

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

READ JOHN 12:1-8

Jesus and His disciples journeyed towards Jerusalem, and Jesus knew that He would soon die for the sins of people. They stopped at the house of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha, which was outside the city of Jerusalem. Why was Jesus important to Lazarus and his sisters? While Jesus was at their house, Mary showed her love for Jesus by anointing His feet with a perfume so expensive it would take about a year to make enough money to purchase it. Judas told her she had wasted the perfume; the money could have been used for better things. But Mary understood that there was nothing more important than Jesus.

IDEAS TO MAKE IT STICK

Allow your kids to find things in the house that smell good to them (shampoo, candles, oils, food, perfume). Talk about how Mary offered Jesus her very best.

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Diffuse essential oils or burn candles. Talk about how the smell fills the house. The smell of Mary's perfume offering would have reminded everyone that Mary had taken time to worship Jesus while He was with them.

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For older kids or teens, talk about some of their favorite smells and what memories they bring up. Share some of your own favorite smells and memories that are attached to certain smells. Ask them what they think Mary was thinking about when she offered her perfume to Jesus.

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As a family, practice washing each other's feet, or give each other foot rubs with scented lotion. Remind your kids that, in Bible times, many people wore sandals or went barefoot, and most people walked everywhere they went. Feet were dirty, and to wash someone's feet was the sign of a servant. Mary humbled herself enough to wash Jesus' feet with perfume, and then dry them with her hair. There was nothing she would not offer to show Jesus how much He meant to her.



MONDAY, APRIL 15

READ MARK 11:15-19

In Jesus' day, the outer courts of the temple had become a marketplace for items needed for sacrifice. Buying what was needed for sacrifice was not the problem. Jesus became angry because the focus of the merchants was not to help people worship, but to make a profit off people who needed animals for sacrifice. Remember, God's temple was holy ground. It was the place where His presence was promised to be - in the holy of holies. The temple was a place for people to draw near to God, and Jesus was going to make sure nothing stopped that. It wouldn't be the last temple He cleansed. He physically cleansed the temple on that day, but soon He would cleanse the hearts of men and women everywhere that put their faith in Him.

IDEAS TO MAKE IT STICK

Draw a picture of your church and how you worship God in it.

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Act it out with play money and stuffed animals. Discuss that Jesus was angry when He saw what was being done in the temple (distracted worshippers, cheating people, disrespecting God). Jesus was taking care of His people by cleaning out the things that would keep them from worshipping.

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Challenge your older kids to think of the churches of modern time. Is there anything we put as more important than worshipping God? Is there anything the modern church does to make it harder to connect with God?



TUESDAY, APRIL 16

READ MARK 12:28-33

Jesus was faithful to teach every day during His last week on earth. He wanted to teach and lead until the end. Jesus was not going to waste time on the laws that the religious leaders wanted to make most important. So, when a leader came to Him wanting to know which law was most important, Jesus knew the answer right away: Love God more than anything, and the second is love your neighbor like you love yourself. There is no greater law than these. Jesus knew that if His followers focused on following these two laws, then all the rest would take care of itself.

IDEAS TO MAKE IT STICK

Look up the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20). These are the most well-known of God's commandments. Read them by including the most important two commandments. Example: If I love God most then ... I will put no other gods before Him. If I love God most then ... I will never misuse His name. If I love others like I love myself then ... I will honor my parents. If I love others like I love myself then ... I will not steal. Those 2 commandments lead us to follow God with our whole life.

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Cut out heart shapes and write the words to Mark 12:30 on them. Scatter them throughout your house, making sure to put one heart in a Bible that is laying out. If they don't see the heart, give them the clue that the heart is hidden in the book that teaches us how to love God with our whole hearts. Put the hearts in order and say the verse.

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Sit together and ask your kids to tell you the rules of your house. If you have older kids or teenagers, ask them which rules are hardest to follow and why. When they have given you several, ask which one they think is the most important. Then, like you did earlier with the Ten Commandments, add Christ's two most important commandments to your list of house rules. Talk about how much easier it is to follow your house rules when your focus is on the two greatest commandments.

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For older kids, ask them to name some things that sometimes get in the way of them loving God with their whole heart. How does this keep them from loving others well? Write down ways as a family that you can hold each other accountable with keeping God in His proper place in your hearts and minds.

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See Card #1 for Easter Scavenger Hunt



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

READ LUKE 21:37-22:6

Jesus traveled with the disciples for over 3 years. They served, taught, and healed so many people. Each man in the group was hand-picked by Jesus, and He knew all along that it would be one of these close men that would betray Him. The worst part is that Judas sought out the religious leaders. The leaders were so angry with the message Jesus was sharing that they were focused on getting rid of Him. Judas offered them that way. He helped them come up with a plan to destroy Jesus, even taking 30 pieces of silver as payment for his part in the betrayal. Can you imagine how that felt for Jesus? The hardest part to understand is that Jesus knew Judas would betray Him. He knew, and He still chose Judas. Jesus knew He had to die so that the whole world could have everlasting life, and Judas chose to be part of that plan.

IDEAS TO MAKE IT STICK

Read verse 6 again. Judas sought out the chief priest to make a deal. Then he looked for an opportunity to hand Jesus over. He knew Jesus well enough to know His habits, and he used this knowledge to hand Jesus over in the garden where Jesus prayed often. People that betray us are often the ones who are closest to us. Have you ever felt the pain of a friend betraying you? How did you handle it?

As you read this Scripture section, have coins out for the kids to count and stack. If you have any foreign coins pull those out for the kids to look at. Talk about how 30 pieces of silver was not that much money, but it was still enough for Judas. He betrayed a man who showed him that He was God, and all he walked away with is 30 coins and a load of guilt.

For older children, finish the story of Judas by reading Matthew 27:3-10 and Acts 1:18-19. Talk about the guilt that comes from turning from what is right for what is easy.



THURSDAY, APRIL 18

READ MATTHEW 26:17-30

Called Maundy Thursday by many, this is the day that Jesus celebrated Passover with His disciples. It would be a bitter sweet night sharing in the Feast of Unleavened Bread for the last time. Jesus reveals the disciple that would betray Him, and performs what we know now to be the Lord's Supper. He was giving His disciples tangible items like bread and drink by which to remember Him. This was His last night with all of the disciples. Soon He would be arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane and taken to the courts for a false trial. So Jesus takes this moment around the table to teach His disciples a little more and to spend a little more time with them.

IDEAS TO MAKE IT STICK

Plan a special dinner on this night. It could be a special family dinner, or you could invite friends over for a potluck. Talk with your kids about what they think it would have been like at the Last Supper.

Buy some flat bread and grape juice. Read through this passage of Scripture again, and talk about why we take the Lord's Supper now. There is nothing special about the bread or juice - it is all about the heart. Only a Christian can take the Lord's Supper because they remember how God has saved them. If you have a teenager in the house, have them read verses 26-29 again.

Look up the different accounts of the Last Supper in the Gospels (Mk. 14:12-26, Lk. 22:7-39 and Jn. 13:1-17:26). Each account adds more details so that we can have a fuller understanding of this special night. Talk about details that are in different Gospels and what they teach us. Ask them what they think it was like to be there that night. What do you think the disciples were thinking? What emotions do you think they were experiencing?

Jesus modeled service on this Maundy Thursday. Look for a place to serve together as a family that would model that heart of service. Or look for ways within your family for each member to serve one another.



FRIDAY, APRIL 19

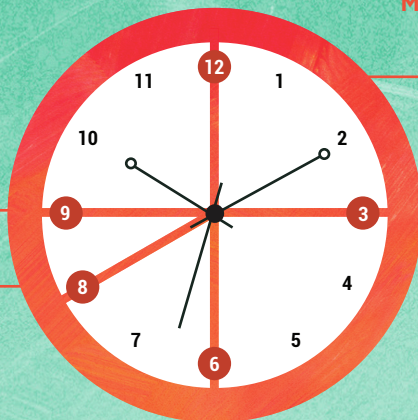
READ JOHN 12:1-8

On this Good Friday we want to take time to watch the clock. Use this card to help you and your children follow the timeline of Christ on this Friday. Take time to read the Scriptures tied to the different times. Talk about what the Bible tells us about this dark day. What would it have been like for the disciples? His mom, Mary? End the day by praying together, thanking Jesus for dying on the cross for our sins.

GOOD FRIDAY

9A
JESUS
CRUCIFIED
MARK 15:25

12P
DARKNESS
COVERS
THE LAND
MATTHEW 27:45



8A
PILATE
CONDEMNS
JESUS TO DEATH
MATTHEW 27:1-2

3P
JESUS
DIES
MARK 15:37

6P
JESUS' BODY
LAI IN A TOMB
MATTHEW 27:57-60

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

READ ISAIAH 53:2-6

Jesus was dead and in the grave on Saturday ... but hope was not lost. The prophet Isaiah gave us treasured information about Jesus in Isaiah 53. All that Isaiah said about Jesus had come true. By His wounds we are healed.

IDEAS TO MAKE IT STICK

Make a list of the things you learn about Jesus from these verses. Does it change how you think of Jesus?

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For older kids, look up the different accounts of the death of Christ (see list below), gathering details of what happened during that 24-hour time frame. Is there anything that you didn't realize? To you, which part is the worst? Why do you think Jesus chose to suffer like that?

Jesus in the garden

(Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42, Luke 22:39-44)

Jesus betrayed and arrested

(Luke 22:47-52, Matthew 26:47-56, John 18:1-11)

Jesus and Pilate

(Luke 23:1-25, John 18:28-37)

Jesus is punished

(Matthew 27:27-31, Mark 15:16-20)

Jesus is crucified

(Matthew 27:32-66, Mark 15:21-47, Luke 23:26-56)

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This is a great day to make Resurrection Cookies! This sweet treat reminds us that things might have seemed hopeless on Saturday evening, but JOY was coming in the morning.

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If someone in your home is musically inclined, have a family worship time. If not, you can still listen and sing along with some of your favorite worship songs. If you have an older kid, have him/her pray for the family and thank God for giving us Jesus.

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See card #2 for Resurrection Cookie Recipe.



SUNDAY, APRIL 21

MATTHEW 28:1-20

Jesus is ALIVE. Start the day with a celebration! The ladies who had gone to the tomb early that morning were celebrating because their Savior was no longer in the tomb. The angel told them that He is Risen! Spend time this Easter morning celebrating that the tomb was empty.

IDEAS TO MAKE IT STICK

Plan a celebration lunch. Make sure it feels like a party! Talk with your kids about why you are celebrating. Only Jesus could die on the cross for our sins and be raised from the dead on the 3rd day.

What would it have been like on that Easter morning? Have a car conversation on the way to church about what they think that morning would have been like.

Go to creativebiblestudy.com/Easter-eggs-object-lesson, and use the information in this link. Hide empty Easter Eggs with specific colors. After the children find them, use the eggs to tell the true story of Easter.

For older kids, have them take some time to write down things that they have learned through this family time together. Have them list things they are thankful. Then, have them write down what the story of Easter means to them.

See card #3 for Special Celebration Idea for Easter.



LET'S MAKE SOME DELICIOUS

Resurrection Rolls



Ingredients

- 12 Rhodes rolls, or homemade dough, or Crescent roll dough
- 12 Marshmallows
- 1/4 Cup sugar
- 1 Tablespoon cinnamon
- 1/4 Cup butter, melted

Directions

- 1 Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9x13" baking dish.
- 2 Mix the sugar and cinnamon in a bowl.
- 3 Press the dough out into a circle. Roll a marshmallow in the butter, cinnamon sugar, and then place on the dough.
- 4 Pinch the circle closed around the marshmallow, and roll the dough in the butter and cinnamon sugar.
- 5 Place in the baking dish.
- 6 Repeat until you've used all the dough.
- 7 Let rest for 15 minutes, and then bake for 15 minutes or until golden.

Serve immediately

LET'S MAKE SOME DELICIOUS

Easter story Cookies

These cookies are great to do with the kids. They are to be prepared the night before Easter. The spiritual preparation goes along with the physical preparation of the cookies.

Ingredients

- 1 cup pecan halves
- 3 egg whites
- 1 teaspoon distilled white vinegar
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 cup white sugar

Directions

- 1 Preheat oven to 300 degrees F (150 degrees C).
- 2 Place pecans in a resealable plastic baggie. Crush the pecans into small bits. Read **John 19:3**.
- 3 Put 1 teaspoon of vinegar into a medium bowl. Read **John 19:20-30**.
- 4 Add egg whites to the vinegar. Read **John 10:10-11**.
- 5 Sprinkle salt into the egg whites. Read **Luke 23:27**.
- 6 So far, the mixture isn't very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar. Read **Psalms 34:8** and **John 3:16**. Beat with mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Read **Isaiah 1:18** and **John 3:1-3**.
- 7 Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoon onto parchment paper lined baking sheet. Read **Matthew 27:57-60**.
- 8 Place cookies in the oven, close the door, and turn the oven off. Read **Matthew 27:65-66**.
- 9 Go to bed. Read **John 16:20,22**.
- 10 In the morning, open the oven and take out the cookies. Read **Matthew 28:1-9**.

SEND YOUR CHILD ON AN

Easter

scavenger hunt

Instruct them to find items that symbolize parts of the Easter story.

Examples: A Rock (the tomb), two sticks (the Cross), something black (sin), something red (blood), something white (clean heart), something green (growing in Christ), etc.

Older Children can go on a digital scavenger hunt, taking photographs of items that remind them of Easter. Create your own scavenger hunt list or use the list below.

- ☐ Coins (Judas)
- ☐ Two sticks (the Cross)
- ☐ Cloth (Jesus wrapped before being placed in tomb)
- ☐ Something that smells good (treated Jesus' body before He was buried)
- ☐ A Rock (the tomb)
- ☐ Something purple (Jesus as king)
- ☐ Something black (sin)
- ☐ Something red (blood)
- ☐ Something white (clean heart)
- ☐ Something green (life; Jesus is alive)
- ☐ Something blue (Hope of heaven)





Easter Sunday Celebration

During Easter dinner, have cake or cupcakes for dessert with one trick candle. Use this trick candle to show how Jesus, the Light of the World, appeared to be extinguished, but He wasn't. Light the candle, and then blow it out together. When the candle relights itself, talk about how everyone thought Jesus' light had disappeared, but it hadn't. He was, and still is, alive! Jesus is still showing us the way to God.