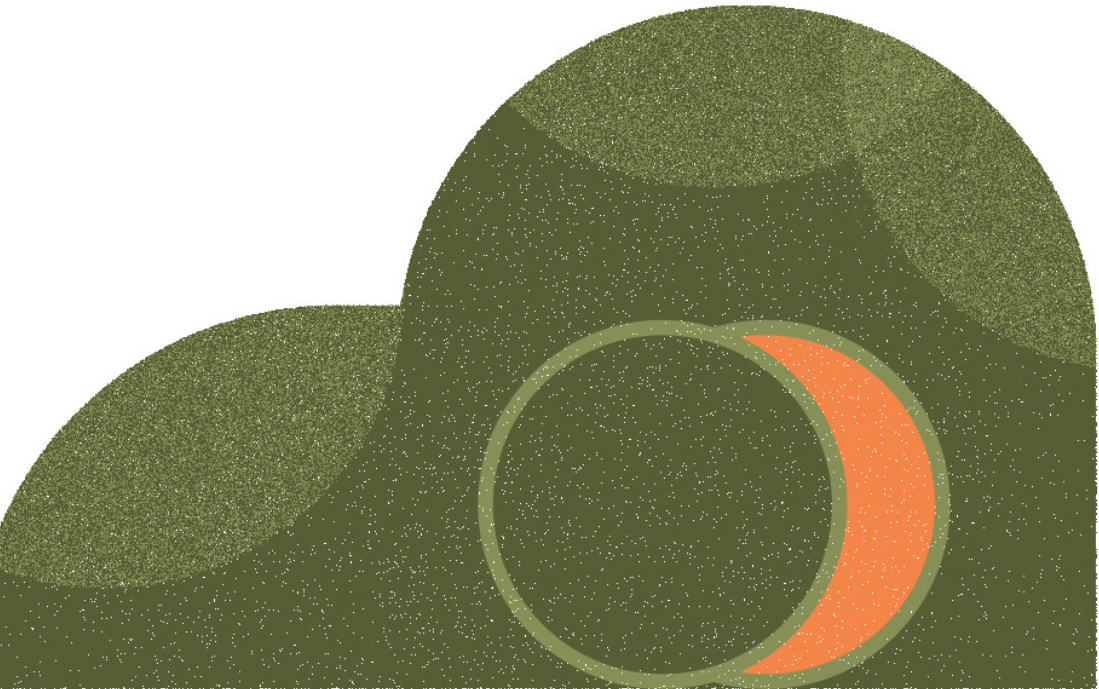


Holy Week For Kids

A Family Discipleship Guide





It is our greatest joy to be a small part of the hard work that you are doing in your home as you raise tiny disciples. We have created this guide to help you intentionally pause and consider Jesus as a family during Holy Week. Each activity and reading is designed to fit right into your regular rhythms, whether that be as a family devotional, at the dinner table, or before bed. Our prayer is that as you consider, read, discuss and pray through the last week of Jesus' life, your children would see God's immeasurable love for His children. Oh, that He is mindful of us! Oh, that He would suffer and die for us! We are begging the Father alongside you that your children would come to know, love, trust and obey God. You and your children are loved more than you know.

Citizens Kids Team



Sunday

Palm Sunday

WATCH

The King of All Kings



PRESCHOOL

READ

"The King of All Kings"
(Jesus Storybook Bible, pg. 192)

ELEMENTARY

READ

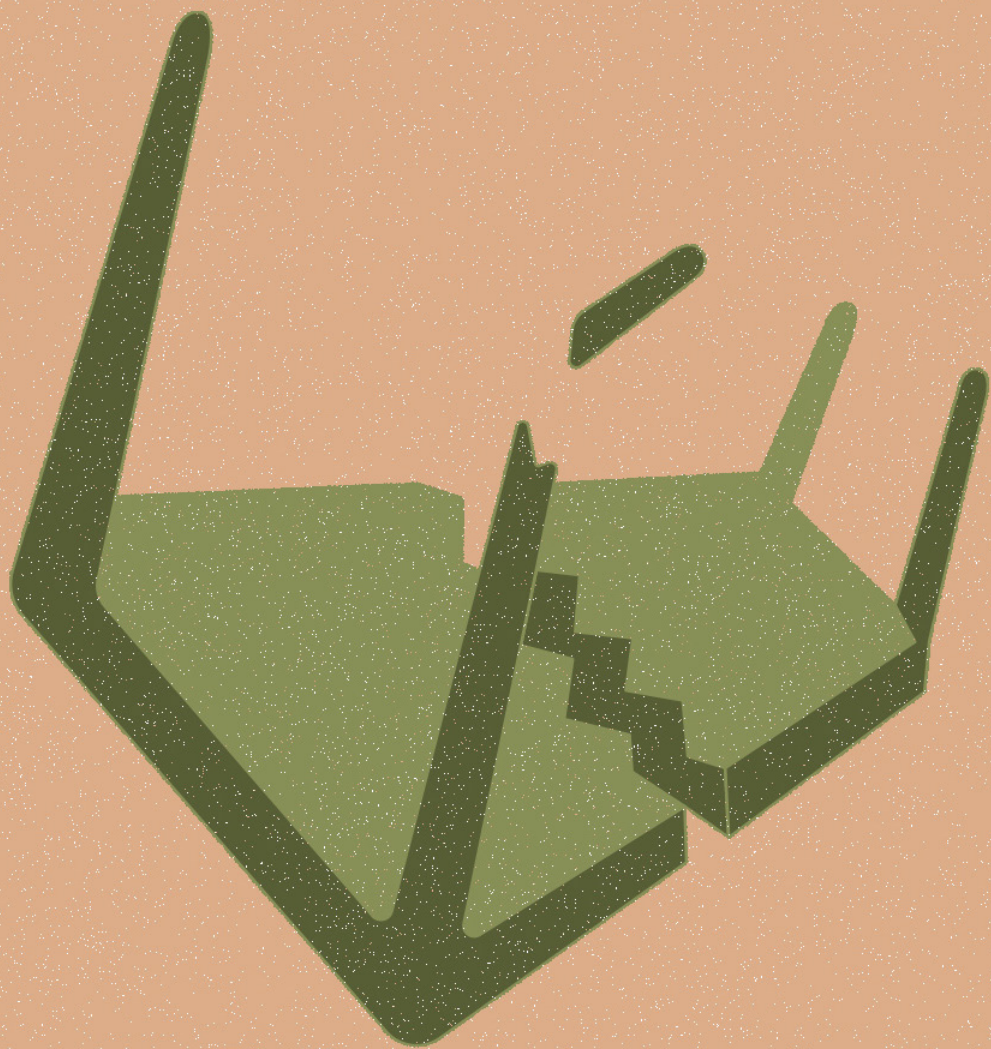
Matthew 21:1–11

TALK WITH YOUR FAMILY

Jesus is the King of kings. He is worthy of all our praise! When He was a baby, wise men were led to worship Him, and as an adult, He entered Jerusalem to die on the cross just like the prophet Zechariah said He would (Zechariah 9:9). People went to meet and see this servant King as He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. He deserves our worship as our King today.

ACTIVITY

Make palm leaves and re-enact the story of Jesus' Triumphal Entry. Wave your palm leaves in the air and say, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matthew 21:9) "Hosanna" is an exclamation of praise and joy! We can rejoice that Jesus is our King!



Monday

WATCH

Operation "No More Tears!"



PRESCHOOL

READ

"Operation 'No More Tears!'"
(Jesus Storybook Bible, pg. 144)

ELEMENTARY

READ

Matthew 21:12–22

TALK WITH YOUR FAMILY

God is faithful! He always does what He says He will do! He promised to send a Savior, and that Savior is Jesus. This week we will see Jesus, the Son of God, in all authority (which means He has the right to be in charge), enter Jerusalem to save sinners. After Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, He went to the temple and turned tables over because

the people were not honoring the House of God. Jesus is the King and only He deserves to be glorified (shown, honored and enjoyed as most valuable).

ACTIVITY

To glorify God means to show, honor and enjoy Him as most valuable. Learn this definition together by doing these motions:

Show: Hold your hands out like you are showing off something

Honor: Salute (a sign of respect)

Enjoy: Clap your hands and jump up and down

After learning these motions together, talk about the things that you are often tempted to show, honor and enjoy as more valuable than God. Only God deserves all glory, and He is worthy of all of our worship.



Tuesday

WATCH

Treasure Hunt!



PRESCHOOL

READ

"Treasure Hunt!"
(Jesus Storybook Bible, pg. 250)

ELEMENTARY

READ

Matthew 21:23–26:5
(focus on 25:14–30 & 26:1–5)

TALK WITH YOUR FAMILY

Jesus came to save sinners! Jesus spent a lot of time teaching the men and women who followed Him all about the kingdom of God. Sometimes He used stories — called parables — to illustrate His point. A parable is a pretend story that teaches something true. After Jesus turned tables over in the temple, He stayed in Jerusalem

and taught many parables while the Pharisees and Sadducees plotted to kill Him.

ACTIVITY

Make up your own parable together as a family! What will your parable teach or remind one another about your family? Have one person begin the story (ex. "Once upon a time..."). Go around in a circle taking turns adding details to the story. Remember to be sure to have your parable teach something true! Write your story down so you can remember and laugh about it later! Jesus used parables to help us understand what God's kingdom is like. God's kingdom is where Jesus the King is with His people and everything is made right.



Wednesday

WATCH

Washed With Tears



PRESCHOOL

READ

"Washed With Tears"
(Jesus Storybook Bible, pg. 280)

ELEMENTARY

READ

Matthew 26:6–16

TALK WITH YOUR FAMILY

God is good; He is what is best. Mary (we learn her name in John 12:3!) gave up her most precious possession, everything she had, to worship Jesus. She knew that God is good and that Jesus came to save sinners.

ACTIVITY

Have everyone in the family find the thing they love most in the world — their favorite toy, stuffed animal, book, game, movie, t-shirt, whatever! Let everyone share why that thing is so special and important to them. Then talk about what it would feel like to give that thing to someone else. The woman from the story today knew that Jesus was better than all things and that He was to be treasured the most! Thank Jesus that He gave not just His favorite thing but His life to save sinners.



Thursday

Maundy Thursday

WATCH

The Servant King



A Dark Night in the Garden



KIDS COMMUNION GUIDE



PRESCHOOL

READ

“The Servant King”
(Jesus Storybook Bible, pg. 286)

ELEMENTARY

READ

Matthew 26:17–75
John 13:1–17

TALK WITH YOUR FAMILY

Jesus came to save sinners. The day before Jesus died, He gave two symbols, or pictures, that believers are to remember about His death on the cross. First, He washed the disciples’ feet. This was to show that Jesus died on the cross to clean hearts from sin. Second, He ate the Last Supper with His disciples. This was to show that Jesus’ body would be broken and blood would be shed. After Jesus ate with His disciples, He prayed to God the Father in the garden. Jesus knew He had to suffer and die and trusted God even when it meant doing something hard, sad and full of pain.

ACTIVITY

Eat dinner tonight like Jesus did at the Last Supper! Lay out a picnic blanket in your living room (or somewhere upstairs if you are able!) and eat sitting on the floor. For those who are believers, take communion together as a family and talk about what the elements of communion represent. Use the “Kids Communion Guide” resource if you need help!



Friday

Good Friday

We encourage your family to attend our Good Friday Service.

WATCH

The Sun Stops Shining



PRESCHOOL

READ

"The Sun Stops Shining"
(Jesus Storybook Bible, pg. 302)

ELEMENTARY

READ

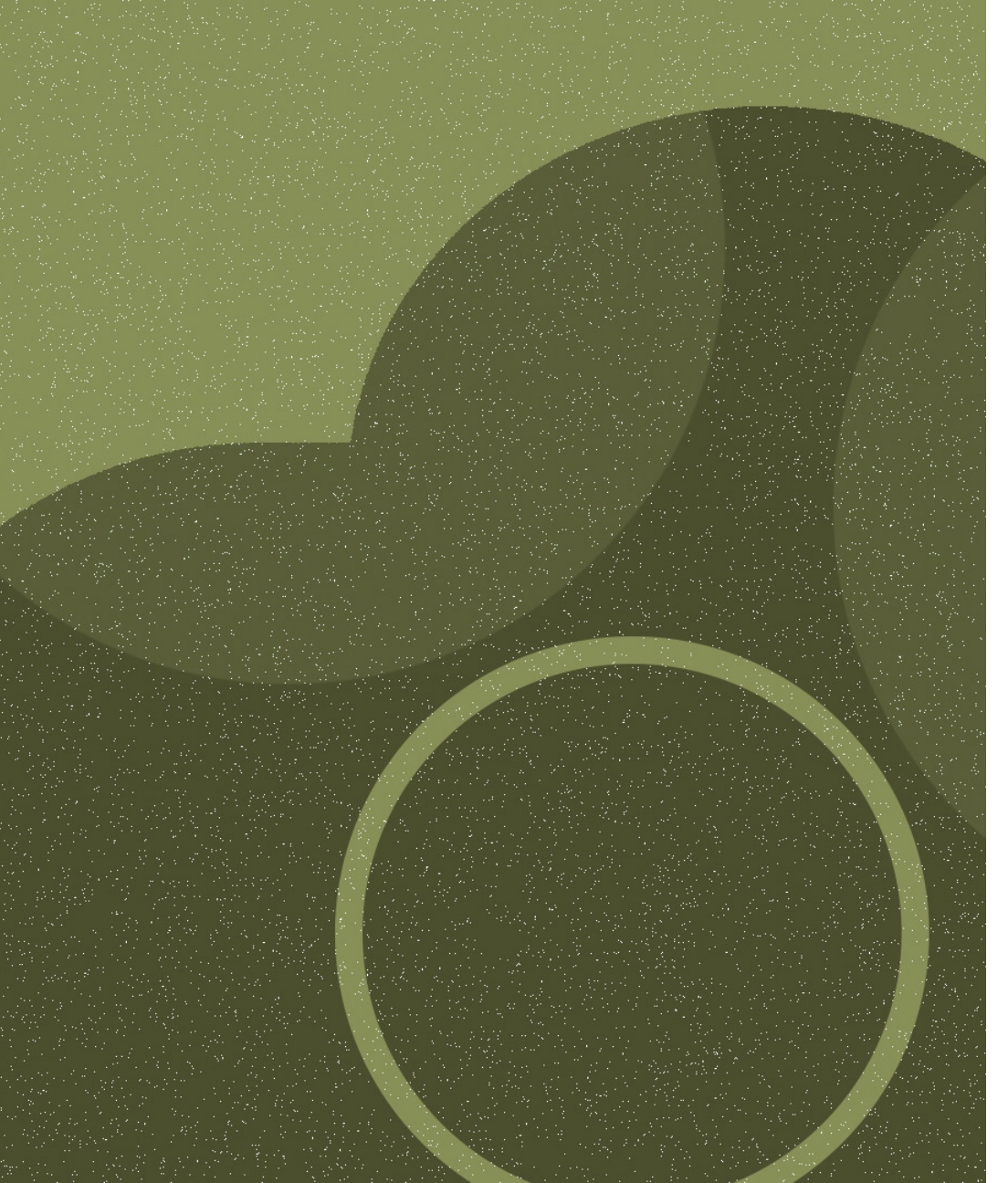
Matthew 27:1–61

TALK WITH YOUR FAMILY

God is loving; He always does what is best. Today is the day that Jesus died on the cross to save sinners. Even though Jesus lived a perfect life and never sinned, He willingly chose to die a terrible death to pay the punishment for sin. He was hit, spit on, beaten and hung on a cross. Jesus let this happen to save sinners.

ACTIVITY

Wait until evening to read together as a family and light a candle. After you finish reading the Jesus Storybook Bible or Scripture, blow out the candle. Be quiet for as long as you can as a family (even if this is just one minute). Explain that even though Jesus had to die, His friends were sad. Even though we know how the story ends, we always remember Good Friday as a sad and dark day in history. End by reading Romans 5:8.



Saturday

WATCH

God's Messenger



READ

Together as a family read
"God's Messenger"
(Jesus Storybook Bible, pg. 160)
and Matthew 27:62–66.

TALK WITH YOUR FAMILY

God wants to talk with us! Throughout the Bible, God had given His children clues about who the Savior was and about His resurrection! One of them is found in the book of Jonah. Just like Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and then rescued, Jesus would be rescued, or resurrected, from the grave on the third day! But Jesus' disciples didn't yet understand; they were sad and were waiting to see what would happen next.

ACTIVITY

Make a promise to your children and then ask them to wait for it. Perhaps it is to bake cookies, to go on a family date or play tag outside. Promise them that you will do that activity, and then wait as long as you can to fulfill that promise (that could be hard)! After you do the promised activity, ask them a few questions. How did it feel to wait? Did you believe that I would keep my promise? Explain that Jesus told His disciples that He would rise again. Just like we had a hard time waiting and trusting, it must have been hard for the disciples to wait for and trust that Jesus would rise from the dead.



Sunday

Easter Sunday

WATCH

God's Wonderful Surprise



PRESCHOOL

READ

"God's Wonderful Surprise"
(Jesus Storybook Bible, pg. 310)

ELEMENTARY

READ

Matthew 28:1–20

TALK WITH YOUR FAMILY

He is risen! Jesus is alive! Jesus came to save sinners, and He died on the cross, but He did not stay dead! God is almighty! Nothing is too hard for Him, not even rising from the dead. Jesus beat sin on the cross, and He beat death as He rose from the grave! Rejoice that Jesus is alive!

ACTIVITY

In our Preschool Ministry, we give kids 3 and older an Easter Bag. Talk through the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection using the storybook and the contents provided. Proclaim the truth that Jesus came to save sinners!

CITIZENS
KIDS