

# Holy Week Family Discipleship Guide

## Palm Sunday – March 28, 2021

**Watch:** [The Triumphant Entry](#)

**Read:**

- **Preschool:** “The King of All Kings” (*Jesus Storybook Bible*, pg. 192)
- **Elementary:** Matthew 21:1–11

**Talk about:** 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’ Triumphant 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 – March 29, 2021

**Read:**

- **Preschool:** “Operation ‘No More Tears’” (*Jesus Storybook Bible*, pg. 144)
- **Elementary:** Matthew 21:12–22

**Talk about:** 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, 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:** Have your child draw a picture of a table and glue or tape a few pennies on the picture of the table. Talk about how only God deserves glory and write, “Only God Deserves Glory” at the top of the paper. Write, “My house shall be called a house of prayer” from Matthew 21:13 underneath the picture of the table.

## Tuesday – March 30, 2021

**Read:**

- **Preschool:** “Treasure Hunt!” (*Jesus Storybook Bible*, pg. 250)
- **Elementary:** Matthew 21:23–26:5 (focus on 25:14–30 & 26:1–5)

**Talk about:** 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. While He was in Jerusalem, Jesus taught in the temple while the Pharisees and Sadducees plotted to kill Him.

**Activity:** Make up a story together as a family! One person begins a story (ex. “Once upon a time...”). Go around in a circle taking turns adding details to the story. 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. Jesus came to earth to die on a cross so that one day all who love and trust in Jesus would live in His kingdom forever!

## Wednesday – March 31, 2021

**Watch:** [Washed With Tears](#)

**Read:**

- **Preschool:** “Washed With Tears” (*Jesus Storybook Bible*, pg. 280)
- **Elementary:** Matthew 26:6–16

**Talk about:** 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.

## Maundy Thursday – April 1, 2021

**Watch:** [The Last Supper](#), [Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet](#), [The Servant King](#)

**Read:**

- **Preschool:** “The Servant King” (*Jesus Storybook Bible*, pg. 286)
- **Elementary:** Matthew 26:17–75; John 13:1–17

**Talk about:** 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.

**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 (use whatever sort of “cracker and juice” you have!) and talk about what the elements of communion represent. Use this “[Talking With Your Kids About Communion](#)” resource if you need help!

## Good Friday – April 2, 2021

**We encourage your family to attend our Good Friday Service at 7 pm. Keep an eye out on social media for registration.**

**Watch:** [Jesus' Sacrifice](#), [The Sun Stops Shining](#)

**Read:**

- **Preschool:** "The Sun Stops Shining" (*Jesus Storybook Bible*, pg. 302)
- **Elementary:** Matthew 27:1–61

**Talk about:** 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 never sinned and lived a perfect life, 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 – April 3, 2021

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

**Talk about:** 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 too 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, eat ice cream 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 how it felt to wait. Explain that Jesus told His disciples that He would rise again but just like them, sometimes it was hard to believe or understand.

## Easter Sunday – April 4, 2021

**Watch:** [God's Wonderful Surprise](#)

**Read:**

- **Preschool:** "God's Wonderful Surprise" (*Jesus Storybook Bible*, pg. 310)
- **Elementary:** Matthew 28:1–20

**Talk about:** 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:** Celebrate that Jesus has risen! Check out our [Pinterest page](#) for lots of ideas on how to celebrate that Jesus is alive!!