

Family Devotional for

# EASTER

Week

a Denton Bible Resource

# How to Use this Devotional

We are so excited you are choosing to use this devotion to prepare yourself and your family for celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ this Easter. Our prayer for this devotion is that families in our congregation will have a better understanding of the events of the Passion Week and their significance in redemptive history.

In the construction of this devotional we chose a format that gives parents the tools to go as deep as they feel their family can comprehend. We have five different sections for each devotion that have specific functions. The **Passage of Scripture** section is the main text the devotion is focused on. The **Summary for Parents** is like a leader guide that will provide commentary and deeper significance to what is happening in the passage of scripture. This section is designed to help parents guide family discussion during the devotion and to answer potential questions kids will have. Next we have **Questions for Family** that will help kids retain the main ideas and themes of the passage of Scripture. The **Additional Reading** section is optional for individuals and families who would like to read more passages of Scripture from that day of Passion Week or are addressing significance of the events of that day. Each devotion ends with a **Prayer** that summarizes the main theme of that particular devotion. We hope it helps younger kids remember the main idea from that time of family devotions.

Like Christmas, Easter is a special time for us as believers to remember what Christ accomplished so that we can be forgiven of our sins and have fellowship with God. Our goal for this week and this devotional would be that our kids would have, by God's grace, a greater understanding of what these Bible stories mean for them and for all believers.

## **Additional Resources for Preparing for Easter:**

Denton Bible Church on Spotify

Resurrection Letters Anthology by Andrew Peterson

Bible Project on YouTube: "Crucifixion of Jesus: Luke 19-23"

Bible Project on YouTube: "The Resurrection of Jesus: Luke 24"

# Palm Sunday

## **Passage of Scripture:**

*When they had approached Jerusalem and had come to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, **2** saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied there and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to Me. **3** If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." **4** This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:*

***5** "Say to the daughter of Zion,  
Behold your King is coming to you,  
Gentle, and mounted on a donkey,  
Even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."*

***6** The disciples went and did just as Jesus had instructed them, **7** and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid their coats on them; and He sat on the coats. **8** Most of the crowd spread their coats in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in the road. **9** The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting,*

*"Hosanna to the Son of David;  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord;  
Hosanna in the highest!"*

***10** When He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?" **11** And the crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee."*

*Matthew 21:1-11*

## **Summary for Parents:**

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Passion Week. Jesus entered Jerusalem in a way that the people of Israel were not expecting the Messiah to arrive. They desired a Messiah that would liberate them from the Romans. Seeing Jesus riding in on a donkey with a colt probably went against their expectations. The crowd still responded in a way that seems the appropriate reaction to Messiah. Laying their coats on the road symbolized a submission to Jesus as King. The branches were an Old Testament celebration of the coming Kingdom of God. "Hosanna to the Son of David," reveals their acknowledgment that Jesus is the Davidic Messiah who will "save us." It all looks and sounds great, but something will change over the course of this week. The crowd will not maintain this excitement for Jesus as their Davidic King. He is not the Messiah they were expecting or wanted. In five days, they will shout instead, "Crucify Him!"

## **Questions for the Family:**

How would you expect a king to enter his city?

What do you think the people in the crowd were expecting of Jesus when he entered the city?

How would describe a king? How is Jesus similar to and different from an earthly king?

## **Additional Reading:**

Jesus Entering Jerusalem: John 12:12-16

## **Prayer:**

*God thank you that you gave us the King that we need, not the king that we think we want. Thank you for Jesus, our King in Heaven, who is our hope. Amen.*

# Maundy Thursday

## **Passage of Scripture:**

*26 While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. 29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."*

*Matthew 26:26-29*

## **Summary for Parents:**

Maundy Thursday is the last day before Christ is arrested and crucified. The institution of the Lord's Supper marks a major turning point in our Bibles. It marks what Passover and the entire Old Testament was a shadow of and leading towards. Passover was the remembrance of Israel's salvation in Exodus through the blood of the lamb. Passover has morphed into Christ. His body was broken. His blood was shed. Not to take us into the Promised Land, but to take us into Glory. The spotless Passover lambs in the Old Testament would be sacrificed for the sins of the people and to satisfy the wrath of God, but that sacrifice never had the power to remove sins. It was a shadow of Christ, who through His blood brings the forgiveness of sins. He is our perfect, spotless, lamb who died so that we may have fellowship with God the Father. The Lord's Supper is a sacred institution that we celebrate today where we remember and we proclaim that Christ has died, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again.

## **Questions for the Family:**

What did Jesus mean when He said the bread was His body and His blood was in the cup?

What does it mean to have your sins forgiven?

How are our sins forgiven?

## **Additional Reading:**

First Passover: Exodus 12:1-32

Garden of Gethsemane: Matthew 26:36-46

## **Prayer:**

*We thank you God that Jesus lived a perfect life that we never could. Thank you for forgiving our sins through the blood of Jesus.*

*Amen*

# Good Friday

## **Passage of Scripture:**

*<sup>33</sup>When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. <sup>34</sup>But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One." <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, <sup>37</sup>and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!" <sup>38</sup>Now there was also an inscription above Him, "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS." <sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup>But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup>And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup>And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" <sup>43</sup>And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."*

*Luke 23:33-43*

## **Summary for Parents:**

Jesus has gone through six trials where He was never found guilty. He has been before the Sanhedrin, Herod, and Pilate. He has been beaten and mocked. He's wearing a crown of thorns and His cross mockingly says "King of the Jews." The people of Israel chose a criminal, Barabbas, to be set free instead of Jesus. As he was being led to Calvary, He was forced to carry His own cross. He was nailed to the cross and watched soldiers gamble over his clothes as they mocked him. In the midst of this mocking Jesus is still interceding for the people. He was hanging with two criminals. One mocked him as the rest of the crowd did. But the other is a man that has been called "The World's Greatest Theologian" at the time of his death. This passage offers a great picture of saving faith and the grace of God. Here is a Jewish man who is receiving his just punishment for his sins. He is a condemned man with no hope, but by the grace of God he came to a recognition of who Jesus is. He understood Jesus' innocence, Jesus' position ("your kingdom"), and he understood why Jesus came. And Christ's response to this act of faith is, "Today you shall be with Me in Paradise." We all at some point come to the same realization and understanding that the thief on the cross did. We understand our guilt, see the perfection in Jesus as the only way to salvation, repent and believe in His gospel.

## **Questions for the Family:**

Who was the only person in this story that understood who Jesus is?

How do we get to be in heaven with Jesus?

Why did Jesus have to die?

## **Additional Reading:**

Peter's Denial: Matthew 26:69-75

Mocking of Jesus and Simon Carrying the Cross: Mark 15:16-21

Death of Christ and His Burial: John 19:25-42

## **Prayer:**

*Thank you God for providing the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Thank you that Jesus bore the penalty for our sins so that we can be forgiven through faith in Him. Amen.*

# Easter Sunday

## **Passage of Scripture:**

*But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; <sup>5</sup> and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." <sup>8</sup> And they remembered His words, <sup>9</sup> and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.*

*Luke 24:1-12*

## **Summary for Parents:**

It was the third day since Jesus died. The disciples are hiding, scared. Mary Magdalene, Mary the Mother of Jesus, and others come early on that Sunday to the tomb to bring the spices for the body. What they see goes beyond what they could comprehend. The stone was rolled away. They enter the tomb to see two angels who tell them, "He is not here, but He has risen." Now they understand the prophecies of His death and resurrection. Every claim about Himself is true because He rose on the third day. Every miracle he performed, every sermon He preached, every parable He told was all true. By rising on the third day He defeated sin and death forever. Because of that we are able walk in faith that we will experience eternity with God because of our faith in Jesus.

## **Questions for the Family:**

What did the angels tell the women?

Why is a good thing that Jesus came back to life?

What did the women do once they heard Jesus had risen?

## **Additional Reading:**

Mary Magdalene and the Disciples see the Risen Christ: John 20:1-29

The Emmaus Road: Luke 24:13-35

Jesus Appears at the Sea of Galilee/Restoration of Peter: John 21:1-17

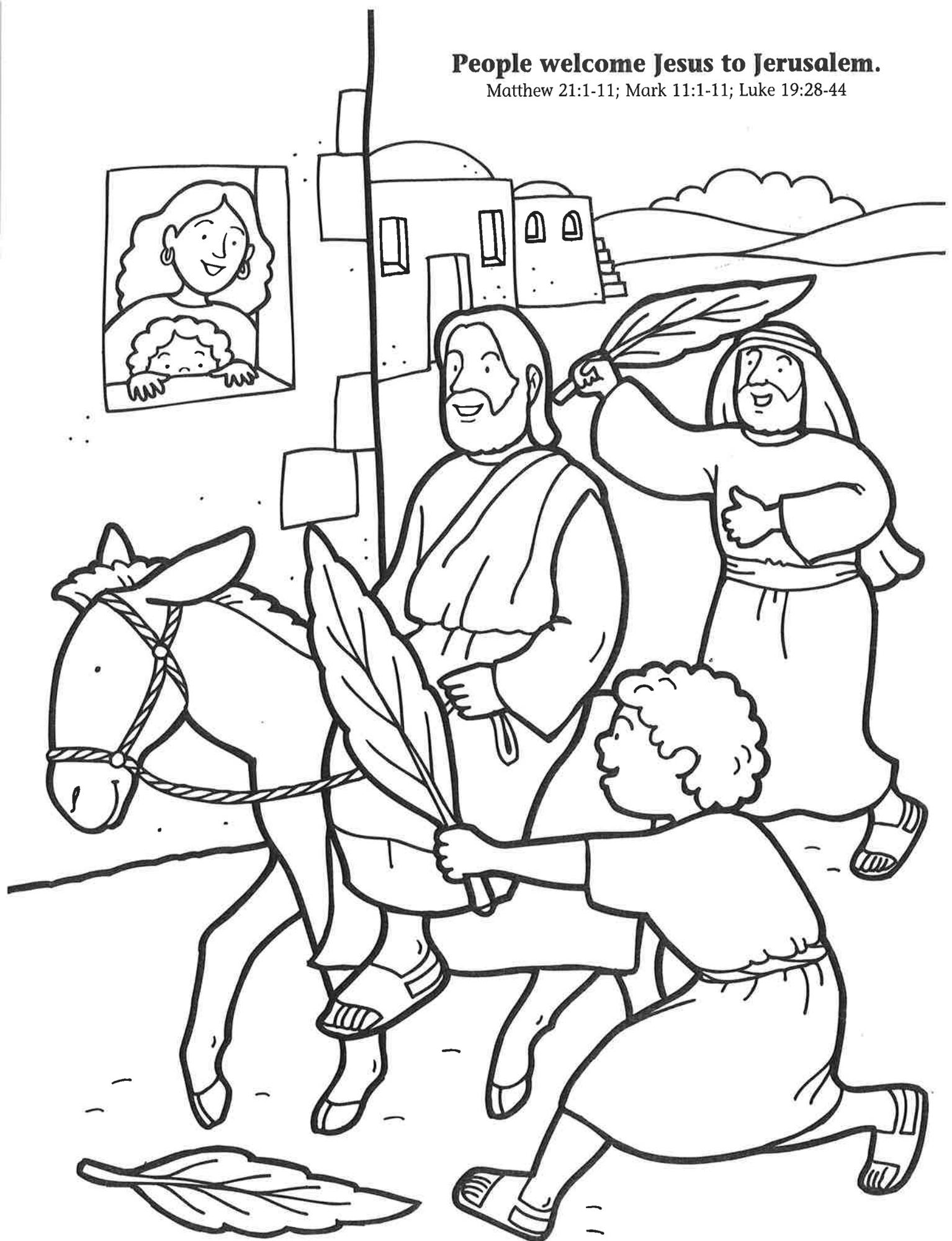
Paul on the Resurrection: 1 Cor. 15

## **Prayer:**

*We thank you God that Jesus rose on the third day like the Bible said He would. Thank you that you sent your Son so that we could have a relationship with you. We pray that we would have opportunities to tell others about this good news. Amen.*

# People welcome Jesus to Jerusalem.

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44



# Jesus eats a special meal with His friends.

Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-38



# Jesus dies on the cross.

Matthew 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-41;  
Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-37



**Jesus talks to Mary  
in the garden.**

John 20:10-18



