

# Easter

*A Family Guide to Holy Week*





# A Walk-Through of Jesus' Life.

*April 2 - 9*

During Easter, we celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus our Savior. These daily devotions are intended to encourage us to open your Bibles, discuss the scripture, pray and participate in activities that will build on what we discuss in this guide each day together.

This guide is a resource for you and your family to celebrate Easter intentionally. Anything you can do to point your family to Jesus will make all the difference. You'll find daily activities to complement each devotion but use it however it works best for you. For example, you may find that simply slowing down long enough to read the Bible Story and discuss the *Talk About It* section fits this season.

Let's celebrate Jesus – His words, His love, His sacrifice, His life and His death. Then rejoice in the most amazing event ever – His resurrection!

## *Worship Music*

***Hallelujah*** – Hillsong Worship

***Way Maker*** – Leeland

***Living Hope*** – Phil Wickham

***Shout to the Lord*** – What a Beautiful Name

***At the Cross*** – Hillsong

***All my Hope*** – Crowder featuring Tauren Wells Forever- Kari Jobe

***Hosanna*** – Hillsong United

***How Great is Our God*** – Hillsong Worship

***Glorious Day*** – Passion featuring Kristin Stanfill

***Nailed to the Cross*** – Rend Collective

***How Great Thou Art*** – Hillsong



April 2

*Palm Sunday*

*Jesus is Welcomed with Praise*

Jesus is Worthy of our Praise.

*Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!*

Luke 19:38 (NIRV)

*Read About It*

Luke 19:28-40 (NIRV)

*Make the Point*

On Palm Sunday, we often say and hear the word *Hosanna*, but what does it mean?

It's much more than a simple cheer like, hooray! The word *Hosanna* is an expression of adoration, praise and joy. It tells us that Jesus and what He has done for us is worthy of adoration, praise and joy!

Many years ago, on what we now call *Palm Sunday*, people lined the streets waving palm branches and throwing their coats down, shouting, *Hosanna! Hosanna!* as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people did this because they knew the Promised Savior (*The Messiah*) had finally come! They hoped Jesus would save them from the Romans because they didn't truly understand what Jesus had come to do for them. So, today we shout, *Hosanna!* because we know that Jesus has saved us from our sins!

For those who follow Jesus, this serves as a reminder to welcome Jesus into our hearts and be willing to follow Him.

## *Talk About It*

- Why were so many people excited to see Jesus?
- The people were praising God by shouting and singing.  
What's your favorite way to praise God?  
What are some other ways we can praise Him?
- Why should we praise Jesus?

## *Pray About It*

As a family, pray and praise God for His goodness and grace. Thank Him for Jesus and His amazing love.

## *Do Something About It*

Praise Jesus together as a family. You can sing songs or turn up some worship music loud and dance around the house together.

If you play instruments, you can pull those out and have a family music night, singing songs to Jesus.

You can sit under the stars and admire God's creation or think about what you're thankful for and draw pictures of them or say them out loud.

No matter how you get your praise on, spend time praising God together.

# April 3

## *Jesus' Last Supper*

Jesus is the New Covenant.

*Every time you eat it, do this in memory of Me.*

Luke 22:19 (NirV)

### *Read About It*

Luke 22:7-27 (NirV) • John 13:1-17 (NirV)

### *Make the Point*

The four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, give an account of the Last Supper.

On the night before He was arrested, Jesus and His disciples were gathered to celebrate the Jewish holiday of Passover (*also known as the day of Unleavened Bread*) by sharing the Passover meal together. This was the last meal they shared and would become known as *The Last Supper* or *The Lord's Supper*. Jesus' final meal with His disciples was (*and still is*) significant because Jesus shared with His followers that the Passover Lamb of Exodus was only a hint to something better to come—Jesus Himself—the true Lamb of God! Just as the Passover Lamb was sacrificed to protect the Israelites from God's judgment in Exodus, Jesus was to be sacrificed as well by dying on the cross for our sins.

During this final meal, Jesus used the food and drink at the table to teach His disciples an important lesson that we now call Communion. Jesus took bread and broke it into smaller pieces saying, "*This is My body that will be broken for you.*" Then He picked up the drink and said, "*This is My blood that will be spilled for you.*" The disciples were confused. They didn't understand that Jesus was trying to warn them that He would soon be arrested, beaten and hung on a cross to die.

Jesus' death had to happen so He could pay for our sins. He was choosing to do this for our sake. Communion represents what Jesus did for us. So, at church, we use bread or crackers to remind us that His body was broken for us, and we drink juice to remember that His blood paid for our sins. We do this to remember His sacrifice and what that means to us!

### *Talk About It*

- This was a very significant meal for Jesus and His disciples. Why do you think it was so important?
- Why do you think it was hard for Jesus' disciples to understand what Jesus was trying to tell them at the Last Supper?

### *Pray About It*

As a family, pray and thank God for Jesus. You each can remember Him on special days like Easter. Ask Him to help you focus on the sacrifice Jesus made for each of us.

### *Do Something About It*

#### **Family Last Supper Celebration**

Have a Last Supper Meal as a family. Break bread together, talk through this story, and remember the significance of what Jesus did. (*Details and ideas for this special meal are in the Other Resources on page 20.*)

# April 4

## *Prayer in the Garden*

Jesus was obedient, even when it was hard.

*“Abba, Father,” He said, “everything is possible for You. Take this cup of suffering away from Me. But let what You want be done, not what I want.*

Mark 14:36 (NirV)

### *Read About It*

Matthew 26:36-46 (NirV) • Mark 14:32-42 (NirV)

### *Make the Point*

Jesus knew He was about to be betrayed, arrested and crucified. He was troubled, yet He still chose to spend His final moments praying to His Father. He understood that the events taking place were part of God’s plan. Jesus prayed, fully submitting to the plan God had for Him.

### *Talk About It*

- Why was Jesus sad and asking His friends to stay nearby?
- Did Jesus think prayer was important? How do you know?
- Why do you think it’s important for us to pray?

### *Pray About It*

God,

Thank You for sending Jesus to earth. Thank You for the example Jesus gave us all so that even in times of great distress, we can talk to You and be comforted.

## *Do Something About It*

Write a different scenario on five plastic cups (examples: a thunderstorm, changing schools, speaking to a restaurant server, going to a party where you don't know anyone). Then, stack the cups in a pyramid on a table.

Invite one family member to read **Philippians 4:6-7 (NirV)**. Then, lead each person to knock over the cups with a ball. The number of cups knocked over will direct the person's response to one of the situations provided below.

An even number of cups fall: Describe a fearful response.

An odd number of cups fall: Describe a courageous response.

All cups are knocked over: Choose another person to respond.

Talk about the importance of recognizing a situation and choosing to respond with courage and faith. Remember that we can always pray to God no matter the situation, and He hears us.

# April 5

## *Peter's Denial*

God will forgive me if I ask Him for forgiveness.

*Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said. "The rooster will crow," Jesus had told him. "Before it does, you will say three times that you don't know Me." Peter went outside. He broke down and cried.*

Matthew 26:75 (NirV)

### *Read About It*

Matthew 26:69-75 (NirV) • John 18:15-18, 21:15-17, 25-27 (NirV)

### *Make the Point*

Jesus knew that Peter loved Him and that Peter wanted to follow and obey God. But Jesus also knew Peter's faithfulness would fail. Following Jesus requires devotion, even when it's difficult.

Peter slept through Jesus' prayer time in the garden, so he wasn't prepared to deal with Jesus' arrest and death because he hadn't spent time with God in prayer. As a result, he overestimated himself and underestimated his weakness. He was also afraid.

We see Jesus in the garden as the perfect example of what to do when we're afraid: pray and spend time being comforted by God so that you're fully able to trust God.

We see Peter as the perfect example of what NOT to do: sleeping instead of praying and trusting in ourselves and our strength even though we've been warned. Peter was convicted not only because he denied Jesus but because Jesus gave him everything he needed to avoid doing it in the first place. When Peter realized his sin, he wept. He knew he'd hurt Jesus, and Peter felt great sorrow. He asked for forgiveness and received it.

## *Talk About It*

- Jesus told Peter he would deny Him before it even happened. What does this tell us about Jesus?
- Do you think Jesus still loved Peter even after Peter denied Him three times? Why or why not?
- How did Peter feel after he denied Jesus? How should we respond when we are convicted of sin? How does God respond when we confess our sins to Him?

## *Pray About It*

Jesus,

We want to love and obey You, but we sin. Like Peter's sin, our sin hurts our relationship with You and brings sorrow. Help us repent and grow to live more like Jesus instead.

## *Do Something About It*

Set up an obstacle course with household items (chairs, tables, stuffed animals, etc.). Then choose one person to be blindfolded and another to call out directions to help them complete the obstacle course.

Play again with other family members, changing the course after the player's been blindfolded (so they cannot see the new obstacles). Continue playing with new family members blindfolded and others calling out directions.

Discuss how challenging it is to navigate an obstacle course when you can't see where you're going.

Ask what the blindfolded family members had to rely on instead of themselves (the caller's directions).

Remind your kids that no matter what obstacles they face, Jesus will always be there to guide them. He is God the Son and is in complete control of everything.

Talk about how we can respond to difficult circumstances in ways that demonstrate our faith in God and belief that He is in control of all things.

# April 6

## *The Trial of Jesus*

Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.

*But with loud shouts they kept calling for Jesus to be crucified. The people's shouts won out. So, Pilate decided to give them what they wanted.*

**Luke 23: 23-24 (NIRV)**

### *Read About It*

**Luke 23:1-25 (NIRV)**

### *Make the Point*

After He was arrested, a group of Jewish leaders (*called the Sanhedrin*) claimed that Jesus was lying about being the Son of God. They said He was claiming to be King of the Jews and that He wasn't.

They did not believe Jesus was the Son of God even though Jesus had done many things to show them that He was. The Roman governor, Pilate, who was over the trial, could find no evidence to arrest or kill Jesus, but he was afraid of the Jewish leaders and what they might do if he didn't give them what they wanted. So, even though the charges against Jesus weren't true, Pilate gave Jesus over to the Jewish leaders and condemned Him to death by crucifixion.

### *Talk About It*

- Do you know what it means to mock someone?
- Jesus was arrested and put on trial like a criminal. Was Jesus a criminal? Did He do anything wrong?
- Do you think they were fair to Jesus?
- Jesus was perfect. He lived a sinless life. So why did God allow Him to be punished by dying on the cross?

## *Pray About It*

Pray as a family and ask God to help you understand more about Jesus and His sacrifice for you. Ask that God causes each of you to deeply appreciate all that Jesus did for us.

## *Do Something About It*

**SAY:** Wow! This is a sad story. Jesus endured much pain and suffering, and He didn't even defend Himself. He let them tell lies about Him and treat Him like a criminal.

He didn't respond because He wanted everyone to know that He was dying willingly for our sins! The religious leaders even made fun of Jesus, calling Him the *King of the Jews*. Was Jesus the King of the Jews? (*Allow time for them to respond.*) Yes! He is our King too.

**ASK:** Why do you think these men didn't believe in Jesus? (*Allow time for them to respond.*)

Even though the religious leaders had seen Jesus perform many miracles, they chose to ignore them. They didn't want to see or hear the truth of God because that would mean admitting that they were wrong. So instead, they became jealous of Jesus and wanted to get rid of Him.

Let's play a game that will help us better understand. Play *Simon Says* with your kids. Allow them to take turns and play a few rounds.

**SAY:** In this game, you have to do what Simon says. In the same way, people who are enslaved to their masters have to obey them. Before we believe in Jesus, before God changes our hearts, we are enslaved to our sins. It's like we always have to follow our sinful thoughts. Everything within us wants to disobey God.

**SAY:** Jesus allowed these men to mock Him, spit on and beat Him. He could have stopped them at any time, but He chose to suffer and die so that we may be set free from our sins.

# April 7

## *Good Friday - Jesus is Crucified*

Jesus died for us.

*Jesus said, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing."  
The soldiers divided up his clothes by casting lots.*

Luke 23:34 (NIRV)

### *Read About It*

Matthew 27:62-66 • Luke 23:26-48 • John 19:1-42 (NIRV)

### *Make the Point*

When Adam and Eve first sinned in the garden, we all became separated from God. God is Holy. This means that He is perfect and clean in every way. Because of that, our sin separates us from Him. But God loves us and would do anything to not be separated from us. He longs to be close to us. Throughout the Bible, we see that God had a plan to be close to us again, and that plan was Jesus!

Jesus's crucifixion (*the way Jesus died on the cross*) took place to pay for our sins. We're all sinners, but because Jesus lived a sinless life and chose to die in our place, we can have a personal relationship with God! God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die as the ultimate and final sacrifice for our sin. So today, let's celebrate Jesus and the good gift He's given to everyone who believes in Him.

Good Friday certainly didn't seem good. Jesus was given over to Roman soldiers to be killed. They made fun of Him, spit on Him and beat Him before nailing Him to a wooden cross. At noon, the sky became as dark as the night. The day ended with Jesus dead and buried.

How could this have been a good day? Jesus, who had never sinned Himself, had to take the punishment we all deserved to save us from separation from God. He died a terrible death, and for the first and only time in all eternity, God the Father turned His back on His Son.

Jesus' death separated Him from God so that we would no longer have to be separated from God.

That's why we call today Good Friday. Because while at first glance, it does seem like the worst day ever, God had a plan that didn't end on that Friday. We see that 3 days later, God raised Jesus from death to life again. And because of this, we can rejoice! Hallelujah!

### *Talk About It*

- How did reading this story make you feel?
- Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." What do you think about that?
- Many people made fun of Jesus while He was on the cross. They said, *He saved others...let Him save Himself if He is God's Messiah, the Chosen One (vs. 35)*. Why didn't Jesus save Himself? Could He have?
- This was a very sad day. Jesus died. How do you think His family and friends felt?
- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die on the cross?
- Why did Jesus have to die?

### *Pray About It*

As a family, pray and thank God for Jesus and all He suffered when He was hurt and then died on the cross.

He could have saved Himself - He was God, after all - but He chose to die because that was the only way to bring hope and life to our lost and broken world.

Thank Him for doing this for you.

### *Do Something About It*

Take some time to dwell on the questions above. This can be a deep subject, so make sure you've taken time to talk it through as a family. If there are areas you're unsure how to address, ask for help. It is okay not to know all the answers but seek them out.

# April 8

## *Jesus is Buried*

Jesus' body is prepared for burial.

*"Take some guards with you," Pilate answered.  
"Go. Make the tomb as secure as you can."*

Matthew 27:65 (NIRV)

### *Read About It*

Matthew 27:51-66 (NIRV)

### *Make the Point*

Without Jesus' death on the cross, we'd never be able to enjoy the close, personal relationship with God that we can have now. The cross was part of God's plan from the moment sin first entered the world. But what happened after Jesus died on the cross?

On the evening of Jesus' death, a man named Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and boldly asked for the body of Jesus. He and another man named Nicodemus prepared the body for burial according to Jewish custom, placed it into Joseph's tomb, and rolled a stone in front of it.

Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James, had followed Joseph and Nicodemus. They sat near the tomb and witnessed where Jesus' body had been placed. It was a very sad day for all of them. Then the women went home to prepare spices and ointments to bring back to Jesus' tomb. Even in death, people loved Jesus and wanted to ensure His body was cared for according to Jewish tradition.

When the Jewish religious leaders found out Jesus had been buried, they went to Pilate and persuaded him to place soldiers at Jesus' tomb so no one would steal His body and say Jesus had been resurrected. But, as we will soon see, nothing could stop God's plan!

## *Talk About It*

- What's the Sabbath?
- How do we know that Jesus died on a Friday? See **Matthew 27:62 (NirV)**. Jesus died on a Friday, the day before Saturday, the Sabbath. The Day of Preparation is what we call this Friday because it's the day when people prepare for the Sabbath.
- How do you think Jesus' friends felt as they prepared Him for burial?

## *Pray About It*

As a family, thank God for those around you who love you. Thank Him for the people who loved Jesus. Ask Him to help you love others as He loves them.

## *Do Something About It*

### **Jesus Died for You!**

Use the letters from the Other Resources section on page 31 to do this activity. Hide the letters. You can do a blind hunt or use *you're getting hotter or colder* to help them find the letters. Once the letters are found, use the numbers at the bottom of each letter to find the corresponding box to write the letter in to complete the page.

# April 9

## *Jesus is Alive!*

Jesus did what no one else could.

*He is not here! He has risen, just as He said he would!*

**Matthew 28:6 (NirV)**

### *Read About It*

**Read Matthew 28 (NirV)**

### *Make the Point*

Jesus died on the cross to provide forgiveness for our sins. However, just as He had predicted, He did not stay dead. 3 days later, Jesus rose from the grave. Jesus paid the price for our sins, defeating death and sin. We can celebrate that God brought Jesus back to life and that Jesus is alive today!

Jesus' followers didn't understand that He had to die to fulfill God's plan for salvation. His death saddened them. And even though Jesus had tried to tell them, they didn't understand the next part of the plan either: that He would come alive again.

Death wasn't the end of Jesus' story! It isn't the end of our story either. Jesus rose again and went to Heaven, and He promised that those who believe in Him would do the same. This is wonderful news!

The story of Easter marks the grand finale of God's plan for our salvation. But it also opens the next part of His plan, where we help spread the Good News that God made a way for us to live with Him forever.

For the next 40 days, the resurrected Savior, Jesus, appeared to many people teaching, touching and eating. He was not a figment of their imaginations or just a story. He was real! He told them to share the Good News of His death and resurrection with everyone in the world. And then, right before their eyes, He ascended (*rose up*) into Heaven. His disciples were alone again. But instead of being sad or terrified, they returned to Jerusalem rejoicing. See **Luke 24:50-52 (NirV)**.

Why the difference? The difference was that they finally understood what Jesus had come to do, and they knew that Jesus was alive in Heaven and had promised to be with them. His promise filled them with joy and confidence! How are you sharing the Easter story?

### *Talk About It*

- Verse 8 says that the women were very *frightened but also filled with great joy*. Why were they frightened? And why were they filled with joy?
- The angel said, *He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as He said would happen*. Jesus told His followers that He would die and rise from the dead. And He did! Jesus did what He said He would do. Why is this important?
- Even after Jesus appeared to His disciples, verse 17 says *some of them doubted*. Why do you think some people doubted that He rose from the dead? Do people today still doubt this?
- In verses 19-20, Jesus gives us an important job: He tells us to go and tell others about Him. Whom can you tell about Jesus?
- Jesus said, *I am with you always*. How does that make you feel? How does that help you as you go and tell others about Jesus?

### *Pray About It*

As a family, pray and thank God for sending His Son, Jesus. Thank Him that Jesus died for us and that He didn't stay dead...that He rose again and is alive today! Ask Him to help you tell others this great news.

### *Do Something About It*

Bake some Resurrection Rolls together. The recipe is in the *Other Resources* section on page 34. These are fun and tasty treats that illustrate Jesus' resurrection.

# April 10

## *Jesus Appears*

**They saw Him and believed.**

*She saw two angels dressed in white. They were seated where Jesus' body had been. One of them was where Jesus' head had been laid. The other sat where his feet had been placed.*

**John 20:12 (NirV)**

### *Read About It*

**John 20:1-31 (NirV)**

### *Make the Point*

Jesus appeared after His death to Mary Magdalene, His disciples and, of course, to Thomas. Thomas gets a lot of grief for doubting, but Jesus was good to him.

Jesus said there would be people who never saw Him but would still believe that He rose from the dead. And those people will be blessed by God because they believe in Jesus.

Who are those people that Jesus is talking about? That's right. Us!

We've never seen Jesus, but we still believe in Him. It's because we believe in Jesus that we're able to know God personally.

Before Jesus came, those who believed in God could only hear what God had to say through someone else, called a priest, and they'd would have to stand in long lines at the place they went to worship God, called the temple (like a church), to give sacrifices to God every single time they sinned. But because Jesus came as the ultimate sacrifice, we can now enjoy direct access to God.

We can talk or pray to God any time, and He hears us. When we sin, all we have to do is pray and ask God to forgive us, and He does! And one day, we'll live forever and ever with Him in Heaven for all eternity.

## *Talk About It*

- How did Jesus come in when the door was locked?
- Why would Jesus show them His hands and side?
- What's Jesus sending us to do?
- Why did Thomas call *Jesus Lord and God*? Isn't there only one God? (There are three parts of the one God: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They're all fully God and all fully individuals. See **John 20:29 (NirV)**. Like an apple, it has skin, meat and seeds. They all have different jobs but are still part of an apple.)

## *Pray About It*

As a family, pray and thank Jesus for living as the ultimate example of how we should live our lives. Thank Him for dying on the cross to serve as the ultimate sacrifice to take the punishment for our sin. Pray that He helps us have faith in Him and live our lives in a way that's pleasing to God.

## *Do Something About It*

### **Jesus Appears!**

Find a simple picture online of Jesus. Then lay a clean sheet of paper over the printed one and use a white crayon to trace the face. Then use watercolors and a brush and paint the entire page. Jesus will appear on the paper as He did to His disciples after the Resurrection.

# OTHER RESOURCES

## April 3

### *Family Night Idea: A Last Supper Meal*

Have a Last Supper together as a remembrance of Jesus. Bake unleavened bread (*see recipe below*), and drink wine (sparkling grape juice). Slow down and remember what Jesus did. Pull out your Bibles, read about the first Passover, and talk about the significance of the Passover meal and the sacrifice of the lambs. Then read about Jesus' last meal with His disciples. Read His Words. Break the bread. Drink the juice. Pray. Remember.

### *Before Dinner Preparations*

Wash one another's feet. Get a bowl of water and a washcloth, kneel by your children, and wash their feet. This may seem silly or strange at first since feet-washing isn't part of our culture, but kneeling and washing one another's feet provides a great visual connection to the story. It helps us experience the story, which helps leave a lasting impression in our memory.

As you wash their feet, share the story of how Jesus washed His disciples' feet at the Last Supper and how He told them, *I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So, you also should wash one another's feet. I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you.* **John 13:14-15 (NIRV).**

This was an act of service, a humbling act of love. And He wants us, His followers, to follow His example and serve others in the same way. Talk about ways you can wash the feet of people around you. How can you serve others as a family?

### *Last Supper Family Meal*

At the Last Supper with His disciples, Jesus told them *to do this to remember Me*. Traditions hold a special significance as they allow us to remember important moments. So, as a family, create traditions that have significance, that point your hearts to something, to someone to help you remember.

In **Luke 22**, Jesus and His disciples had the Passover Meal together. The Passover Meal was important, full of symbolism, and full of significance. It helped them remember. They remembered where they came from, remembered how God rescued them from slavery in Egypt, remembered how God made a way where there was no way and remembered how the blood on the doorposts saved their children from the curse. Passover. A meal that helped them remember.

Everything that the Passover was, everything that it pointed to, everything that it symbolized, Jesus fulfilled as the New Covenant. Everything was fulfilled when His body was broken, and His blood was poured. When we break the bread representing His body and pour the drink representing His blood, we remember where we came from, how God rescued us from sin and death, and how Jesus made a way where there was no way. We remember that HIS blood covers our sin and saves us from the curse of death.

### *Before the Meal*

#### **Bake Unleavened Bread**

Invite the kids to join in and help mix and bake (*see the recipe on page 24*). Unleavened bread is generally used because of its reference to the Jews quickly escaping Egypt with no time for their bread to rise.

### *Prepare the Table*

This is a special meal, so decorate the table in a special way. You can add the *Remember Me* printable on page 29 to the table. Then add candles, flowers, or any other decorations you'd like. If your Jesus Reminders fit on your table, it would make a great centerpiece.

### *Prepare a Meal*

You can bake a chicken with some veggies or whatever meal your family enjoys. Just remember the sparkling grape juice.

Your Last Supper dinner might look different than others, and that's okay. Keep it simple for now (by including foods not commonly found in a Last Supper meal). Then, as children grow older, incorporate more foods typically served, such as bitter herbs, herbed rice or couscous and fish.

Sparkling Grape Juice -This modified symbol reminds us that we'll be made clean and pure because of Christ's blood spilled for us.

### *At the Meal*

Read about the first Passover – **Exodus 11:1-12:30 (NIRV)**

*(You can read the entire passage or choose a few verses to explain the story: **Exodus 11:4-6, 12:3, 5-7, 12-13, 17**)*

In Exodus, the Bible tells us that God helped the Israelites escape slavery in Egypt by inflicting 10 plagues upon the Egyptians before the Pharaoh would finally release the Jews. The tenth and worst of the plagues was the death of all the firstborn children in Egypt. The Israelites were told to mark the doorposts of their homes with the blood of a lamb, and upon seeing this, the Spirit of the Lord knew to pass over the firstborns in these homes. When the Pharaoh freed the Israelites, they left so hurriedly that they could not wait for their bread dough to rise. In remembrance, for the duration of Passover, there is no leavened bread.

The Passover was a special time each year that helped the Jews remember how God helped them escape slavery in Egypt and how the blood of a spotless Lamb saved them from death.

Read about Jesus' Last Supper in **Luke 22:7-20 (NIRV)**.

### *Bread*

*Then Jesus took bread. He gave thanks and broke it. He handed it to them and said, "This is My body. It is given for you. Every time you eat it, do this in memory of Me." **Luke 22:19 (NIRV)***

After you read these words, pray and thank God for it, then break the bread and eat it together.

Eat the unleavened bread to remind you that the Israelites did not have time to wait for the yeast to rise because they had to be ready to move when God called. For followers today, it reminds us to live ready to go when the call comes. Like a thief in the night, Jesus will return, and we will all go home.

**Say:** We eat unleavened bread because tonight we remember Jesus, by whose stripes we are healed. Yeast leavens, or puffs up, as pride and sin inflate our hearts. Yeast reminds us of the words from this passage:

*Don't you know that just a little yeast makes the whole batch of dough rise?*

*Get rid of the old yeast. Then you can be like a new batch of dough without yeast. That is what you really are. That's because Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been offered up for us. So let us keep the Feast, but not with the old bread made with yeast. The yeast I'm talking about is hatred and evil. Let us keep the Feast with bread made without yeast. Let us keep it with bread that is honesty and truth.* **1 Corinthians 5:6-8 (NirV)**

Tonight, we eat unleavened bread, bread without yeast, to remember that Jesus was without sin. Then, we break the bread to remember that Jesus was broken for us all.

## *Drink*

**Say:** *In the same way, after the supper He took the cup. He said, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. It is poured out for you."*

**Luke 22:20 (NirV)**

After you read these words, pour the grape juice, and drink it together. *Without the spilling of blood, no one can be forgiven.*

**Hebrews 9:22 (NirV)**

We drink this juice, representing the voluntary sacrifice of Jesus, God's own gift of a perfect Lamb, for our sins so that punishment may pass us over. And because of His blood, we have new life in Christ.

Because of His crucifixion, we have symbolically been passed over by the shedding of His blood.

We celebrate the Last Supper or Passover today to remember how God saved the Jews from slavery in Egypt and how He has saved us from the bondage of sin and death by sending His Son, Jesus, as the ultimate and final Passover Lamb who sacrificed so that sin and death may pass over all who believe in Him.

## *Prayer*

After eating this special meal together, say a prayer. Thank God for Jesus, the spotless lamb. Jesus, who died so that we could be saved. Thank Him for His body and His blood. Thank Him for His grace and His mercy. Thank Him for His love and His forgiveness.

## *Unleavened Bread Recipe*

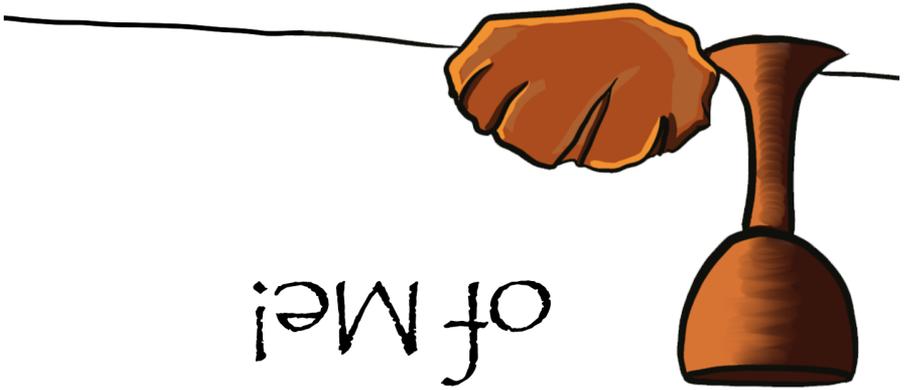
### **Ingredients**

- 1 teaspoon all-purpose flour for dusting
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup water, or more if needed
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, or as needed (*Optional*)
- 1 teaspoon olive oil, or as needed (*Optional*)

### **Preparation**

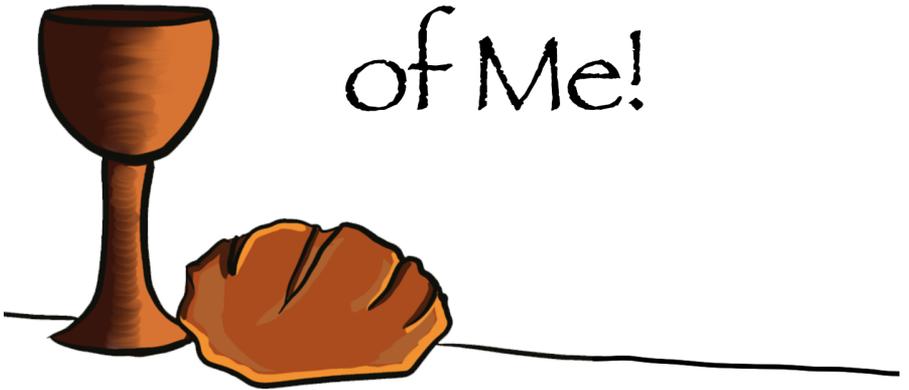
1. Preheat the oven to 475F degrees. Move the oven rack to the top position. Preheat a heavy baking sheet in the oven.
2. Dust a clean work surface and a rolling pin with 1 teaspoon of flour, or as needed.
3. Place 1 cup flour into a mixing bowl; set a timer for 16 minutes (*18 minutes maximum*). Start the timer; pour water, 1 tablespoon at a time, into the flour. Stir with a fork until the dough forms a rough ball. Transfer dough to the prepared work surface; knead rapidly and firmly until smooth, 30 seconds to 1 minute.
4. Divide dough into 4 equal pieces; cut each piece in half to get 8 pieces. Swiftly roll each piece into a ball. Working from the center, roll out each dough piece into a 5-inch-diameter round, dusting with flour as needed. Continue to gradually roll the dough out to a diameter of about 8 inches, increasing each size by about 1 inch, then letting the dough rest for a few seconds before rolling again to the finished size. The dough rounds will be very thin.
5. Use a fork to quickly pierce through each dough round about 25 times, all over, to prevent rising. Flip the dough over and pierce each piece again 25 times.
6. With at least 5 minutes left on the timer, remove the hot baking sheet from the preheated oven and place dough rounds onto the baking sheet.
7. Bake on the top rack in the preheated oven for 2 minutes; flip the matzah over and bake until lightly browned and crisp, about 2 more minutes.
8. Transfer to a wire rack to cool. Use a brush to lightly anoint each matzah with olive oil. Season generously with salt

*Recipe Source: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/213682/matzah/>*



Do this in  
remembrance  
of Me!

Do this in  
remembrance  
of Me!





<b>Y</b> 1	<b>A</b> 2	<b>G</b> 3
<b>K</b> 4	<b>U</b> 5	<b>I</b> 6
<b>T</b> 7	<b>N</b> 8	<b>S</b> 9
<b>E</b> 10	<b>H</b> 11	

Key for April 8 Activity



1   10   9   11   5   2

6   9   7   5   10

4   6   8   3

Puzzle for April 8 Activity

# April 9

## *Resurrection Rolls Recipe*

Resurrection Rolls are a treat that you can make where each step of the cooking process represents part of the Easter story. It's a wonderful way to talk through the Easter story, AND the rolls are a sweet treat.

### Ingredients

- 1 (10-ounce) can of refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
- 8 large marshmallows
- ¼ cup melted butter
- 2 tablespoons ground cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons white sugar

### Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 400 F degrees. Lightly grease a baking sheet.
2. Separate crescent rolls into individual triangles.
3. In a small bowl, mix cinnamon and sugar.
4. Dip a marshmallow into melted butter, then roll in the sugar mixture. Place marshmallows into the center of a dough triangle. Carefully wrap the dough around the marshmallow. Pinch the seams together tightly to seal in the marshmallow as it melts. Place on a baking sheet. Repeat.
5. Bake in a preheated oven until golden brown, about 15 minutes.

*Recipe Source: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/84289/resurrection-rolls/>*

**The script below is a simple way to connect the story to the process of making the rolls.**

**Say:** Even though Jesus was perfect and had never sinned – He had never done anything wrong – some people did not like Him. They wanted to hurt Jesus because He said He was God's Son. They were jealous of Him. So, they made Jesus carry a cross and put His body on it. This saddened God, but it was all part of His great rescue plan for us. When Jesus died, His friends took his body off the cross and buried it in a tomb.

**Do:** Take a marshmallow.

**Say:** The marshmallow represents Jesus' body. Jesus died for you and me because we aren't perfect. We've all sinned, and we need His forgiveness. After Jesus died, His friends put special oil and spices on His body to prepare Him for burial.

**Do:** Roll the marshmallow in melted butter, then in the cinnamon sugar.

**Say:** Next, Jesus' friends wrapped His body in special clothes. Jesus had died, and they were getting His body ready to lie in the tomb.

**Do:** Wrap the cinnamon sugar marshmallow up in a crescent roll. Press all the seams closed firmly. Repeat for each crescent roll. Place your rolls on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.

**Say:** Then, they laid Jesus' body in a tomb. A tomb is a big room carved out of rock like a cave. They rolled a heavy rock in front of the tomb so nobody could get in or out of the tomb, and they even put a special seal over the entrance so they would know if anybody tried to move the rock. Soldiers stood in front of the tomb to guard it around the clock.

**Do:** Put your crescent rolls in the oven and set a timer for 10-12 minutes. Bake the rolls until they are golden brown.

**Say:** Jesus lay dead in the tomb for 3 days.

**Do:** Take the rolls out of the oven and let them cool for about 20 minutes. The marshmallow may explode out of your rolls, but that's okay (*that's why there is parchment paper*).

After the rolls have cooled...

**Say:** 3 days after Jesus died, an angel of God appeared to one of Jesus' friends, Mary. He told Mary that Jesus was alive. Jesus' friends decided to look in the tomb where they had put His body, but when they did, it was empty! Jesus had risen! And Jesus is still alive today. He lives in Heaven with God.

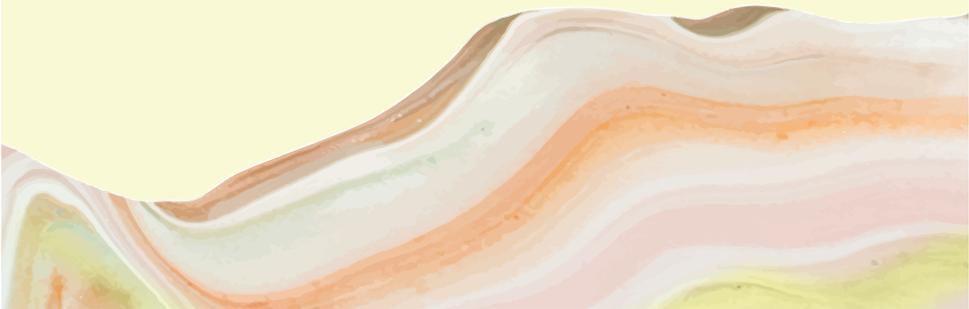
**Do:** Cut open one of your rolls. Show kids that the marshmallow has melted, so the tomb is now empty. Eat your yummy rolls.



The logo features a stylized orange figure that resembles a person with arms raised, positioned to the left of the text.

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An abstract, wavy pattern at the bottom of the page, featuring horizontal bands of color including white, light orange, pink, and light green, set against a dark background.