



Family Devotional

HOLY WEEK



SUNDAY

Holy Week - Day 1

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

Together as a family, read Luke 19:28-40

SAY

In the Old Testament, Zechariah 9:9 says that the King will come to us humbly, riding on a donkey. When Jesus came in this way, He was keeping His promise and coming just as He said He would! God always stays true to what He says and foretells!

ASK

1. Would you expect a king to enter his kingdom riding on a donkey? Why or why not? How else would you expect a king to victoriously ride into his kingdom?
2. What do you think this shows us about God and who He is?

PRAY

Jesus, thank You for coming all those years ago as our King, but in a way that surprised us and fulfilled scripture! Help us to be like You and be humble. We know how much You love us and want to relate to us. Help us to remember these things as we think about You all week. You didn't have to come to die for our sins but You did, and we are so thankful! **Amen**

MONDAY

Holy Week - Day 2

Clearing a Path to God

Together as a family, read Matthew 21:12-17

SAY

It can be a little scary to think of Jesus turning tables over in zealous anger! It was necessary for Jesus to clear the temple before He began His miraculous work. The people in His day who were doing work in the temple were not always good, and were often stealing from the poor. Jesus was angry because that was supposed to be His Holy place! He was sad and disappointed they were doing this in a place that was supposed to be set apart for God's Holy work.

ASK

1. Jesus cares about people knowing who He is and who He is not! God does not steal or cheat people. Do you think it was okay that God was angry that people weren't treating His people with love and stealing from them in His name?
2. What would you do if people were stealing from others and telling them you said it was okay to do that? Do you think you'd get upset, too? How would you want to respond to that person?

PRAY

Jesus, You are a God of fairness, kindness, and goodness! You care for people and want people to be treated with love. Thank You that you got upset and made sure everyone knew how much You loved them and didn't want bad things to happen to them! Thank You for clearing Your temple to make it clean and holy again. Help us to remember to care for other people like You do. **Amen**

TUESDAY

Holy Week - Day 3

The Questioning of Jesus

Together as a family, read Matthew 22:34-46

SAY

The Pharisees were people who did not like Jesus and wanted to make fun of Him or make Him look bad in front of others. Later, they would even be the people that were responsible for His death on the cross. On this day as they questioned Him, Jesus still had compassion for them. He answered them in love saying that the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and the second is to love your neighbor as yourself.

ASK

1. Jesus knew the Pharisees were trying to get Him to say something wrong so they could show people He didn't know what He was talking about! Jesus' response was still filled with love and He didn't let them get to Him. How do you think you'd respond if people who didn't like you set you up for a trap? Do you think you'd respond like Jesus did?
2. What did Jesus say were the two greatest commandments?

PRAY

Jesus, even when Your enemies tried to attack You and trick You, You still responded with love. Help us to be more like You. Thank You for setting such a great example for us! We can't believe that even though You knew the Pharisees would be a reason You were going to die on the cross, You still responded to them in love. Help us to treat our enemies with love even when our sinful minds want to respond in anger sometimes!

Amen

WEDNESDAY

Holy Week - Day 4

The Anointing of Jesus

Together as a family, read Mark 14:3-9

SAY

The woman in these verses anointed Jesus with oil because she knew in her heart who He was and what He was worth! The oil she poured on Him was worth an entire year's worth of money in her time. She must have known how special Jesus was. The oil she used on Him is what they would have used to anoint a king at his burial! We don't know if she knew what was about to happen to Jesus, but her King Jesus was about to die on a cross and be buried! She was giving Him what a king deserved without knowing it!

ASK

1. Do you think it would be hard to give someone a year's worth of money you made? Why or why not?
2. Imagine each day, you went before a gracious, kind, loving King, and you got the chance to talk to Him. Imagine Him seated on a throne and smiling at you, pleased to see you! This King had given you everything you could ever need or want. What would you imagine yourself doing or saying when you saw him? Jesus is this kind King!

PRAY

Jesus, just like the woman in this story knew how special You were, let us remember that, too! We know that you thought her love toward You and what she was doing as she anointed You with oil was very special, too. We want to be like her when we pray to You and talk to You. Help us to remember that You are our kind King who loves us. Thank You for this story and we pray that we can remember it and keep it like treasure in our hearts. **Amen**

THURSDAY

Holy Week - Day 5

The Last Supper

Together as a family, read John 13:1-17

SAY

Jesus recognized exactly what was to come in the last days before His death. John 13:11 mentions that Jesus knew which of His friends would betray Him. He knew His best friends would abandon Him. He knew Judas would sell Him to authorities for just a few pieces of silver. Our human reaction to such hurt and betrayal would likely be intense anger and revenge. Yet Jesus' response was a servant's heart. He poured out love to His friends in both His words and His actions as He washed their feet. Yes, even Judas' feet!

ASK

1. If you knew someone was going to agree to work with the government and send you to jail for a small amount of money (today the silver Jesus was traded in for would be worth between \$91 and \$441 - depending on the type of silver!), knowing you did nothing wrong, how would you feel?
2. Jesus' response was to love His friends even though He knew they would betray Him...He even washed their feet! What could you see yourself doing if you knew what He knew?

PRAY

Jesus, You have a true servant's heart! We are in awe that You can respond with such love when people were out to betray You and turn You in for just a few dollars. We have been learning all week about how kind You are, even in the hardest times. We pray we can be more like You everyday! Help us to be kind and loving - even when we know someone wants to do us harm, whether with their words or actions. Thank You for being willing to die and forgive us for all the times we choose the wrong response.

Amen

FRIDAY

Holy Week - Day 6

Jesus' Death - It is Finished

Together as a family, read John 19:17-30

SAY

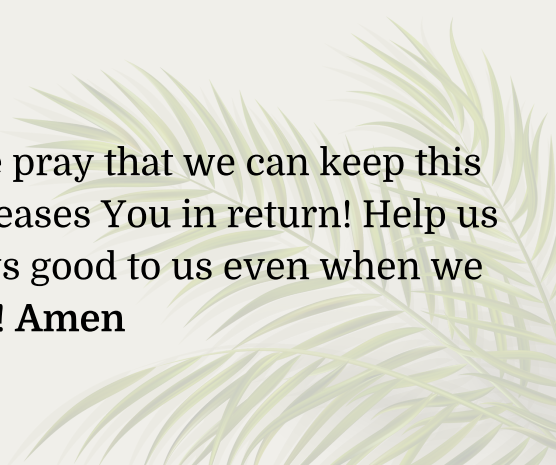
Jesus knew what was going to happen to Him on the cross. He still lovingly followed His Father's plan and did it without question. Jesus showed compassion to one of the men hanging next to Him during His crucifixion. He forgave that man of all his sin and told him that He would be with Him in paradise that day! Jesus, in the most horrible moments, took compassion on the thief hanging next to Him. Jesus prayed with him and for him. Jesus died so that we may live and be forgiven from all sin (or anything bad we will ever do!). He did this freely and willingly (He wanted to!). His love for you and I is so overwhelming.

ASK

1. Imagine going on a walk with your dad. What if you knew that at the end of the walk, there would be bad people who wanted to and would hurt you? Would it be hard to still agree to go? Jesus went to the cross, knowing there would be suffering for Him! But He still obeyed.
2. Jesus loves us so much, that He took punishment for our sin on the cross when He died!
How can we thank God and bless God for doing this for us?

PRAY

Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for our sins. We pray that we can keep this true story in our hearts, and that we can live a life that pleases You in return! Help us to forgive others as You have forgiven us. You are always good to us even when we don't deserve it, and we are grateful! **Amen**



SATURDAY

Holy Week - Day 7

Why Seek the Living Among the Dead

Together as a family, read Luke 23:50-56

SAY

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee loved Him and followed Him faithfully. His unexpected death was so very difficult to understand. Only one last act made sense - to anoint the body of the One they loved with good-smelling spices in order to honor Him.

This was their final act of kindness - their last symbol of love toward Him. They believed every word this kind, gentle Man spoke while He lived. Everyone who believed in Jesus was surprised and completely saddened over His death. They couldn't believe He was really gone.

ASK

1. How do you think the believers of Jesus' time felt as they realized that the one that was supposed to save them was dead? What kind of feelings do you think they felt?
- 2. Jesus loves you so, so much! He sacrificed everything for you, even dying on a cross! He gave His life so you could enjoy a relationship with Him forever! Do you truly believe this? Why or why not?

PRAY

Jesus, we can't imagine how it felt to die on the cross. We are so sad that You had to do that for us, but we are also so thankful! We know that people must have felt very sad and confused that You were dead on this day so long ago. They probably didn't know what to do. Sometimes, when we don't spend time with You, we can feel far away from You. Please help us to stay close to You all the time, and remind us that You are near! Thank You for loving us more than we can ask or imagine! **Amen**

SUNDAY

Holy Week - Day 8

He is ALIVE! Resurrection Sunday

Together as a family, read Luke 24:1-12

SAY

When the women saw and heard that Jesus was no longer dead in the tomb but ALIVE, they ran in celebration away from the tomb with the greatest news ever to tell! Did you know that

God loves it when we tell other people of this story, too? It is just as exciting and just as powerful today as it was all those years ago! Jesus overcame death! No one has ever been able to do that, and no one has the power to do that today! Jesus had to die on a cross for us, but after He did, He went up to Heaven to sit at the right hand of God. Jesus was no longer walking amongst people, but He gave us His Spirit to live in our hearts forever!

ASK

1. This story is so hard for us to imagine! Is it hard for you to picture someone who died, brought back to life? Why or why not?
2. How is Jesus different from normal people? Why does today's story matter so much to us as Christians?

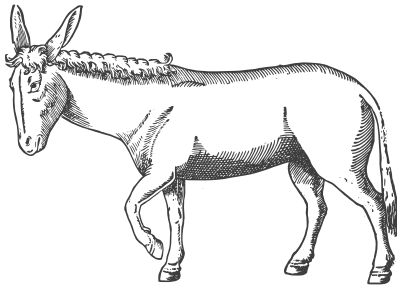
PRAY

Jesus, we believe that You suffered and were crucified on a cross, died, and came back to life! We know that You are God! Thank You for coming to earth to live a perfect life, and then die for our sins so we didn't have to. We are so happy that You are alive and that You gave us the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts! That is greatest gift. We get to live life with You and talk to You anytime we want. And You want to help us live a life that blesses us and blesses You! **Amen**

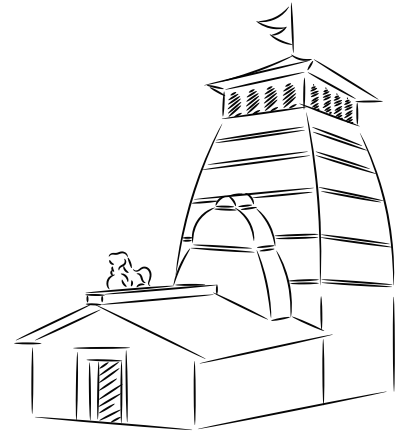
Holy Week Mini-Book for Littles

Cut-out each square and have your younger children follow along with the story as they color.

Day 1



Day 2



Day 3



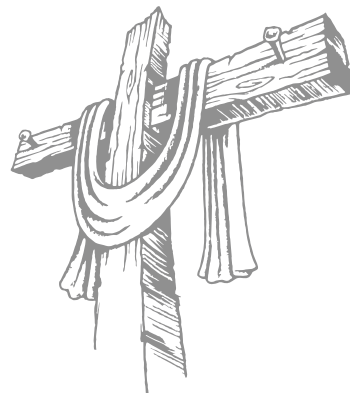
Day 4



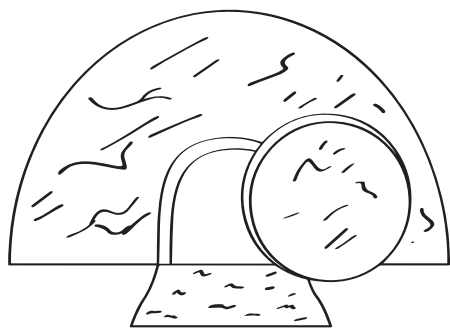
Day 5



Day 6



Day 7



Day 8

