

Holy Week Family Guide

Parents, please use these scriptures and activities to help prepare your family for Easter.

April 5 Palm Sunday – Matthew 21: 1-11

The Sunday before Easter is called Palm Sunday because as Jesus entered Jerusalem, His followers waved palm branches to greet Him. They shouted “Hosanna” which was a word the Hebrew people used to praise God. It means “Save us now.”

Activity – Make a paper chain of praise. Give each family member 3 strips of paper and have them write a praise to God on each strip. Connect the strips together. Read the praise statements together and then pray thanking God for Jesus.

April 6 Monday – Matthew 22:34-40

After Jesus came to Jerusalem, He went to the temple to teach the people. Jesus told the people to love God with all their heart and then to love other people. The Bible tells us in John 14:15 that if we really love God, we will obey His teachings.

Activity – Have each family member write a prayer or draw a picture telling God how much you love Him. Then plan an activity to do together that will show someone you love them. Suggestions: make a card, bake some cookies and leave at the door, call and check on an elderly neighbor

April 7 Tuesday – Mark 12:41-44

Today you read about a widow who gave all her money to help others. What can you do as a family to help others know about Jesus? Pray and Give

Activity – Talk about the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Go to anniearmstrong.com and read about the work of our North American Missionaries. Pray for the following church planters.

1. Dave and Mary Elliff – Seattle, Washington
2. Rob and Annabeth Wilton – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
3. J.D. and Andreina Fasolino – Toronto, Canada

Don't forget to use your dime wrapper to collect dimes for your offering!

April 8 Wednesday – John 12:1-11

Today you read about a woman who gave all she had to show Jesus that she loved Him. Her actions were not understood by other people, but Jesus was pleased by what she did. Jesus wants us to love Him above all people and things.

Activity – Discuss what you can do to show Jesus you love Him.

1. If you do not have family devotion time, this would be a great time to start. What better way to show Jesus you love Him than to spend time with Him?
2. Think of someone who needs to hear the good news of Jesus and tell them! What better way to show Jesus you love Him than to tell others about Him?

April 9 Maundy Thursday – John 13:1-17 Matthew 26:17-30

The word “maundy” comes from the Latin word that means command. This was a busy day for Jesus. He washed His disciple's feet as He commanded them to serve others. He ate the Passover meal with the disciples and commanded them to always remember Him. We, too, should serve and remember Him.

Activity – Each family member can think of a way to serve someone.

1. Children can serve their parents by cleaning their rooms. Hebrew families cleaned their house before Passover.
2. Make a list of those who serve you in the community and do something for them. (Teachers, Police, Firemen, Postal Carriers, Waste Management)

Additional activity - Read the Passover account in Exodus 12.

April 10 Good Friday – Children: Matthew 27:11-57 Preschool: Mark 10:13-16

The word “good” does not seem to fit this day because Jesus suffered and died on the Cross for things He did not do. It is good because Jesus loved us enough to take our place. Our sins separate us from God but are forgiven when we ask Him to be our Savior and Lord. He died on the Cross so that we can have eternal life. Have you accepted His gift of salvation?

- Preschoolers need to know that they are special to Jesus and that He loves them. Later the Holy Spirit will reveal to them the extent of Jesus’ love for them demonstrated by His death on the Cross.

Activity – Family members who have accepted Christ can share their testimony. Children need to hear their parent’s testimony.

- Preschool – Make eggshell mosaics by crushing eggshells and dyeing them. Create an Easter picture using glue and the eggshells.

April 11 Saturday – Matthew 27:62-66 Luke 23:54-56

The day after Jesus was crucified was a time of waiting. The leaders waited in fear to see if Jesus would rise again or if His disciples would steal His body. The disciples and women waited in sadness as they prepared spices to take to the tomb. Everyone was just waiting.

Waiting is a hard part of life. We wait with excitement for Christmas and birthday parties. We wait for summer vacations. Sometimes, waiting is hard because we want to feel better when we are sick.

Other times waiting is sad because someone we love has died and we know things will be different.

God always has a reason when He asks us to wait. We can count on Him to keep His promise.

Tomorrow, you will see why it was worth the wait for His disciples and the women!

Activity – Google a recipe for Easter Story Cookies and make them. Experience what it means to wait.

April 12 Easter Sunday - Matthew 28:1-10 **HE IS RISEN!**

A big surprise waited for the women and Jesus’ disciples as they came to the place where Jesus was buried. Jesus had kept His promise because He was alive and no longer in the tomb. How happy they were to see Jesus! We can be happy also that Jesus is alive and wants to live in us. Even today He is preparing a place for us to be with Him forever. Celebrate Jesus today and every day!

Activity – 1. As a family, worship together today.

2. Google Jesus Is Risen Rolls and make some for lunch.

3. If you have an Easter egg hunt, fill some of the eggs with parts of a Bible verse and put them in order.

4. Think of people who need to know that Jesus is Alive and pray for them.

It is my prayer that FBC is instrumental in spiritually strengthening your family and I am privileged to serve the Risen Savior with you!