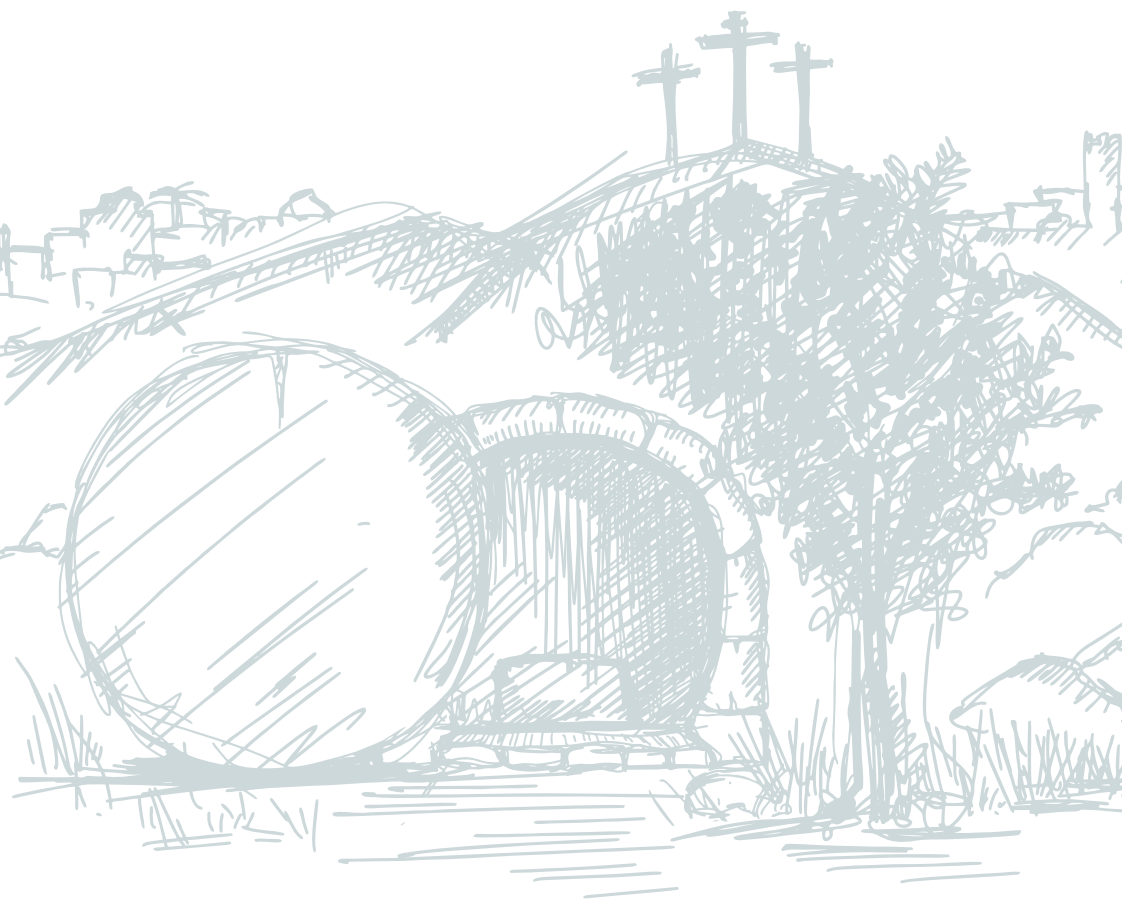




WALK THROUGH
Holy Week

A FAMILY ACTIVITY GUIDE & DEVOTIONAL
TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR EASTER



This booklet belongs to:

To Elin, Atticus, Denton, and Jemma,
may these true stories take root in your hearts and
blossom into a deep love for your Savior.

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"IF YOU DECLARE
WITH YOUR MOUTH,
'JESUS IS LORD,'
AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART
THAT GOD RAISED HIM
FROM THE DEAD,
YOU WILL BE SAVED."

ROMANS 10:9

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome	6
Activities Passport	7
The Triumphal Entry	8
The Temple Cleansing	13
The Anointing	16
The Foot Washing	20
The Betrayals	24
The Crucifixion	28
The Burial	32
The Resurrection	36
Resurrection Rolls Recipe.....	40
Memory Verse	43
Is Jesus Your King?	44
Acknowledgements	46

WELCOME

In 2016, our daughter came home from preschool with donkey ears and a palm branch. So for our family devotion that night, Grampa became the donkey and our toddlers took turns pretending to be Jesus and the crowd while we read this portion of Scripture aloud. And thus began our family tradition. We knew we wanted to make the Easter season as special and memorable for our children as Christmas, because, well, without the resurrection of Christ, we Christians are the most to be pitied (1Cor15). It is the pinnacle celebration when Jesus defeated death and gave us hope! Our Grampa-donkey activity was such a hit that we quickly threw together additional “Act it Out” activities for other important Holy Week events that year, and we acted out something different each night. And every year since, we’ve tweaked and added to our collection of activities and shared them with others all over the world. It is such a joy now to hear our kids talk about how they can’t wait to ride the “donkey,” wash each others’ feet, and smell the special oils again each year!

We’re confident your entire family will enjoy engaging with these activities, as each craft, activity, and discussion prompt can be tweaked for your family as needed for different ages. Plus, some of the Discussion and Reflection questions can be as simple or as deep as you need them to be! Our prayer is that these annual activities would represent more than just fun family memories for our kids. We pray that these stories will soak into their souls and that they will learn from an early age how important Jesus’s death and resurrection are for their individual lives. We want our own children - and all of yours! - to see Jesus for who He is: the Suffering Servant, the Son of God, the Forgiver of Sins, the Sacrificial Lamb, the Conqueror of Death, and our loving King. He is risen indeed!

With Love,
The Kreider Family

ACTIVITIES PASSPORT

As you complete each of the 8 Walk Through Holy Week stations, collect a stamp from each station. If you collect all 8 stickers, return to the Welcome Table to choose a prize!

Station 1:
The Triumphal
Entry

Station 2:
The Temple
Cleansing

Station 3:
The
Anointing

Station 4:
The Foot
Washing

Station 5:
The
Betrayals

Station 6:
The
Crucifixion

Station 7:
The
Burial

Station 8:
The
Resurrection

The Triumphal Entry



The Sunday before Easter is called „Palm Sunday” because people laid palm leaves in the road when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a _____ . The Israelites welcomed him as their King because they thought he was going to bring back their earthly kingdom so they wouldn’t be under the control of Rome anymore. At this Station you will make donkey ears and use your palm leaves to think about what it would have been like at The Triumphal Entry.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

To prepare for this devotion, cut out the donkey ears and strips of paper. Glue or staple the strips of paper onto the donkey ears until it is big enough to fit on your child’s head. Next, fold a piece of green construction paper in half. Then use the outline provided to cut out a palm leaf branch.





SUNDAY FAMILY DEVOTION

For hundreds of years, the Israelite people were waiting for God to fulfill His promise to bring them a king that would help them take back their kingdom. They expected him to defeat, once and for all, the different empires that had taken over. Jesus spent three years of ministry to convince them that he is the fulfillment of that promise! He opened the eyes of the blind, helped the paralyzed to walk again, healed sicknesses, and even raised people from the dead! Yet during his entire ministry he taught over and over that the Israelites did not need rescuing from the Roman empire; they needed to be rescued from the sin inside their own hearts! This message did not make him very popular with the Pharisees - the religious leaders who believed themselves to be very good.

As Jesus approached the capital city of Jerusalem, he knew that he would be upsetting everyone with his difficult teachings. The Jewish leaders would not want to hear that they needed a Spiritual King; the Roman leaders would not like that he claimed to be a King at all; and the Israelites would not like that he was bringing forth a Heavenly Kingdom not of this world.

So on Palm Sunday, just a few days before Passover, Jesus rode in on a donkey, which was a sign to his people that he was, indeed, their promised King. After seeing all the miracles he had performed during his ministry, the people couldn't wait to see him perform the biggest miracle of all - destroying the largest empire the world had yet seen! The people were ecstatic! They filled the streets with shouts of joy, praising Jesus for finally coming to rescue them from the oppressive Romans. "Hosanna, Hosanna," they yelled! They threw their coats on the road and waved palm branches to hail him as their King! It was like a citywide parade in preparation for a battle!

Yet, Jesus was crying.

His people did not truly understand what he was trying to teach them for three years, and what God the Father had been trying to teach them for hundreds of years. They wanted a king to come and destroy their enemies and give them their own land again. But what they didn't understand is that, from the very beginning, the promise had always been to restore the whole world and bring even their enemies back into relationship with God. And to do that, they didn't need a king to conquer other empires. They needed a Servant King to rescue them from their sins which kept them far away from God, and they needed God to forgive them of their sins by paying the price himself. And Jesus understood exactly what was going to happen when they would soon discover the truth about his kingship.

Practice the memory verse, Romans 10:9.

Read Mark 11:1-10.

Discuss: Why would everyone celebrate Jesus as their King? What kind of King were they expecting? Why did they turn against him and want him to be crucified just five days later?

Act it out by using the donkey ears and palm leaves you made. Take turns pretending to be the characters and the crowd. Have one person walk down a hallway while everyone else stands on the side and calls out "Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!" Throw your coats on the ground. If you have littles, let a grown up be the donkey! But remember how Jesus would have felt, too.

Reflect: What expectations do you have of Jesus in your life? Do your expectations match up with why Jesus said he came to the world? Do you want to follow the real Servant King, Jesus?

The Temple Cleansing



Just when everyone expected Jesus to get mad and fight against Rome, He instead went to the Temple, threw over the tables, and used a _____ to run out all of the animals and people. He was getting rid of all the people who used God's Temple to do sinful things. At this Station you will discover why Jesus's actions in the Temple made so many people mad and what they decided to do about their anger.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Cut out and fold the animals, table, and coins. Then glue or tape three pieces of yarn to the end of a wooden craft stick. Braid the pieces of yarn to make it look like a wicker whip.





MONDAY FAMILY DEVOTION

The Israelite people were waiting to see what Jesus would do next. He had just ridden into the capital city on a donkey, a clear sign that he was fulfilling prophecy to be the Israelite King. They expected to see him lash out in anger at the oppressive Romans.

Yet, Jesus became angry with them.

In Jerusalem there was a huge Temple for God. It was originally built by King Solomon hundreds of years before, but then it was destroyed when Israel was taken over by the Babylonian empire. The Israelites became outcasts, foreigners, and slaves in another kingdom. Later, they were finally allowed to rebuild the temple, but then they were taken over again by the Romans. Of all people, they should've known what it felt like to be a person kept on the outside of society, but they were treating many other people just as badly. The Temple was supposed to be a place for everyone to come and worship God, but the Israelites had set up new rules and systems that kept others out: women, foreigners, Gentiles, the sick, the poor, the needy. Israelites started selling animals in the part of the Temple that was designed by God specifically to allow non-Israelites to come and worship Him. They were taking advantage of these outcast groups, taking away their worship space and charging them higher prices for animals to sacrifice. An oppressed people had become oppressors to others. And this could not be allowed in Jesus's New Kingdom.

So, Jesus created a whip used for herding the animals and then caused quite a stir. Perhaps the sound of the rustling, cracking whip scared the animals into running away. Men began shouting back in anger, and Jesus flipped over the tables where the sellers were collecting all their money. Money scattered everywhere! And Jesus yelled, "How dare you turn my Father's house into a marketplace for thieves! My house shall be called

a house of prayer for the nations!" He would not allow some people in power to take advantage of others in his Kingdom.

After teaching about the sins of the people during his entire ministry, Jesus finally did go to battle, but it wasn't against the Romans; He combatted those among his own people who used God's law to enrich themselves. He showed them how much their own rules and oppression made God sad and angry. While the Gentiles, the poor, and the sick would have been excited about Jesus's actions, many others became defensive and angry that Jesus would point out how they sinned. So many of them began to turn against Jesus because he is a different kind of King than they wanted.

Practice the memory verse, Romans 10:9.

Read Mark 11:15-19.

Discuss: What was the Temple supposed to be used for? How were they using it instead? Why did this anger Jesus, and what did he do about it? How did this make the Pharisees feel?

Act it out by using the pop-up tables, coins, and animals you made at this Station. Take turns knocking over your table and moving out the animals with the craft whip you created while you say "How dare you turn my Father's house into a market! My house shall be called a house of prayer for the nations!" Act out what the Jewish people and Pharisees might have said or done.

Reflect: If Scripture says that we are now his Temple, how are you using your life and body to worship God? What do you need to be cleansed of? Will you be amazed and grateful that Jesus can cleanse you of your sin, or will you be fearful and angry like the Pharisees?

The Anointing



When Jesus was sharing a meal with his friends and disciples, a woman came and poured on him a very expensive _____. Her action was a common symbol for the Jews when they anointed their King or to prepare someone for burial after they died, both of which were true concerning Jesus. At this Station, you will smell fragrances and talk about why this woman's actions upset so many of the important leaders.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Fill the small bottle with any type of oil you have at your house. Then, if possible, choose a perfume, essential oil, or crushed herb to add to the bottle to make it smell good.





TUESDAY FAMILY DEVOTION

After such a public demonstration of rebuke, the disciples and friends of Jesus may have felt mixed emotions. Some may have been excited, as they may have wanted to finally see Jesus lead a revolt against both the oppressive Romans and the legalistic Pharisees. There must have also been some confusion: why had Jesus been angry with his own people instead of the wicked Roman soldiers? And surely there must have been feelings of fear: what would happen now that Jesus had defied the leaders so publicly, who already wanted to find an excuse to kill him? And there were some who became excited about the rising conflict: were these signs of Jesus rising up against the bad people to take His throne?

But while eating dinner in a nearby town called Bethany, his friend Mary brought out an expensive bottle of perfume for Jesus. She didn't seem confused. Perhaps she realized what Jesus had been trying to teach all along about his upcoming death; after all, she had spent time sitting at his feet and learning from him while the other women served. Maybe she understood the significance of Jesus's actions at the Temple and how the Pharisees would surely be plotting His death soon. But she didn't seem frightened. Perhaps her faith was strengthened after Jesus brought her brother, Lazarus, back to life. And she didn't seem to be excited for an earthly revolution. Perhaps she realized that Jesus was the King she needed to change her own heart and wanted to honor him in the deepest way she knew how.

Whichever the reason, in a great act of love and devotion to her dear friend, Jesus, she broke open the bottle of expensive perfume and poured it on his head and feet. As the fragrance filled the room, she used her very own hair to clean his feet, putting herself in the bodily posture of worship. She was anointing Him as a King, like the prophet Samuel had done for King David. She was preparing His body for burial like they

had done for Lazarus. Some of the onlookers were outraged at this act, most especially the disciple Judas, who was very greedy. Before Passover, the Jewish tradition was to give money to the poor, and some disciples were shocked that she didn't sell the perfume and give the money to the poor. How dare she waste such a precious thing by simply pouring it on someone's head and feet! What was she thinking?

Yet, Jesus praised her for her act faith and love.

He explained to those around him that she had done a beautiful thing to sacrifice her most precious possession to anoint this strange King who was prepared to die instead of destroy. And her act would forever be remembered throughout his Kingdom.

Practice the memory verse, Romans 10:9.

Read Mark 14:1-11

Discuss: Why did the woman pour oil on Jesus? What did she understand that the others didn't? Why were other people so upset that she did this? Why did Jesus praise her for it?

Act it out by using the oil bottle you created at this Station. Take turns pretending to be the different characters, pouring oil on each other and saying the dialogue that Mark wrote in his gospel. Be sure to get adult permission and help before pouring oil on other people.

Reflect: Are we more often like the shocked and angry disciples or the woman in this story? How so? Can you ask the Lord to help you be more like Mary and sacrifice the things most precious to you for Jesus's sake?

The Foot Washing



Every year the Jews celebrated „Passover” in order to remember when the Lord saved them from being slaves in _____ . Before their special meal, Jesus washed the dirty feet of his disciples, a job that was normally done by the lowliest slave. Jesus showed them that he was a different kind of King —a King who serves. At this Station, serve your family members in love as you take part in the humbling experience of foot washing.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

After choosing their favorite color, use the acrylic or fabric paint to cover the bottom of your child’s foot. Then put their footprint onto the white cloth, holding firmly for a few seconds. Gently wash his foot with a bowl of warm water and a different towel. Use paint to add the verse reference to the towel, and leave it somewhere to dry.





WEDNESDAY FAMILY DEVOTION

As Jesus was eating the Passover meal with his disciples, he already knew that Judas had spoken with the Pharisees and was ready to betray him. Scriptural clues lead people to believe that Judas was the one reclining at the table right next to Jesus; the man who would turn him over to be killed had the place of honor and close friendship at the table.

During the meal, Jesus got up and prepared the supplies to wash the disciples' feet. In their culture, it was always the job of a servant to wash guests' feet. They wore sandals and spent all day walking along dusty, dirty roads - even the same roads where animals walked and used the bathroom! Their feet were really yucky! The dirtiness of their feet is why they lounged at the table, keeping their feet hanging off the edge of the cushions so as not to dirty anything else.

Peter recognized what a foul job it was to wash feet, and he just couldn't imagine that Jesus would do this. Washing someone's feet was definitely not the job of a King! It may also have been embarrassing to have their feet washed. After walking all day, the filth may not have come off easily and would have smelled awful; it may have taken some scrubbing! It probably didn't feel comfortable letting their Master clean the dirtiest part of them. And what if someone else heard about their Leader acting like a lowly servant? It might ruin his ministry and reputation as a King.

Yet, Jesus isn't the type of King to use his position to serve himself.

Jesus knew that throughout human history, the hearts of men were naturally inclined toward selfishness and destruction. When humans ruled the way they wanted, they constantly used their position to overpower their enemies and gain a good reputation and luxuries for themselves, even if it meant hurting others along the way.

Instead, Jesus was the type of king that the world needed. He didn't lord power over others to judge those in low places. No, he came to seek and save the lost. He didn't show favoritism and make people his enemies to be destroyed. No, he came to show the Father's love even to his enemies and to serve people like Judas and Peter, the ones who would soon betray him. He was the type of King who would take on the nature of a servant. Jesus stooped down and washed his friends' feet, knowing full well that they would soon deny him, betray him, and leave him.

Practice the memory verse, Romans 10:9.

Read John 13:1-17

Discuss: Why did nobody want to wash feet in their culture? Why was it strange that Jesus washed his disciples' dirty feet? What was he trying to teach them? How do you think it felt to Jesus to eat next to Judas and wash his feet?

Act it out by taking turns being the different characters and washing each others' dirty feet in the bathtub or a special bucket of water. Say the dialogue from this story in John. Use the special towel you made at this station to wash someone else's feet, experiencing how humbling it is to both wash someone's feet and to have your feet washed.

Reflect: Do you believe you have to clean up your life before approaching Jesus, or are you willing to let him clean you even if it means asking for his forgiveness over and over again? In our modern culture, we don't wash feet this way. So how can you serve others like Jesus served his disciples?

The Betrayals



After the Passover meal, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray for the Lord to give him strength to face the terrible death he was about to endure. Rather than praying, His disciples fell asleep. _____ tried to defend Jesus with the sword when the soldiers came to arrest him. Complete the activities for this Station to better understand these events and how Jesus shows us how to handle difficult obedience.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Cut out the face, mouths, and ear of the Malchus mask. Glue the mask to a popsicle stick. Cut out holes for the eyes and add a small piece of velcro near the ear and mouth. Put small pieces of velcro on the ear and two mouths at the corresponding locations so that the ear and mouths can be taken on and off. Finally, cut out and decorate the sword as desired.





THURSDAY FAMILY DEVOTION

After serving his disciples and sharing the Passover meal together, Jesus knew that the time for his arrest was coming quickly. He predicted Judas and Peter's betrayals, but both of the disciples denied that they would do such things. Peter proclaimed his loyalty to Jesus unto death! But both disciples still believed their loyalty was for a revolutionary King who would overthrow the Romans. They simply did not understand that Jesus had come to overthrow sin and the curse of death instead.

Judas left the meal and headed to carry out his deal with the Pharisees: leading the guards to arrest Jesus for just thirty pieces of silver. Meanwhile, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray to God the Father for help for the suffering he knew he was about to face. He asked his beloved friends - Peter, James, and John - to stay awake and pray for him. Despite his agony, his disciples simply fell asleep.

Next, Judas led a group of soldiers and Jewish officials to the garden where he knew Jesus would be. He greeted Jesus with a kiss, turning a beautiful demonstration of love into an evil sign for the guards that Jesus was the one to arrest. Despite Jesus's calm demeanor, Peter pulled out a sword and tried to defend Jesus by fighting the servant of the High Priest. But Malchus, the servant, avoided the death blow so that Peter only chopped off his ear. Perhaps Peter believed that this moment demonstrated his loyalty to Jesus as he had previously proclaimed at dinner. He was willing to fight to the death.

Yet, Jesus rebuked Peter and lovingly healed Malchus's ear.

As they watched Jesus willingly and peacefully walk away with the guards, now the disciples finally realized that Jesus really

wasn't going to fight and overthrow the Roman government. So Judas hanged himself with regret. Peter denied that he was a friend of Jesus. And all the disciples ran away to save themselves. They left Jesus alone.

After three years of hopeful ministry that the Messiah had come to rescue them, now all the disciples could do was watch as Jesus walked away to his trial and death. And after three years of friendship and teaching, Jesus watched his friends betray him. He stood silent as his Hebrew people condemned him. And he continued to love them as the King they never expected; Jesus was a different kind of King.

Practice the memory verse, Romans 10:9.

Read Luke 22:39-53.

Discuss: Why was Jesus so upset to the point of sweating drops of blood? What did he do to strengthen himself for obedience to God's will? Why did Jesus not want Peter to fight to protect him from being arrested?

Act it out by using the sword and Malchus mask you created at this Station. Take turns being all the different characters. During the fight scene where Peter cuts off Malchus's ear, remember that Jesus tells Peter, "No more of this!" and then restores the soldier's ear!

Reflect: The Father asked the Son to submit to the curse of death. Jesus asked his disciples to stay awake and pray and to not fight against the soldiers. What difficult thing is God asking you to do or not do in your life today? How can you honor him with your obedience? If Jesus prayed for strength to follow God's will, how can you handle difficult situations?

The Crucifixion

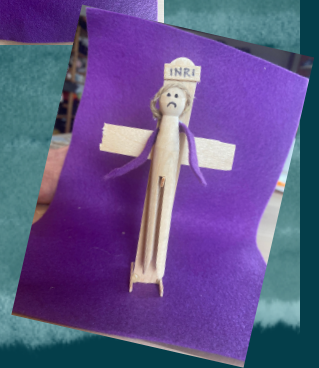


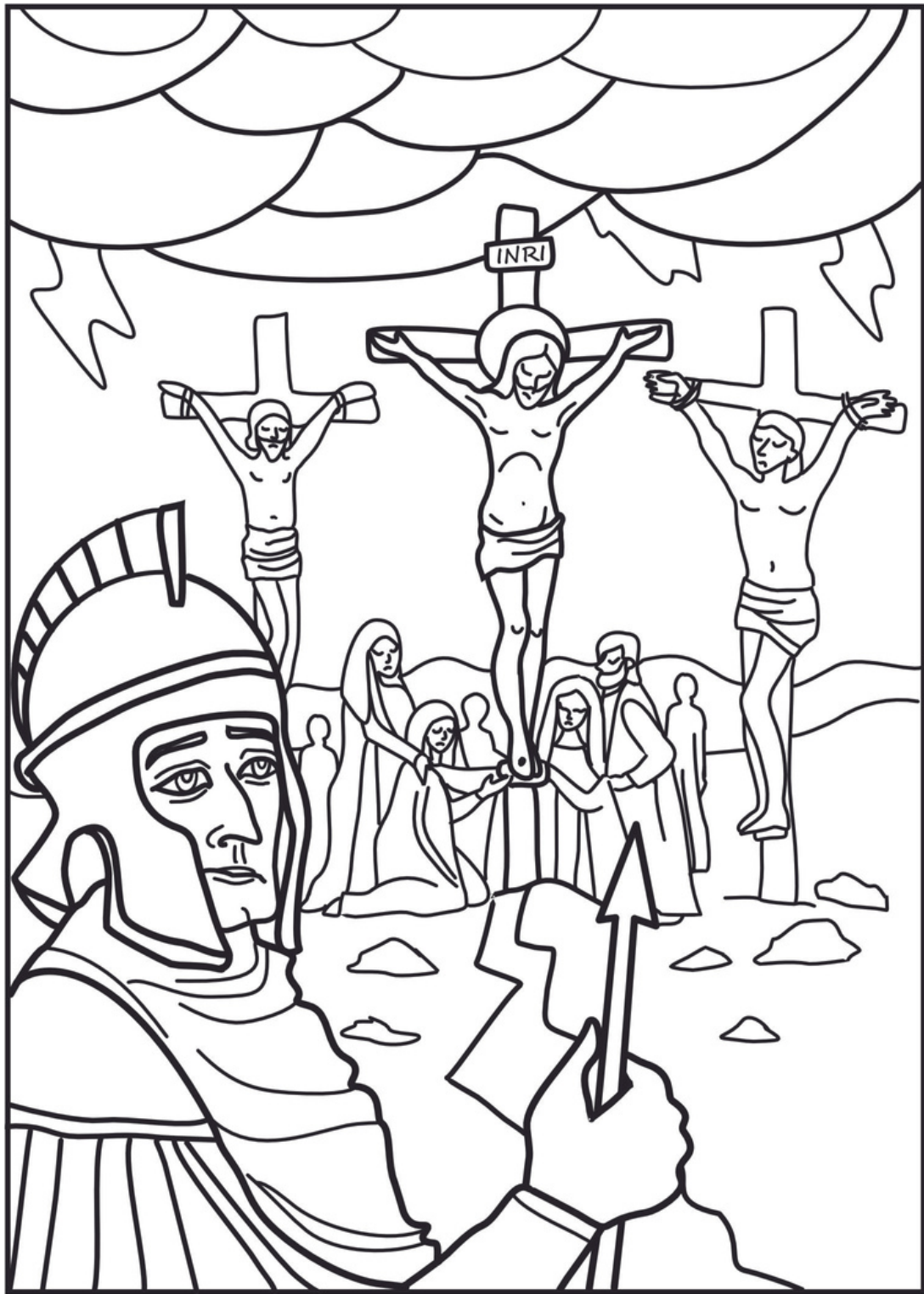
Jesus was betrayed by one of his friends, Judas, and was captured by the Pharisees. They

_____ him because he said that he is the Son of God, and they didn't believe him. At this Station, you will consider what it would have been like for Jesus as you make a cross, hear the sound of nails, and roll the dice. Meditate on the fact that God himself experienced this terrible death because he loves you so much.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Using wooden craft sticks, cut and glue them together to make three crosses. Take the wooden clothes pin and draw a face of pain or sadness. Next, hold the clothes pin up to one of the crosses you made, and glue the tiny piece of wood onto the cross at the best spot to allow you to hang the clothes pin on the cross. Finally, cut a strip of the purple fabric to drape over the wooden clothes pin.





FRIDAY FAMILY DEVOTION

A mere five days before his arrest, Jesus heard the Israelites hail him as their long-awaited, beloved King. But that was when they thought he had come to deliver them from the Romans. Instead, he had spent four days teaching them stories about the true Kingdom of God: his Kingdom.

A Kingdom that didn't oppress others. A Kingdom more valuable than their most precious possessions. A Kingdom that required the most powerful people to serve the lowliest. A Kingdom that didn't include killing others. A Kingdom that loved its enemies and welcomed even its betrayers. A Kingdom in which they believed that this teacher - this lowly carpenter man from the town of Nazareth - was truly God himself. The King of the whole universe. This was not the type of King or Kingdom that the Israelites understood or wanted to be part of.

So five days later, instead of yelling "Hosanna," they chanted, "Crucify him." Instead of bowing down to him, they whipped Him and beat him. Instead of giving him a crown of jewels, they shoved a crown of thorns on his head. Instead of royal robes, they stripped him naked, put a heavy scarlet robe on him, and then tore that cloth, too, from his bleeding stripes. Instead of a coronation parade, they marched him through the streets carrying his own heavy cross. Instead of giving him a scepter, they drove nails through his hands and feet. Instead of exalting him, they raised him high on a cross of shame. Instead of bringing gifts to him, they gambled away his clothes. Instead of throwing him a banquet, they gave him sour wine. Instead of singing praise, they taunted and insulted him. Instead of protecting him, they pierced his side. Instead of elevating him as a King, they condemned him as a criminal, and the sign above his head that announced his crime read, "This is Jesus, King of the Jews."

Yet, Jesus asked God the Father to forgive them with some of his last dying breaths.

When Jesus died, the whole earth grieved the loss of this King of Kings. The Temple curtain tore from top to bottom, an earthquake tore open the ground and tombs, and the skies went dark. And finally, it was a Roman centurion, not His own people, who was the first to acknowledge the truth and proclaim, "Surely he was the Son of God." A Gentile was the first to recognize Jesus, the Jewish King of Kings.

Practice the memory verse, Romans 10:9.

Read Luke 23:18-56

Discuss: Why did they make Jesus wear a crown? Why did they make the sign to put on the cross above Jesus's head? Did Jesus deserve to die on the cross? Why did he freely offer himself to be crucified?

Act it out by setting up your wooden peg doll on the cross you made. Pretending to be the soldiers at his crucifixion, take turns rolling a die; whoever gets the biggest number wins the purple robes from the Jesus craft. And now, even when the soldiers are doing this terrible thing, say out loud what Jesus said while on the cross: "Father, forgive them, because they don't know what they're doing."

Reflect: If Jesus died for the sins of the world, what sins in your life did he die for? What does it mean to you that Jesus suffered a torturous death in your place so you can be blameless to God? How does it feel that Jesus asked the Father to forgive the sins of the people—including the soldiers—around him? And how does it feel that he says the same for you?

The Burial

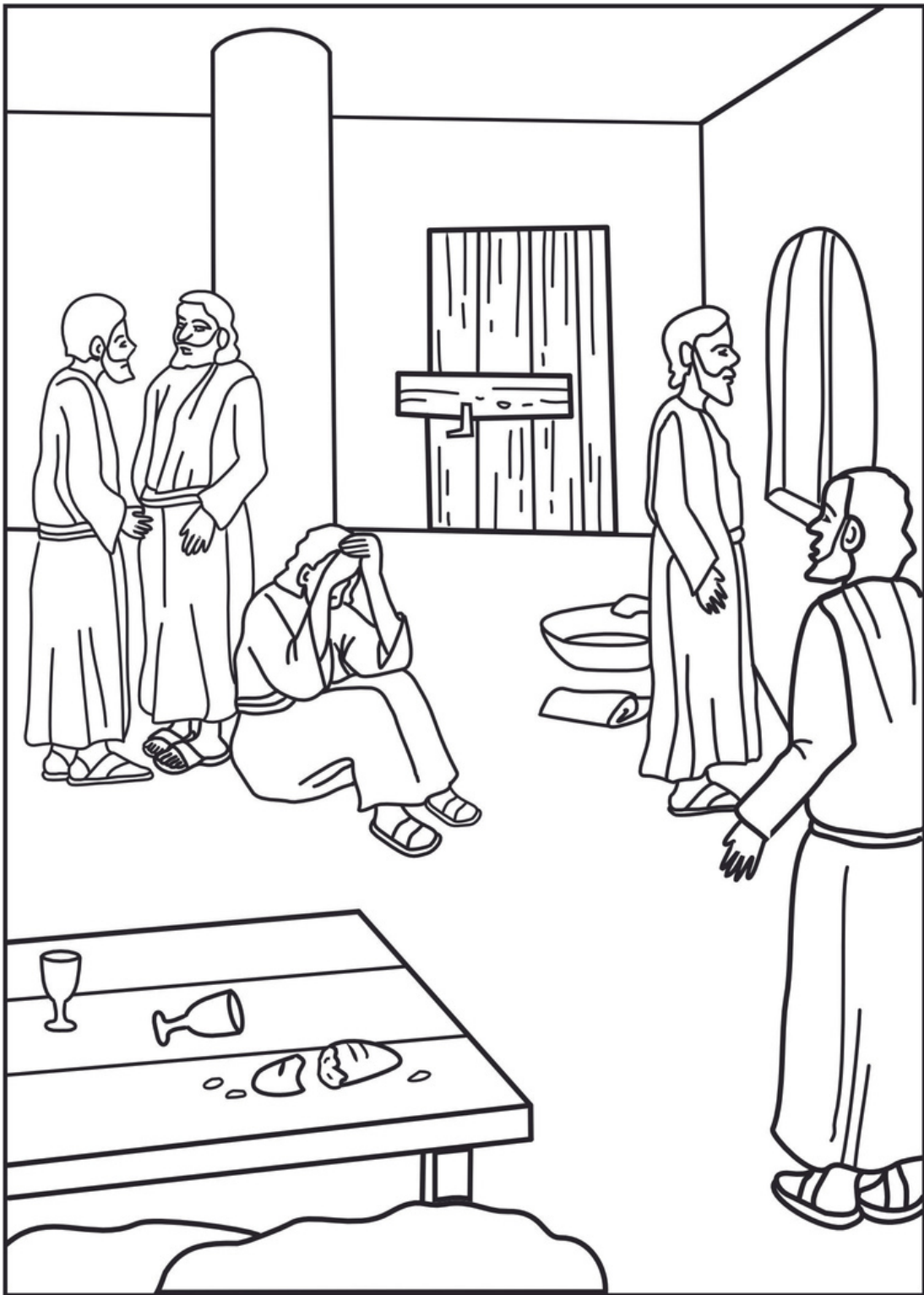


Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus asked to take down Jesus's body and prepare it for burial before the Sabbath day began. They wrapped Jesus's body in _____ and quickly rubbed his body with oils and spices. They placed him in an unused tomb to wait until after the Sabbath to bury him. At this Station you will explore why they did these things and why it was important to do so before the Sabbath began.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Cut strips of white fabric for the burial clothes. Rotate the wooden clothes pin slightly and draw a face representing someone who has died, perhaps with closed eyes and a straight line for the mouth. Next, cut in half the paper plate. Turning the two sides toward each other, glue or staple them so that it looks like a tomb. Cut a hole in one half of the paper plate as the opening of the tomb and use a brad to secure the "stone" over the opening of the tomb.





SATURDAY FAMILY DEVOTION

Each of the disciples were lowly men. None of them were raised to be highly honored or intellectual leaders. They were fisherman, despised tax collectors, rebels, stone workers, and other such common people. But for his three years of ministry Jesus chose them to be his companions, students, friends, disciples, and most trusted followers. The Israelites had been waiting in silence for over 400 years to have their Kingdom restored, and these lowly men were handpicked by Jesus to take the place of honor as his disciples. They had been ready to fight beside their Messiah to secure the land promised to them and then take places of honor alongside their King.

Yet, now, Jesus their King, lay dead.

He was lying in a tomb, wrapped up in burial cloths. Now, instead of leading a revolution, the confused disciples were hiding away, grieving the death of their dear friend, wondering what would happen next, and fearing that the leaders who crucified Jesus might try to kill them, too. All their hope was lost, and they forgot all of his teachings about his own death and resurrection. But the Pharisees remembered when Jesus himself claimed that he would come back from death. Of course, they didn't really believe that this would come true, but they didn't want anyone else to believe it, either.

The Pharisees went to the Roman leader, Pilate, and told him that Jesus had prophesied that he would come back to life three days after his death. They were afraid that someone might come and steal Jesus's body to trick people into believing he was still alive and preparing to rule. They knew that a King who had willingly, and innocently, died and then came back to life would be a mighty King indeed. Everyone would want to follow that King! So the leaders didn't want anyone to trick the people into thinking Jesus's claim came true. At their request, Pilate

allowed them to roll a huge stone in front of the tomb entrance and station a trained Roman guard to ensure that it was impossible for anyone to steal His body.

Little did they know that the disciples were confused and too afraid to have devised and carried out such a plan. And they certainly didn't know that even death could not conquer this King of the Universe. So a giant stone may have kept the disciples out. But it could never keep their Savior in!

Practice the memory verse, Romans 10:9.

Read Matthew 27:57-66.

Discuss: Why were the disciples so scared? What did the Pharisees think would happen if they didn't guard the tomb really well?

Act it out by wrapping your wooden clothespin doll with the white fabric to prepare it for burial. Consider how the people may have felt when they were putting Jesus's body in the tomb, and act this out. Put the clothespin inside your paper plate tomb and roll the stone in front of the entryway. Then turn off all the lights and hide together, just like the disciples did. Create a conversation that you think the disciples might have had when they were hiding in the upper room. *Also consider making Resurrection Rolls Saturday evening together.

Reflect: On this day, the disciples lost all hope that Jesus was their King. What would it be like for us today if we didn't have the hope of Jesus being our King? How does Jesus being our King change our lives?

The Resurrection



Death is the _____ of sin. Although Jesus didn't deserve the curse of death, he willingly took it upon himself. But this is not the end! He rose from the dead and promised to get rid of the curse of death forever! Because our Redeemer is alive, we have the hope that one day all things will be restored. As we celebrate Easter, try to understand how greatly Jesus's resurrection changed everything for all mankind... and for you!

NOTE TO PARENTS:

Before your children wake up on Easter, take the wooden clothespin doll out of the tomb, and roll the stone away from the entrance. Leave behind the white strips of fabric inside the tomb, and redress the clothespin with the purple fabric from Friday's craft. Consider following the recipe to make Resurrection Rolls with your children for breakfast.





EASTER SUNDAY FAMILY DEVOTION

After the Sabbath was over, and the disciples were still hiding and grieving, some of the women disciples walked to Jesus's tomb. Because they had buried his body so quickly before the Sabbath started, they were unable to perform all the rituals for Jesus, such as rubbing his body with the traditional perfumes and oils. They wanted to go to the tomb and make sure they did everything correctly, according to Jewish rituals.

Perhaps they walked slowly to the garden, thinking about their time with Jesus. Maybe they were crying and sharing stories. Maybe they were still numb with confusion and disbelief. It seems likely that they couldn't appreciate the morning sun or birds chirping in the trees. How could they? Their hope had died along with Jesus, two days before. As they approached the tomb, they simply wanted to honor their beloved friend. But they didn't know that they'd never get to use the oils they had brought with them. Those oils were meant for the dead, not the living.

Suddenly, the earth shook! The women saw a burst of light! They watched the guards drop to the ground in fear as two glorious angels appeared and rolled away the stone! What must their hearts have felt when they saw this scene at the tomb? Fear! Confusion! Surprise! And perhaps, a slight spark of renewed hope.

The angels spoke: "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who died on the cross. But he is not here. He has risen from death!" The women peered inside the tomb and saw that he was gone. It was true! He wasn't there! His body was gone, and his burial clothes had been left behind! Suddenly, Jesus appeared, and they fell at His feet and worshipped him.

Yes, Jesus was surely alive!

With tears of joy and amazement, they were the first to hear their risen Savior's voice lovingly speak their names. And they were privileged to be the first to proclaim to the others, "I saw the Lord! He is risen!"

This man - Jesus! - the Son of God, had not merely conquered a Roman army like the Israelites wanted. He had done so much more; He had conquered death itself! The whole world would never be the same because his Kingdom had come!

Today He calls each of us by name to follow him, the Risen Savior, as the true King of Kings!

Practice the memory verse, Romans 10:9.

Read Matthew 28:1-10

Discuss: Why was it important that Jesus came back to life? How did his resurrection impact his followers? What hope does the resurrection give to those who follow Jesus?

Act it out by taking turns being the characters. Walk slowly and somberly to the paper plate tomb with some of the remaining perfumed oil from Tuesday's craft, prepared to rub the oil on the wooden clothespin. But wait! The tomb is empty! Act out the the conversation the women may have had, the angel speaking to them, running to tell the disciples, the disciples' reaction, and Jesus meeting Mary by the tomb! HE IS ALIVE!

Reflect: How can the truth of the resurrection provide you with hope and strength in your life circumstances today? Is Jesus your King? Can you explain some of the major events from Holy Week and what it teaches you about Jesus and how he is a different kind of King?

Resurrection Rolls Recipe

Yield: 8 rolls (+) Total Time: 1 - 2 hours

Dough Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup (118 mL) warm milk*
- 4 Tablespoon sugar
- 2 teaspoons yeast
- 3 Tablespoons butter*, melted
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Pinch salt
- 2 cups (250 g) flour*

Filling Ingredients:

- 8 large marshmallows
- 1/2 cup (115 g) butter*, melted
- 1/4 cup (50 g) sugar
- 2 tablespoons cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg

Icing Ingredients:

- leftover butter
- 2-3 tsp powdered sugar
- dash of vanilla

Instructions:

Before you begin, discuss with your family the importance of the Jewish burial rituals. It was important in their culture to take the time necessary to prepare a body for burial, and they even hired professional "wailers" to grieve the deceased person. Because Jesus died as a criminal right before the beginning of Sabbath, he did not receive all these honorary rituals. But today, as a family, you will learn about his burial.

- Add 1 TBS of sugar and the yeast to the warm milk. Let it sit for about 5 minutes to become frothy.
- Use a mixer and add in the butter, vanilla, egg, and remaining sugar. Next, add the flour and salt and mix until a dough ball forms.
- Remove the dough ball and knead it until it is soft and smooth. Put the dough back in the bowl, cover it, and let it rise until it is doubled in size, about one hour.
- On a well-floured surface, roll out the dough into a large circle until it is about 1/2 inch (1.25 cm) thick. Cut into 8 equal triangles, like a pizza. (If you roll the dough into a rectangle and cut out rectangular shapes, you can get more than 8 pieces, but this may be harder to cover the marshmallow this way.)

Discuss together the significance of the white marshmallow as a symbol of Jesus. What could the white color represent? It helps us remember that, because Jesus is God, he was perfect and blameless.

- Prepare two small bowls: one with the melted butter, and the other with a mixture of the sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Preheat the oven to 350F (180C).

Remind yourselves of when Mary anointed Jesus with oil. What did Jesus say she was doing? She was anointing his body for burial. Just like Jesus said, the oily butter helps us remember her and the Jewish ritual of embalming the body.

- Dip the marshmallow in the bowl of melted butter and cover the marshmallow.

Why did Jesus willingly die on the cross? Because, as God, he was taking on the burden of our sins onto himself and forgiving us, allowing us to have a relationship with him again. What does the spice mixture represent as it darkens the white marshmallow?

- Roll the buttery marshmallow into the spice mixture and cover it until it becomes a dark brown color.
- Place the marshmallow toward the bottom of the triangle dough pieces. Fold in the bottom corners of the triangle on top of the marshmallow, and then roll the marshmallow forward to the tip of the triangle, pinching the dough together to completely seal the marshmallow. Pinch the dough together until it fully sealed around the marshmallow.

What did Joseph of Arimathea wrap Jesus's body in before he was placed in the tomb? What do you think the dough represents as it covers the marshmallow? What do the oven and oven door represent?

- Place your rolls into a greased cupcake pan and put them in an oven preheated to 180C (350F). Bake for ten minutes; turn the oven off.

Give each child a piece of tape to "seal" the oven. Leave the rolls to bake overnight. They might be sad about leaving their rolls in the oven. Discuss how the disciples felt when Jesus was in the tomb for three days.

- Add teaspoons of powdered sugar, one at a time, and a dash of vanilla to any remaining butter and mix until you create an icing. Store in the refrigerator overnight. In the morning, use a knife to drip the icing in the form of a cross on top of the rolls.

On Easter morning, let the children see that the tomb has remained sealed with the tape. Read Matthew 28:1-10 together and "roll away the stone," saying together what the angels said to the women. Break open your rolls and see that only the burial cloths have been left behind. The marshmallow is gone, our sin has been forgiven when we believe, and we can praise our Risen Savior for enduring the cross and conquering death!

Notes:

* If you have access to crescent rolls, you may also use these instead of the homemade dough recipe.

* You can make this recipe dairy free by using water or a dairy free milk, as well as dairy free butter or coconut oil.

* This recipe can be made with a gluten free all-purpose flour, as well.

Is Jesus your King?

I pray that you have been blessed with greater understanding of what happened to Jesus in his last week of life, why his people turned against him, and what type of King he really is. But perhaps there's another question we must answer; Why did Jesus willingly go to the cross if he was innocent? Why did he come to conquer sin and death?

The answer to that question is life-changing, because you see, dear one, he came here and died for you! Because he adores you so very much, his precious child, he wanted to show you how much he loves you and that he wants what is best for you.

Just like the Israelites, Pharisees, and Romans, all humans have a hard time believing that God truly loves them. They haven't trusted that God's plan is the best plan. So people try to protect themselves from brokenness, hurt, and suffering by building up walls, making their own rules, and trying to become their own "little kings." People want God to make their lives comfortable and free from pain, thinking that this would prove his love. Or they hope they can live good lives by following their own rules and earn God's love. But some people ignore God altogether, thinking they don't need him at all. Because we don't trust the One who created us, we reject him and the life he has waiting for us in his Kingdom.

But throughout all of history, we see that the kingdoms which people create for themselves are broken, and leaders use their power to serve and protect themselves, often by hurting others. These attempts at trying to make ourselves happy actually make us more like prisoners than princes and princesses. We need something different. Something better. We need someone to love us and rescue us from this prison of selfishness and sin that leads to death.

And since God created us, he knows exactly what - and who - we need to live joyful, protected, and fulfilled lives. We need a beautifully restored Kingdom led by a loving, perfect ruler that only he can provide for us. When King Jesus, who is God, died on the cross and rose from the dead, he broke the chains of sin and opened the prison doors for us to be set free! He invites us to follow him in his victory parade to a Kingdom far greater than we could ever create for ourselves.

So how can we follow him and learn more about this new life awaiting us? Read your Bible to discover more about who King Jesus is and what he taught about his Kingdom. Attend a church near you to be among other believers, learning to serve him together! Find a trusted teacher who can answer your questions about following Jesus. Pray to God to reveal himself to you more and help you understand just how deeply he loves you.

Jesus wants this wonderful life for you because he loves you so much, and you were made to be part of this perfect Kingdom. This is why Jesus endured His walk through Holy Week, willingly died on the cross, and came back to life. It was all for you!

*Our Father, who is in Heaven,
your Name is holy.
May your Kingdom come,
and what you want will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.*

Matthew 6:9-10

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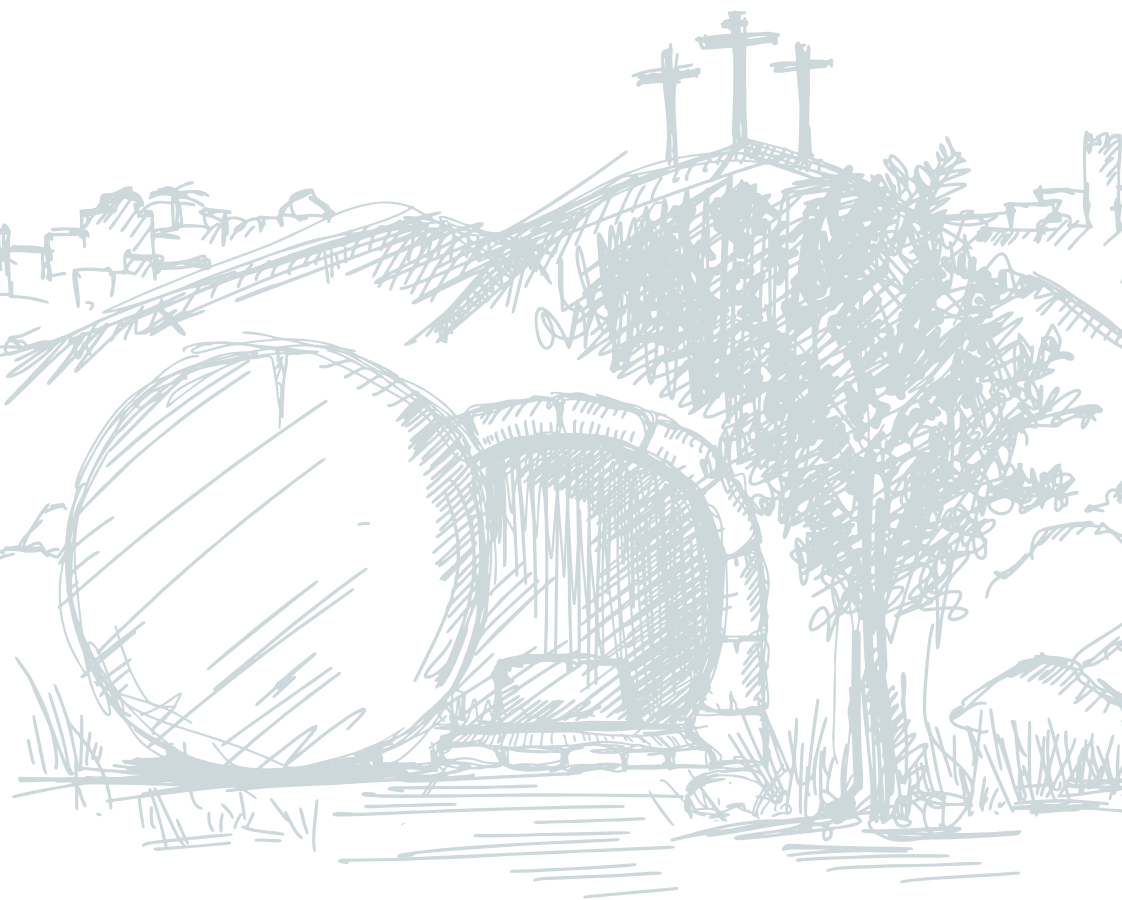
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He is risen!



He is risen, indeed!