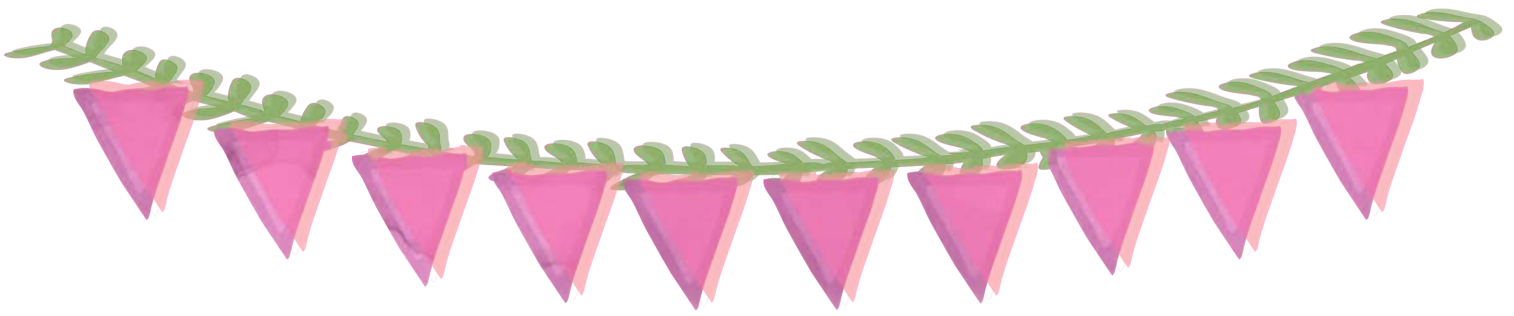
This devotional is meant to be completed in the two weeks leading up to Easter Sunday, but feel free to start earlier and stretch out that time, just reading a few devotionals a week with your children. After planning the days you intend to set aside for this activity, there are just a couple things you will need to do to prepare.

- 1. Print and assemble the banner and ornaments.** *The banner and daily ornaments can be found in both full color or coloring page format at myhelpclubformoms.com.* The whole set is super easy to construct, requiring only scissors, a bit of string or ribbon, and tape! There are detailed instructions on the printable to help you with assembly; so set aside a few minutes to put it all together!
- 2. Choose a place to hang the banner in your house.** *The flags that make up this banner are actually pockets in which you will slip little daily ornaments for your kids to take out, color and hang on an Easter tree.* You will want to choose a place in your home that your kids are able to easily reach. Make sure to secure the hanging banner in a way that will stand up to little hands.
- 3. Set up an Easter tree.** This is as simple as stepping outside, cutting some small twigs off a tree or bush and placing them in a jar or vase. Set your Easter tree on a table or shelf in your home. Easy! This Easter tree is where your children will hang their ornaments throughout the next couple weeks.

Daily Instructions:

The Easter banner devotional will give you a beautiful opportunity to share Jesus with your kids in the days ahead! Each day, gather your children together and then complete the following simple steps:

1. Choose a child to pull the ornament out of the Easter banner pocket for that day, or make extra copies of the ornaments so there is one for each child in the daily pocket.



2. Head to the table with the ornaments and say a quick prayer together before beginning the devotional.
3. Let your kids color the ornaments as you read the daily Scripture passage and the short daily devotional.
4. Ask your kids for their thoughts on the daily reading and then let them hang their ornament. Voila! You are done for the day!

Take it a Step Further (Optional Ideas):

- Find an Easter hymn that resonates with your heart and play it each morning as you begin your devotional time with your kids. A few suggestions are: “In Christ Alone,” “How Deep the Father’s Love For Us,” “Jesus Paid it All,” and “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less.”
- Put together a prayer jar with names of people you know. Each day, let your child pull out a name and pray for that person specifically.
- Help your kids create a Jesus notebook to document the story of our Savior. Gather paper and a binder (or a spiral notebook or artist sketchbook), crayons, markers, and pencils. As you read each day, let your children illustrate the daily passage and devo in their notebook. Then, if they would like, they can write (or have you write for them) a super short summary of what they learned. Make this a fun exercise, not a chore for them. If they are not interested, don’t push it. You want this to be a pleasant time of growing closer to their Savior! This is such a beautiful season in their lives!
- Check out some of our other Easter ideas throughout this book and incorporate them into your devotional time with your children!



Day 1: Prepare your heart, Pray for your child (no reading or ornament to hang)

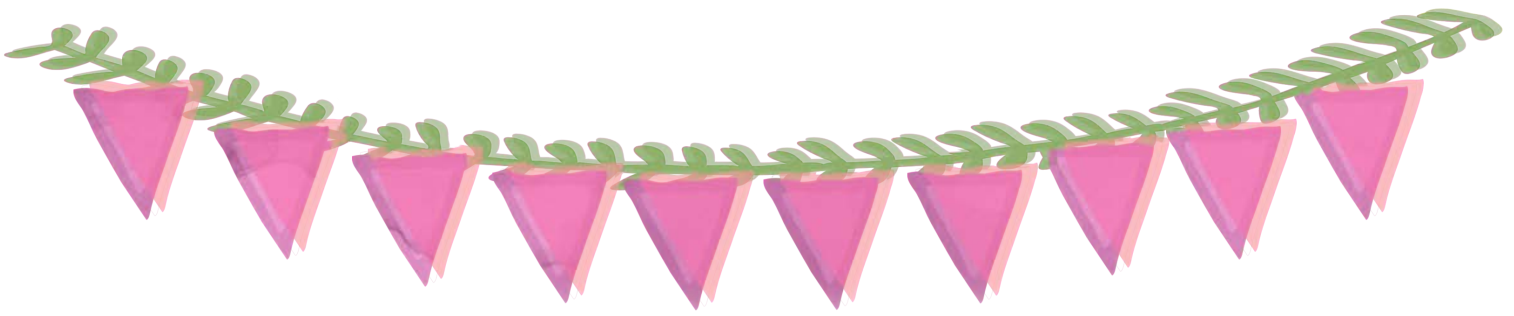
This may seem like a day you can just skip in favor of starting the real meat of this devotional tomorrow. Don’t do it! This is possibly the most important day of all. Today is a time to prepare your heart to worship your Savior with your children during these next two weeks. And it is a time to pray for the hearts of your children to know more deeply the love of God through this season and to connect with the story of Jesus in a way that will change their lives forever! What a gift today is!

Pray the following Scriptures for yourself:

- Lord, help me to draw near to you, to submit to you. Show me how to live a life of worship to you. Come near to me Lord!
- James 4:7-8 – “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.”
- Lord, show me how to disciple my children, how to point them to you and how to pour your love into them every day!
- Deuteronomy 6:6-7 – “These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

Pray the following Scriptures for your children:

- Lord, in these coming weeks, show my children in a new and heart-changing way how great your love is for them!



- Ephesians 3:17-19 – “And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”
- Lord, let my children call to you. Show them who you are, give them a desire to follow you all the days of their lives, and a passion to share you with others!
- Jeremiah 33:3 – “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”



Day 2: Snake and fruit (ornament in the first blank flag)

Read: Genesis 3:1-7, Genesis 3:22-24

Discuss: Long ago, our God who created everything made a beautiful garden. Lush greens, fragrant blossoms, colorful fish and peaceful animals filled the garden. This creation was perfectly fashioned by its Creator without a single flaw. Then God lovingly made Adam and Eve to tend the garden, to walk with Him, to live in friendship with Him forever. He gave them all of the most beautiful gifts and lavished on them unending love. And in return, He asked just a single thing: they must not eat the fruit from one certain tree in the garden. This tree, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, would open their eyes to sin, evil, and death. God wanted to spare them the hurt that comes along with these desperately sad things because He loved His children so.

But one day, Satan, the great enemy of God, came to Eve in the form of a serpent. With his beauty and cunning lies, he tempted Eve with the fruit from the forbidden tree. He promised that the fruit would make her wise and powerful. She fell for his lies and promises, the desires of her heart pulling her away from her loving Father. Eve chose to disobey God. After she took a bite of the fruit and shared it with her husband, Adam, they realized they had made a terrible mistake. A wave of heartsickness and fear rushed over them. Sin had entered their lives. Sin had broken through God’s perfect creation and with it a deathly shadow was cast over the beautiful garden. The eternal wages of sin is death and that day death entered into the world. All seemed lost. How could this ever be repaired? How could the once-perfect world, now broken by sin and death, ever be made right again?

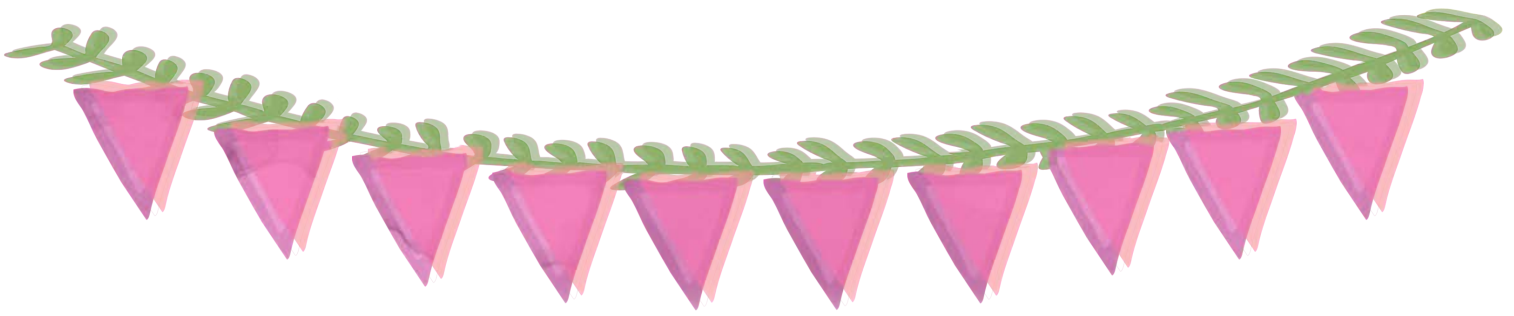
But God, in His mercy and grace, had a plan. Just like a loving daddy who would do anything to rescue his children, God set a rescue plan into motion. A plan that would require sacrificing His most precious Son, Jesus. This plan was the thing that would make all things new, that would bring all who choose Him back into the Father’s loving arms again. This rescue plan is a *Love Story* greater than all other love stories that has ever been told. And you, precious child, are at the very heart of this rescue mission.



Day 3: David (ornament in “H” flag)

Read: Acts 13:22

Discuss: A very long time ago, a man named David was born into a humble family of shepherds. But, God had a very special plan for him. He wasn’t simply to be a shepherd, he was to be a mighty king! God saw that David was a boy who had amazing faith in Him and would one day become a man after



God's own heart. But as much as David loved the Lord, David was imperfect. He was a sinner and did some very wrong things. But each time David sinned, his heart broke in sadness before the Lord.

Oh how David longed to follow God! He desperately needed God to rescue him and set him on the right path. You, precious child, so desperately need God too. God longs for us to have a heart like David. To know that we are sinners in need of a Savior. To know that the only One who can save us is our loving Father. Run, as David did, into the arms of the Lord. Seek His forgiveness. Seek your Savior!

God, in His perfect love, always has a perfect plan. David, though he was a sinful man, was part of the plan for God to rescue His children. You see, David's great, great, great, great grandson would be the Rescuer, our Savior, our King...God Himself. But that is a story for another day. Keep waiting, child, there are many wondrous things in store for you!



Day 4: Isaiah (ornament in first "E" flag)

Read: Isaiah 53:2-5

Discuss: Long ago, hundreds of years before Jesus was born (700 in fact!), God sent prophets to begin instructing the hearts of God's people to receive their Rescuer, the coming Messiah. One of these prophets was named Isaiah, and he loved the Lord. God revealed to Isaiah words to tell His people, prophecies of the Messiah's birth, His life and His death. These prophecies told specific details about where the Messiah would be born, how He would come into this world, how He would live, and how He would die. Would the predictions given by God ever come true?

Our loving Father knows all things, He can see forward to a time far into the future and back in time to the beginning of creation and beyond. And He knows you! He knows your heart, your thoughts, the very number of hairs on your head. And He loves you! His love for you is so great that it reaches to the stars, to the very edge of the universe and all the way back to your heart. He wants people to know that He is God. He wants people to know that Jesus is the Rescuer, literally God in the form of a human who has come to save all those who love Him.

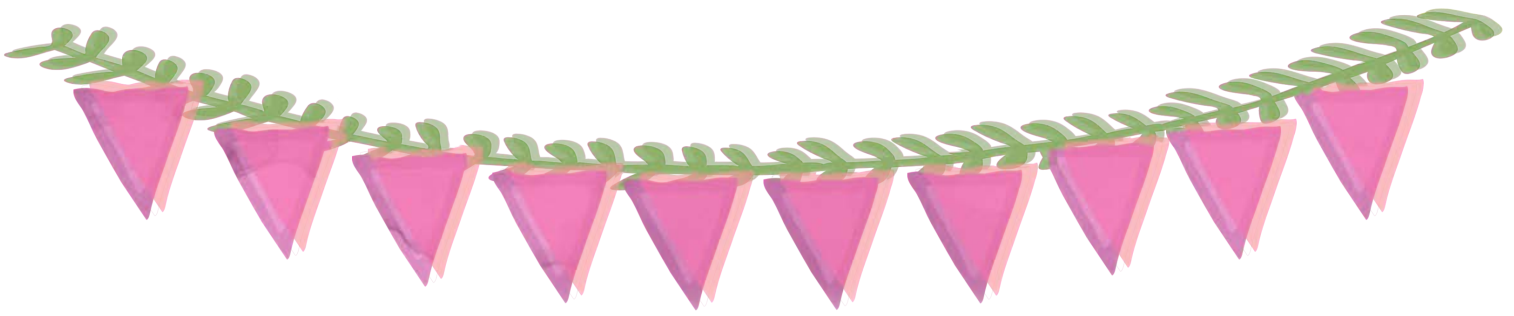
The purpose of Isaiah's words, the prophecies given by God, was not simply to prepare people's hearts for the Rescuer. The purpose of the prophecies were to give eternal proof of God's love, of Jesus' Lordship. This proof would stretch through time all the way to today. All of the prophecies came true. These prophecies show us that God's Word can be trusted and that He has always had a plan in place to save us from eternal death. If we believe in Jesus as our Savior, we can know for certain that when we die our soul will live forever with the Lord in heaven and we will be given a new eternal body! Can you imagine how beautiful it will be? Trust in Jesus today!



Day 5: Jesus in a Manger (ornament in second blank flag)

Read: Luke 2:1-11

Discuss: The day had come. This was the beginning of a new chapter for the world, and indeed it is the most beautiful beginning that could ever have been written. Jesus, the Son of God came to earth as a baby! How the heavens rejoiced with sweet songs of angels worshipping the Lord on that night of Jesus' birth! He had come...our Rescuer, our Savior!



Did the whole earth celebrate Jesus? Not yet. Wrapped in His mother's love, Jesus looked like any other baby. But He was not just any other baby. He was a special miracle, a gift from God.

The beautiful rescue plan was still unfolding. God had a plan to defeat death, to release the grip of sin on humanity and bring eternal freedom to His beloved! Just you wait, my precious child, the best is yet to come! And just as the angels rejoiced, we have the opportunity to rejoice too! We have the opportunity today, and every day for the rest of our lives to live in worship to our KING JESUS!



Day 6: John the Baptist/ Baptising Jesus (ornament in first "I" flag)

Read: Matthew 3:13-17

Discuss: There was a special man named John the Baptist. He was the cousin of Jesus, and before he was even born, he was given a very special job. Perhaps even as John grew in his mother's womb, God whispered the plan to him...the Messiah was coming, the Rescuer of all mankind. John was the one to prepare the people's hearts to hear the Savior's message!

As John grew, God's call in his heart grew so strong that it compelled him to live whole-heartedly for God, and proclaim the message God had placed in his heart. He lived to only serve the Lord, which made him a little bit different than other people. He wasn't concerned with the way he looked, what he ate, or what people thought of him. He just wanted to serve God and proclaim the news of the Messiah to everyone who would listen! He told them of God's love, he told them to be ready for something... someone new, someone greater than any the world had ever seen. As he baptized believers, dipping them down in the peaceful river Jordan, he prayed that God would cleanse them of their sins and would bring them back into a right relationship with Him.

One day someone special stepped into the Jordan river, as a crowd was awaiting baptism. It was Jesus. This was the moment John the Baptist had been waiting for all of his life. He was face to face with Jesus, God in the flesh. Oh, what a moment that was! "Baptize Me, John" Jesus asked. Shocked, John replied, "Oh Lord, I should be baptized by YOU!" But He consented to Jesus. He longed to obey the Lord. As Jesus came up from the water, heaven burst open, and like fingers of brilliant light coming down, Jesus was bathed in the Spirit of the Lord. At that moment, the voice of the Father rang out, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased." And so the journey of Salvation, the journey that led straight to the cross, began.

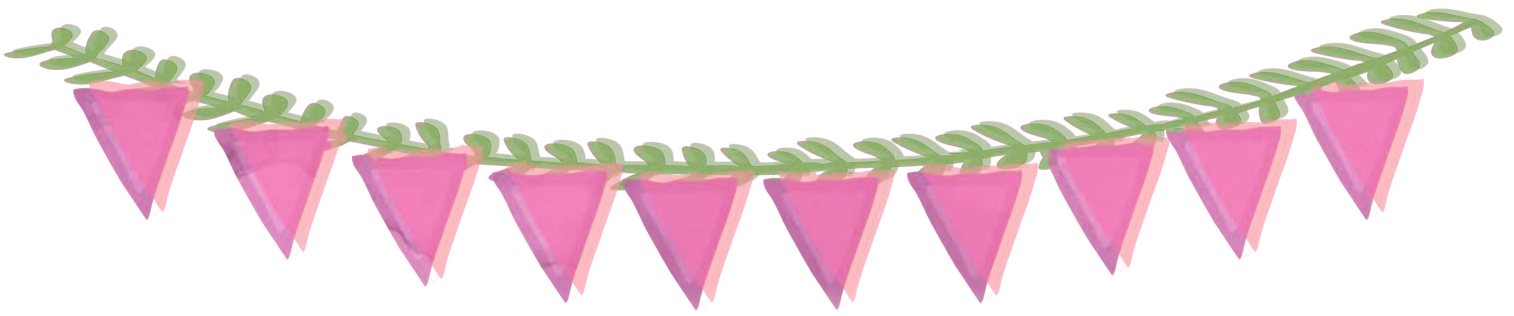


Day 7: The Miracle of the Fish and Loaves (ornament in first "S" flag)

Read: John 6:1-14

Discuss: One day Jesus was with his disciples when a crowd of people gathered to listen to His message. As Jesus taught, the crowd grew larger and the people grew hungrier. The disciples ran to Jesus, "We must do something Lord. The people must eat! But where will we find enough food to feed them?" Jesus had an idea!

With the disciple's help, He found a little boy who had a small lunch of fish and bread. "Will you give?" Jesus may have asked the boy. "Yes," was surely his response. With that small lunch, Jesus performed



a great miracle and fed the whole crowd of 5,000 people! Fish and bread just kept coming and coming! Every tummy was full that day and every person in the crowd saw the amazing Lordship of Jesus.

God takes what we give Him and makes it so much more. What will you give Him today? Even if your gifts to Him seem small, He can take those tiny fruits in your life—your kindness, your love, your passion for His Word—and make a huge impact on people around you. Even if you feel as if your love is as small as the flame of a birthday candle, when you shine it for Jesus, it can light the world aglow with the love of Christ!



Day 8: The Parable of the Hidden Treasure (ornament in third blank flag)

Read: Matthew 13:44-46

Discuss: Jesus liked to tell stories. His stories, called parables, taught people about God, His Kingdom, and how to follow Him. One day He was having a discussion with His disciples when He began to tell a story of hidden treasure. It went something like this...

There once was a man who came across an astonishing treasure hidden in a field. He could not believe his eyes; what a priceless treasure he had found! He was beyond excited. Since the field did not belong to him, he ran immediately to the owner and offered to purchase it for any amount. No price was too high! He was willing to give everything he had for that treasure, as he knew how valuable it was. He knew he was buying something far greater than a simple field. The treasure occupied all of his thoughts; oh what he would give for that treasure! After paying a handsome sum, he ran back to his new field and dug up the treasure and marveled at it. It was glorious, and it was worth every penny...

Jesus is just like that beautiful treasure. He is worth pursuing, He is worth any price. His goodness and love is so glorious that when we see Him for who He really is, how valuable He really is, thoughts of Him will occupy our hearts and minds every day. He wants us to choose Him, to seek Him, to give up everything we have to follow Him. Just as He gave Adam and Eve the choice of whether to choose sin, He gives us the choice of whether to choose Him. He is your greatest treasure, precious one.

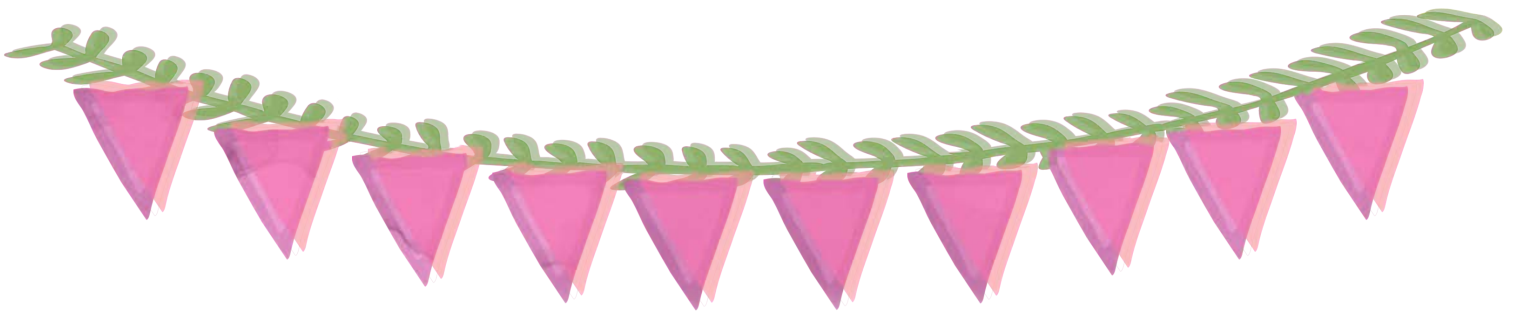


Day 9: Let the Little Children Come to Him (ornament in “R” flag)

Read: Matthew 19:13-14

Discuss: One day when Jesus was teaching, large crowds of people gathered to hear His words. Parents began to shuffle close, arms around their little children, longing to see Jesus. Imagine what these loving parents were thinking as the warm Judean breeze ruffled their children’s hair and birds soared above. Their one hope was that Jesus would embrace their sweet children and pray over them. Of course the disciples had taken on the task of keeping the crowd in order, making it possible for Jesus to continue His message. They rebuked the parents, telling them that Jesus was too busy for little trifles such as these.

Jesus glanced at his friends, “Let the little children come to me! Do not hold them back! The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these!” Jesus placed His gentle loving hands on their little heads and prayed for them as only their Savior could. Oh how Jesus loves children, just like you! He wants you to



come to Him everyday, all the time! He wants you to talk to Him. He wants to show you His amazing love for you, a love that is wider, longer, higher, and deeper than any love you have ever experienced. (Ephesians 3:14-21)!

1 Timothy 4:12 encourages, “ Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” God has a special plan for you! Run to Him, talk to Him, and let Him teach you how to live for Him in an amazing way! Children are so precious to Jesus, especially you my sweet one!



Day 10: The Last Supper (ornament in second “I” flag)

Read: John 13:1-17

Discuss: Passover had arrived! The celebration for all Jewish people was about to begin. But for Jesus, this would be the last Passover meal He would eat with His friends. He knew what was coming, that all the world’s sin and pain and suffering were soon to be heaped upon his shoulders. One may think that this would make Jesus fearful or angry, but Jesus’ heart was only filled with love. He knew that Judas, one of His closest friends, would betray Him that very night, turning Him over to the authorities to be arrested and crucified. But He continued to pour out love, a love that sacrificed and served even His betrayer.

As the Passover meal began, Jesus knelt before His friends and asked them to remove their sandals. He was going to wash their feet. Back in Jesus’ day, people walked everywhere in sandals or even barefoot, so their feet were constantly caked with dirt and waste. Because it was such a disgusting job, it always fell to the lowliest servant in the house to wash the feet of a guest before a meal. But Jesus had the heart of a servant. He neatly arranged a wash basin and a towel and gently cleansed the filthy feet of His disciples.

The meaning of Jesus’ act of servanthood was so much deeper than simply washing dirty feet. He wants to wash you clean on the inside as well. He wants to take your heart, a heart that is full of sin, and make it new, make it His. He wants you to be His child. As He finished washing the disciples’ feet, He asked them if they understood what He had done for them. “I am your Lord and your Master, but also a servant. I want you to serve others as well.”

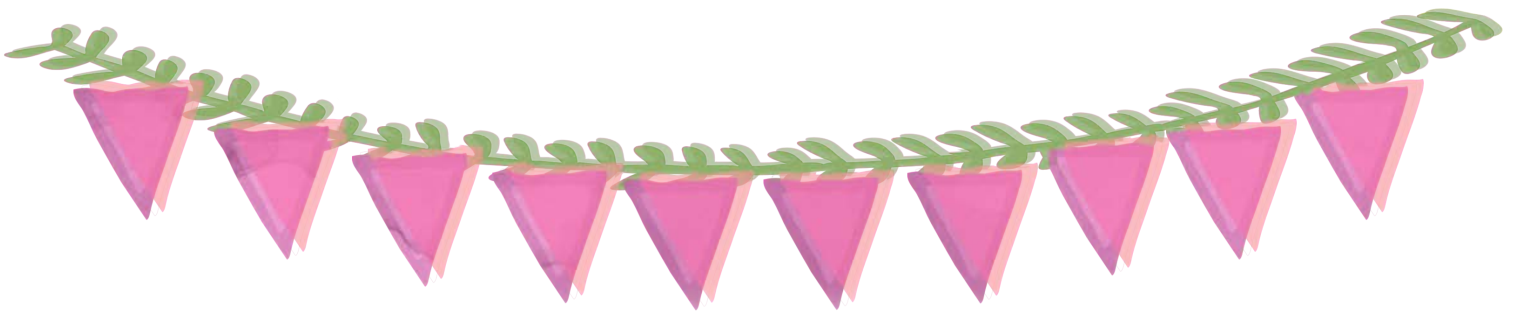
Precious child, how will you serve others today? Will you tell others of Christ’s love? My greatest hope for you is that you will allow Christ’s love to invade your own heart, to wash over your entire being, for as long as you live.



Day 11: Jesus Arrested and the Crown of Thorns (ornament in second “S” flag)

Read: Luke 22:47-54, John 19:1-2

Discuss: From that first moment when Adam and Eve sinned, God set a plan in motion to bring them back to His heart and give them an opportunity to be His children once more. When the Passover meal had ended, Jesus and His disciples made their way to the garden of Gethsemane for the night. Jesus couldn’t sleep; He only wanted to talk to His Father. Oh, how He wished there could be a different way to accomplish the rescue of His children. He knew His death would be painful and the payment for our sin would be even more so.



But His love for you is so great, precious child. He was willing to rescue you, no matter what it took, no matter how great the sacrifice. As they placed a crown of thorns on Jesus' head, they mocked and beat Him, but did he back down? Did He decide that the suffering was just too great a price to pay for your life? No. He wants you, and you are worth everything to Him. Can you believe how much God loves you? It is amazing how much Jesus endured for us, just to pay the price for our sins. He wants each person to choose Him, to be adopted as His own precious son or daughter. What a loving God is He!



Day 12: The Cross (ornament in “E” flag)

Read: Matthew 27:30-37, Matthew 27:50-54

Discuss: Oh, how our heart breaks when we read of our Savior dying. Remembering how the nails pierced His hands and feet, and how the crown of thorns pierced His brow makes our hearts flood with sadness over his death, and sadness over our sins. If only there was another way to save us that didn't involve our wonderful Jesus dying. But there was not. He gave His life for us so that we would not have to face a death that lasts forever.

As He hung on the cross, He took on all of the wrong things you have done, all of the sins ever committed throughout all history. And He replaced those sins with His forgiving love. He paid the price for our death; He purchased back our life. And all He asks of us is that we trust Him with every ounce of who we are.

As His earthly life began to fade away, He cried out, “It is finished!” The debt for our sins had been paid in full. He had made all things right again for those who would choose to follow Him. That day back in the garden of Eden, when man chose His own desires over God's love, this rescue plan had been set into motion. And now, through Jesus, it was complete. He gave everything for us. Are we willing to give everything, every part of our hearts and lives to Him? Today is the day to trust in Jesus!



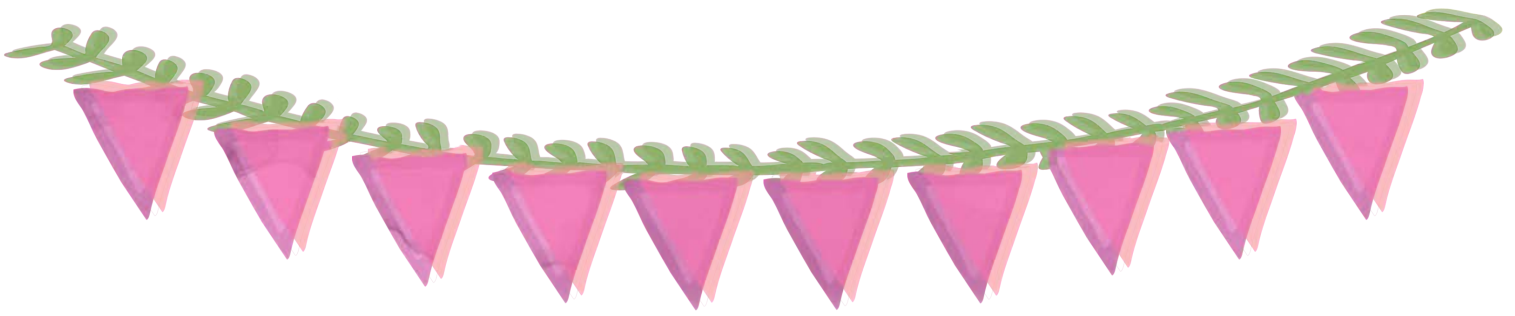
Day 13: The Tomb (ornament in “N” flag)

Read: Matthew 27:57-66

Discuss: On that sad day Jesus died on the cross, His followers laid Jesus in a tomb. The cold darkness of the cave-tomb enveloped Him, and a deeper sadness seeped into the hearts of His friends. Was this the end? How could it be? Was everything Jesus claimed—about being God, about being the Rescuer—false? Tears were shed, and a huge, heavy stone was rolled in front of the cave's entrance. There was no turning back now. It seemed that everything the disciples had lived for was being left behind in that tomb.

But wait, a new light was dawning! Though Jesus had been buried, hope was unfurling in that deep darkness just like a seed planted within soft, dark soil. All joy had not been shattered, the best was yet to come! The gift of new life was unfolding and the world was about to change forever!

Can you imagine how it felt to leave Jesus' body behind that day? The disciples had no idea of what was coming next. They had no concept of the glory that lay before them. They were about to witness the greatest miracle the world had ever seen, the miracle that proves the truth of God's promises, the Lordship of our Savior and the immense love of our Father. But their hearts were breaking. They didn't



realize that the story was still being written. Sometimes your heart may break too, but remember that God is still writing your story as well. Just like that day at the tomb, you can always trust God for what is ahead, for the beautiful tale He is telling with your life!



Day 14: HE IS RISEN! (ornament in last blank flag)

Read: Matthew 28:1-10, Matthew 28:18-20

Discuss: This is the day we have been waiting for! The most important day in the history of all the days that have ever existed since God created time. This is the day of our salvation! Jesus rose from the dead!! Jesus is ALIVE!!! And His life proves that He is God. His resurrection proves that we can trust who He says He is, that we can trust His promises for us. We can follow Him wherever He leads us in this life.

Jesus' love for us is so great that He gave his very life for you. And then, just as the book appeared to have ended in a pool of sadness, the story explodes off the page, straight out of the atmosphere, new life bursting forth in fireworks of His magnificent love. JESUS IS RISEN!!! He ascended into heaven and will come again! (Acts 1:10-11) What an amazing miracle! He is who He always claimed to be. He is God!

And we can spend eternity with Him! But we have to TRUST Him first. We have to accept the free gift of salvation that He offers us. He paid for our sins and gave us the opportunity for an abundant life lived in Him. The next chapter of your story is up to you precious child. What will *you* do with the gift Jesus has offered you?