



# FAMILY HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL

EASTER AT WOODSIDE BIBLE CHURCH



# Welcome to Easter at Woodside!

We are excited to partner with you as you guide your family through the celebration of Holy Week.

Our hope for this weeklong devotional is to create space for meaningful conversations and memorable moments as your family learns and grows together. Each day contains a passage of Scripture, some questions to reflect on, and activity you can do as a family.

We hope this Easter season is one of celebration for your entire family. We would love to see you for our Good Friday and/or Easter services at one of our campuses, where we'll celebrate our risen Savior—Jesus! Visit [woodsidebible.org/easter](https://www.woodsidebible.org/easter) for locations and service times.

-The Woodside Kids Team

# Jesus Arrives

**when:** Palm Sunday, March 24

**theme:** Praising God

## scripture Matthew 21:1-9

As they all approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage. It was on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent out two disciples. He said to them, "Go to the village ahead of you. As soon as you get there, you will find a donkey tied up. Her colt will be with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them. The owner will send them right away." This took place so that what was spoken through the prophet would come true. It says,

"Say to the city of Zion,  
'See, your king comes to you.  
He is gentle and riding on a donkey.  
He is riding on a donkey's colt.'"

The disciples went and did what Jesus told them to do. They brought the donkey and the colt. They placed their coats on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their coats on the road. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Some of the people went ahead of him, and some followed. They all shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

## questions

Why do we praise Jesus?

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How can you praise Jesus this week?

## activity

**What you'll need:** Scrap paper in lots of different shades of greens, scissors, and glue/tape

Today, we're going to be creating our own palm branches! Click [here](#) to grab a printable template or if you're feeling creative, draw an outline of one freehand!

Then, grab your scrap paper, cut it into a bunch of different squares, and glue or tape them onto your palm branch! After your palm branch is complete, hang it somewhere in the house where you can see it. Every time you pass by, take a moment to praise Jesus.



# Jesus Heals

**when:** Monday, March 25

**theme:** Miracles

## scripture Matthew 21:12-17

Jesus entered the temple courtyard. He began to drive out all those who were buying and selling there. He turned over the tables of the people who were exchanging money. He also turned over the benches of those who were selling doves. He said to them, "It is written that the Lord said, 'My house will be called a house where people can pray.' But you are making it 'a den for robbers.'"

Blind people and those who were disabled came to Jesus at the temple. There he healed them. The chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did. They also saw the children in the temple courtyard shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" But when they saw all this, they became angry.

"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus. "Haven't you ever read about it in Scripture? It says, 'Lord, you have made sure that children and infants praise you.'" Then Jesus left the people and went out of the city to Bethany. He spent the night there.

## questions

Why was Jesus able to do miracles?

Why did Jesus heal the people who came to him?

## activity

**What you'll need:** Side-walk chalk

Get some sidewalk chalk and use it to decorate the sidewalks in your neighborhood with the good news about Easter! You can let your family be as creative as they want in what they write or draw, but here are some ideas:

- Pick your favorite Bible verse that talks about Jesus [John 3:16 and Romans 5:8 are great places to start], write them on your sidewalk, and draw pictures to illustrate them.
- Draw different symbols of Holy Week, like palm leaves or the empty tomb.
- Illustrate your favorite story from the Bible. Don't forget to write the verse reference!

Use this activity as an opportunity to engage with your neighbors. Invite them to draw with you or to join you and your family for Easter at Woodside!

# Jesus Teaches at the Temple

**when:** Tuesday, March 26

**theme:** Love

## scripture Matthew 22:33-40

The Pharisees heard that the Sadducees weren't able to answer Jesus. So the Pharisees got together. One of them was an authority on the law. So he tested Jesus with a question. "Teacher," he asked, "which is the most important commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.' This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' Everything that is written in the Law and the Prophets is based on these two commandments."

## questions

What is one thing you can do to love God today?

What is one thing you can do to love others today?

## activity

**What you'll need:** An Easter Lily

Head to the store and pick up an Easter lily or two. Then, give one to a neighbor, friend, or family member. Tell them "Happy Easter" and invite them to church with you!

The Easter lily has a cool meaning behind it that you can share with those you gift it to! 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.

# Jesus is Betrayed

**when:** Wednesday, March 27

**theme:** Sin

## scripture Luke 22:1-6

The Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was near. The chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for a way to get rid of Jesus. They were afraid of the people. Then Satan entered Judas, who was called Iscariot. Judas was one of the 12 disciples. He went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard. He talked with them about how he could hand Jesus over to them. They were delighted and agreed to give him money. Judas accepted their offer. He watched for the right time to hand Jesus over to them. He wanted to do it when no crowd was around.

## questions

Why did the religious leaders dislike Jesus and want him gone?

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When was the last time you thought, said, or did something that does not please God?

## activity

During snack time, provide foods that are these different colors:

- Black – blackberries or Oreos
- Red – strawberries, raspberries, or cherries
- White – cauliflower, ranch dressing, or white cake
- Green – broccoli, celery, or green grapes
- Yellow – bananas or pineapple.

Talk to your child about the gospel while they snack using these colors.

- Black stands for sin, which we all have.
- Red represents Jesus' blood shed on the cross.
- White means forgiveness, which Jesus gives us when we believe in Him.
- Green stands for growing in God by praying and reading His Word.
- Yellow stands for heaven, and that's where all believers will get to be with God forever!

# Jesus Serves

**when:** Thursday, March 28

**theme:** Humility

## scripture John 13:1-17

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world. It was time for him to go to the Father. Jesus loved his disciples who were in the world. So he now loved them to the very end. They were having their evening meal. The devil had already tempted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. He had urged Judas to hand Jesus over to his enemies. Jesus knew that the Father had put everything under his power. He also knew he had come from God and was returning to God. So he got up from the meal and took off his outer clothes. He wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a large bowl. Then he began to wash his disciples' feet. He dried them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter. "Lord," Peter said to him, "are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You don't realize now what I am doing. But later you will understand." "No," said Peter. "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you can't share life with me." "Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet! Wash my hands and my head too!"

Jesus answered, "People who have had a bath need to wash only their feet. The rest of their body is clean. And you are clean. But not all of you are." Jesus knew who was going to hand him over to his enemies. That was why he said not every one was clean.

When Jesus finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes. Then he returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord.' You are right. That is what I am. 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. What I'm about to tell you is true. A slave is not more important than his master. And a messenger is not more important than the one who sends him. Now you know these things. So you will be blessed if you do them.

## questions

What does it mean to be humble?

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What is one way you can humbly serve someone else?

## activity

The Thursday before Jesus died, He shared the Last Supper with His disciples and washed their feet. Invite another family over for a meal or share a Passover meal.

Or, as a family, talk about what it means to serve others or host your own family foot-washing ceremony.

Even something as simple as washing with baby wipes can prompt a special memory for your family and provide an opportunity to think about how you can serve one another.

# Jesus Dies

**when:** Friday, March 29

**theme:** Sacrifice

## scripture Mark 15:16-39

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace. It was called the Praetorium. They called together the whole company of soldiers. The soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus. Then they twisted thorns together to make a crown. They placed it on his head. They began to call out to him, "We honor you, king of the Jews!" Again and again they hit him on the head with a stick. They spit on him. They fell on their knees and pretended to honor him. After they had made fun of him, they took off the purple robe. They put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to nail him to a cross. A man named Simon was passing by. He was from Cyrene. He was the father of Alexander and Rufus. Simon was on his way in from the country. The soldiers forced him to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha. The word Golgotha means the Place of the Skull. Then they gave him wine mixed with spices. But he did not take it. They nailed him to the cross. Then they divided up his clothes.

They cast lots to see what each of them would get. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. They wrote out the charge against him. It read, They crucified with him two rebels against Rome. One was on his right and one was on his left. Those who passed by shouted at Jesus and made fun of him. They shook their heads and said, "So you are going to destroy the temple and build it again in three days? Then come down from the cross! Save yourself!" In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law made fun of him among themselves. "He saved others," they said. "But he can't save himself! Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross! When we see that, we will believe." Those who were being crucified with Jesus also made fun of him.

At noon, darkness covered the whole land. It lasted three hours. At three o'clock in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" This means "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?" Some of those standing nearby heard Jesus cry out. They said, "Listen! He's calling for Elijah." Someone ran and filled a sponge with wine vinegar. He put it on a stick. He offered it to Jesus to drink. "Leave him alone," he said. "Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down." With a loud cry, Jesus took his last breath. The temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. A Roman commander was standing there in front of Jesus. He saw how Jesus died. Then he said, "This man was surely the Son of God!"

## questions

Why did Jesus allow himself to be crucified?

Why do we call the day Jesus died on the cross "Good Friday"?

## activity

**What you'll need:** sticks, pipe cleaners, play dough, or paper – whatever you have around the house or outside that you can use to make a cross. You'll also need a red marker or red paint.

Help your child make a cross. Then, have your child draw or write down [or you can write down for them] something they've done that is wrong. It can either be written directly on the cross or written on a piece of paper that you then attach to the cross. Next, take something red—like red paint, a red marker, red stickers, or other red craft supplies—and cover the cross [along with the sin written on it] with red. Explain to your child that the red represents Jesus's blood. When Jesus died on the cross, His blood paid for our sins so He can offer forgiveness to everyone who believes in Him.



# Jesus in the Tomb

**when:** Saturday, March 30

**theme:** Waiting

## scripture Matthew 27:57-66

As evening approached, a rich man came from the town of Arimathea. His name was Joseph. He had become a follower of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb. Then he went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there across from the tomb.

The next day was the day after Preparation Day. The chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember something that liar said while he was still alive. He claimed, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order to make the tomb secure until the third day. If you don't, his disciples might come and steal the body. Then they will tell the people that Jesus has been raised from the dead. This last lie will be worse than the first." "Take some guards with you," Pilate answered. "Go. Make the tomb as secure as you can." So they went and made the tomb secure. They put a royal seal on the stone and placed some guards on duty.

## questions

What do you think Jesus' friends were feeling after He was buried?

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What do you think you would have done that day?

## activity

### Empty Tomb Rolls

(see next page!)

# Empty Tomb Rolls

**What you'll need:** Crescent roll dough, marshmallows, 1 stick of butter, melted and then slightly cooled in a small bowl, 1 cup of cinnamon sugar [about  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar mixed with  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup cinnamon, although you can adjust that to taste] in a small bowl, a baking sheet lined with a nonstick baking mat or parchment paper, and an oven preheated to 375 degrees.

## Here's how to help your child make the empty tomb rolls:

- Have your child pick up a marshmallow. Explain that, in this activity, the marshmallow represents Jesus. The marshmallow is pure white, which reminds us that Jesus was completely pure and without sin. He never did anything wrong or deserving of punishment, but He died on the cross to pay for our sins.
- Tell your child that, back in Bible times, people who died were anointed in oil and spices before they were buried. Help your child dip the marshmallow in the melted butter, or the "oil," coating it fully. Then roll the buttery marshmallow in the cinnamon sugar "spices" until it is thoroughly covered.
- Jesus's body was put in a tomb. Help your child wrap the marshmallow in a piece of crescent roll dough, representing the sealed tomb. (It's probably best for a parent to do this part, because you want to carefully seal the dough all around the marshmallow, leaving no holes).

Put the dough "tombs" on the lined baking sheet and bake them for 10-15 minutes, checking them occasionally. Talk to your child about how Jesus's friends had to wait while Jesus was sealed in the tomb. They were very sad that He was dead.

- When the rolls are done, they will have puffed up and the dough will look golden. Take them out of the oven and let them cool briefly.
- When they have cooled, cut open one of the rolls and have your child look inside. The marshmallow will have melted, leaving the "tomb" empty. Discuss with your child how it must have felt to find Jesus's tomb empty on the third day, and to learn that Jesus was alive!
- Let your child eat their empty tomb roll and enjoy the sweetness of God's love for us.

# Jesus is Alive

**when:** Sunday, March 31

**theme:** Life

## scripture Matthew 28:1-10

The Sabbath day was now over. It was dawn on the first day of the week. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a powerful earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel went to the tomb. He rolled back the stone and sat on it. His body shone like lightning. His clothes were as white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here! He has risen, just as he said he would! Come and see the place where he was lying. Go quickly! Tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead. He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

So the women hurried away from the tomb. They were afraid, but they were filled with joy. They ran to tell the disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings!" he said. They came to him, took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee. There they will see me."

## questions

How did Jesus' friends react when they saw Him alive on Easter Sunday?

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How can you celebrate Jesus' resurrection today – or every day?

## activity

### Resurrection Eggs!

(see next page!)

# Resurrection Eggs

**Help your child make a set of resurrection eggs: 12 Easter eggs that tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.**

**What you'll need:** A dozen empty plastic eggs, which you can number from 1-12 with a marker. Then, the items listed below!

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Each egg will then be filled with small items representing parts of the Easter story. You can either have a family scavenger hunt to find the items or print and color these pictures to cut out and put inside the eggs. Once the eggs are filled, you can take turns opening each of them in order and explaining which part of the Easter story that each item represents.

Below are the items for the scavenger hunt, along with their significance to the Easter story and Bible verses you can read for each one:

1. Palm branch [a small leaf]: When Jesus first came into Jerusalem, people waved palm branches in honor of Him [John 12:4].
2. Bread [a small cracker or piece of bread]: Jesus broke bread while sharing the Last Supper with His disciples [Luke 22:19].
3. Coins [three pennies]: Judas did a very bad thing and betrayed Jesus for just 30 coins [Matthew 27:3].
4. Rope [yarn or string]: After they brought Him to trial, Jesus was whipped with a big rope [John 19:1].
5. Robe [a small piece of fabric]: The bad people teased Jesus and put a robe on Him after beating Him up [Matthew 27:28].
6. Crown of thorns [a toothpick or small stick]: Because Jesus said He was the King; they took sharp thorns and made a crown [Matthew 27:29].
7. Nail [thumb tack or small nail]: Soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross by His hands and feet [Acts 2:23].

