



# SUNDAY TO SUNDAY

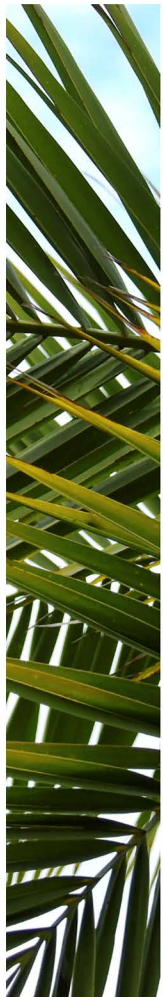
## Holy Week Devotion for Families

START HERE

During Holy Week, we remember and celebrate the events of Jesus' last week on Earth. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday and leads up to Easter Sunday. Use this simple family devotional to learn about the events of Holy Week and celebrate together as a family. Each day, you'll **ponder** the events of the specific day, **pray** about them, and then **play** a simple activity to interact with the Biblical account in a hands-on way. Each day's picture also gives you a visual reminder about the day's devotion or events. We used real pictures (not cartoons or graphics) because we want kids to know these events actually happened. They were real. And so is Jesus.

We pray this Holy Week devotional helps you and your family connect with our Savior this Easter season.





# PALM SUNDAY

**Ponder:** Have you ever seen a parade? With a grown-up, look up a video of a parade online or talk about a parade you've seen in person. Parades are often times of celebration, with smiling, clapping, waving, and sometimes even music! On Palm Sunday, a week before Easter Sunday, there was a special parade to welcome Jesus into the city of Jerusalem. It was a big celebration as people laid down their coats, waved palm branches, and shouted "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Jesus rode into the city on a donkey as a sign that He was coming to be their king. What noises do you think you'd have heard at that Palm Sunday parade? What feelings might you feel as you watched Jesus ride into town? Read about Palm Sunday in the Bible in Matthew 21:1-11.

**Pray:** Celebrate Jesus and thank him for being our king. Tell Jesus what makes him such a great king.

**Play:** Lay your coats down the hall or room like people laid their cloaks down for Jesus in Matthew 21. Make your own palm branches from paper or sticks outside and host your own Palm Sunday parade around your house or down the street. Wave your branches high and shout "Hosanna! Hosanna!"





# HOLY MONDAY

**Ponder:** What is something that made you angry recently? Did you know that Jesus got angry too? On Holy Monday, Jesus sees people using God's temple to take advantage of others, and it makes him mad. There are people selling animals for sacrifices and exchanging money - but they were ripping people off and not offering fair prices. This turned a place of worship into a marketplace, and it kept people from focusing on worshipping God. We see Jesus' righteous anger at the mistreatment of God's people and the misuse of God's church. Read about it in Mark 11:15-18.

**Pray:** Pray for the church today. Pray for the leadership and people of your specific church, and pray for all the churches around the world. Pray that we would treat God's church and his people with love and respect.

**Play:** Grab a water bottle and have a bottle-flipping challenge! Who can flip the bottle and make it land right side up first? Every time you flip the bottle, think of a way you can worship God today (i.e. singing songs of praise, prayer, serving others, enjoying God's creation, thinking about who God is, etc.).



# HOLY TUESDAY

**Ponder:** Jesus often taught in parables, using object lessons and real-life connections to help his followers understand His teachings. On Holy Tuesday, Jesus traveled to and from smaller towns around Jerusalem, using the things he saw along the way to teach. He used a fig tree to teach the disciples about the importance of showing fruit (evidence) of our faith in the way we live. Look up one of Jesus' parables in the Bible and read it together as a family. Need a place to start? Luke 15 has 3 different parables with a similar message.

**Pray:** Ask God to give you an understanding of his Word, the Bible, as you explore Jesus' parables.

**Play:** Buy an Easter lily (or look up a picture online) and use it as an object lesson at home. The white color represents the purity of Christ. The trumpet shape of the flower can help us remember to share the good news and remind us of the trumpets of angels that announce important events. And, since lilies grow from a bulb that is buried and then blooms into life, it is a beautiful representation of the death and resurrection of Jesus.





# HOLY WEDNESDAY

**Ponder:** The Bible doesn't tell us exactly what Jesus did on the Wednesday before his death and resurrection, but some Christians use this day to remember how Judas chose to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Judas was a disciple and friend of Jesus. He followed Jesus and lived life with Jesus, watching Jesus perform miracles and hearing Jesus teach. But he betrayed Jesus, and we don't really know why. We *do* know Jesus loved Judas anyway, invited him in, and washed his feet (more on that tomorrow). Have you ever felt betrayed? What happened? What does it tell us about Jesus that he loved Judas anyway? Read about Judas in Matthew 26:14-16.

**Pray:** Thank Jesus for his example of loving our enemies and ask him to bring to mind someone that is hard for you to love. Ask God to help you love that person.

**Play:** Play a simple, sneaky guessing game with coins to remind you how Judas was sneaky when he betrayed Jesus for 30 silver coins. Hold a coin and put both hands behind your back. Pass the coin between your hands while someone says "What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?" (Matthew 26:15), then close your fists with the coin in one hand and hold both fists out in front of you. Other players must try and guess which hand the coin is in. If they guess correctly, it's their turn to hide the coin.





# MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Ponder:** On the Thursday before Jesus died, He shared the Last Supper with His disciples and washed their feet. The Last Supper refers to a special Passover meal that became the basis for the first Communion. The broken bread is a symbol of his broken body, and the wine is a symbol of his blood poured out for us. The church continues to use Communion as a way to remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Then Jesus washed his disciples' feet as an example of humility, servant leadership, and love. Read about the Last Supper in Luke 22:14-20 and Jesus washing the disciples' feet in John 13:1-17.

**Pray:** Thank Jesus for his example of humility, and ask Him to help you find ways to serve others.

**Play:** Enjoy a meal together as a family, then gather a bowl/basin and some towels and have a time of foot washing where each person washes someone else's feet. Even something as simple as washing with baby wipes can prompt a special memory for your family. Pray together and talk about ways you can serve each other this week.







# GOOD FRIDAY

**Ponder:** Good Friday is the day Jesus died. Jesus was mocked (made fun of), beaten, and nailed to a cross. It's OK to focus on feelings of sadness and repentance that come with these events. But if it's such a sad day, why is it called Good Friday? Because it's not the end of the story; it points to the miracle of the new life to come. The celebration of the resurrection can't happen without the grief of Jesus' death on Good Friday. Read the events of Good Friday in Matthew 27:27-56.

**Pray:** Thank Jesus for his sacrifice on the cross.

**Play:** Grab a red marker and draw a red dot on each of your palms to remind you of Jesus being nailed to the cross. Then write your name on each hand above the red dot to remind you that Jesus died on the cross because He loves you so much. All day long, when you see the red dot on your palm, take ea moment to pause, be still, and thank Jesus for dying on the cross for us. With a grown-up's help, scan the QR code in the corner to watch a YouTube video about Good Friday.







# HOLY SATURDAY

**Ponder:** Do you like to wait? On Saturday, Jesus' followers were waiting to see what would happen next. Luke 23:56 tells us that Saturday was the Sabbath (a day each week when God's people are supposed to rest and spend time with God), so Jesus' followers probably spent the day praying, waiting, and resting. They didn't know yet that Jesus was going to rise again, and they might have felt scared, sad, lonely, or uncertain. Saturday was an in-between day, stuck in limbo between Jesus' death and his resurrection, a time to be still and wait...

**Pray:** God invites us into Sabbath rest too. Take 2 minutes to dim the lights, be still, breathe deeply, and rest in God's presence together. You can sit in silence or play a soft worship song in the background.

**Play:** The Sabbath is a day for us to press pause on our busy lives, hearts, and minds. Play a game of freeze dance by playing some of your favorite music in and dancing around together. Randomly pause the music, and when the music pauses, invite someone in your family to say something they love about Jesus. Continue playing freeze dance until at least everyone has had a turn to share.





# EASTER SUNDAY

**Ponder:** "He is not here! He has risen, just as he said!" That's what the angel told the women when they went to Jesus' tomb early on Sunday morning. Jesus had risen from the dead, defeating death, and making a way for us to have a relationship with God, both here on earth and forever in heaven. What a miracle! What a reason to celebrate! Jesus appeared to his followers that day and over the next few weeks, encouraging them and sending them out to tell others about Jesus' resurrection. Read what happened on the first Easter Sunday in Matthew 28:1-10.

**Pray:** Pray LOUD today, with shouts of joy and celebration! Shout out loud to the Lord, praising him for the new life he offers us through his death and resurrection.

**Play:** Hide an empty egg somewhere in your house to represent the empty tomb. Whoever finds the egg first opens it and shouts "He is not here! He has risen!" Take turns hiding the empty egg and shouting about Christ's resurrection.

