



# **Kids**

## **LENT GUIDE**

2018

VERITAS COMMUNITY CHURCH

# Introduction

Dear Parents,

I often find myself thankful that I live in the northern hemisphere. The occurrence of the winter solstice at the end of Advent and the corresponding darkness of the days makes the coming of the Light of the World all the brighter. And during Lent, the world is waking up from its chilly slumber. The breaking forth of leaves and blooms from the drab soil and empty trees seems to me to be heralding the breaking forth of my Savior from the tomb, and is a foreshadowing of the ultimate resurrection and restoration of the whole of creation.

My seasonal companion to the liturgical year makes these theological and spiritual themes evident to me in a way I can instinctively understand. My body understands darkness, and light, cold and warmth, grey and color.

The 40 days of Lent remind us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert, and of the 40 years the Israelites spent in the desert. Some general themes to meditate on during Lent: water, desert, waiting, suffering, and fasting.

The Easter season is complicated. There is joy and thankfulness for the redemptive act that reconciles us to God, and there is victory in Jesus' overcoming death in the resurrection. But the crucifixion itself is a very solemn thing, as is the sin (ours) that holds the Savior on the cross. Celebrating or observing Lent helps me make sure I don't skip the hard, sad things and only think about the victory and joy.

For the 40 days of Lent, many people practice fasts of various sorts. In my house, we have come to practice this as a general subduing of our diet. We eat less sweets and rich foods, and we refrain from meat. I eat my oatmeal plain instead of my normal toppings of sugar, nuts, and fruit. The intent of the dimming of our food during Lent is (1) that we better reflect on the crucifixion and (2) that the brightness and joy of Easter shines more brightly.

Sundays are not part of Lent, so our fasting does not apply. These are small feast days, a special foreshadowing of The Sunday, which inspires the rest of our Sundays. The pairing of the fast (Lent) with a feast (Sundays and Easter) is important. We do not fast for the sake of deprivation itself. We fast in order to better feast on Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lent and Eastertide also contain other special days:

- The first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday (Feb 14), has traditionally focused on our mortality. I like to extend this to general human weakness and need. Even apart from our sin, we are dependent on God, the creator and sustainer of all things. (Psalm 51, Colossians 1:15-23)
- Palm Sunday (Mar 25) commemorates Jesus' ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. (John 12:12-14)
- Maundy Thursday (Mar 29), the Thursday before Easter Sunday, commemorates Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. We celebrate by gathering together close friends for dinner and communion, as Jesus did that night. (John 13)
- Good Friday (Mar 30) commemorates the crucifixion. (John 19)
- Holy Saturday (Mar 31), Jesus is dead in the tomb. (John 19:38-42, Jonah 2)
- Easter Sunday (Apr 1) Jesus resurrects from death to life, leaving the tomb empty. (John 20)

If there are particular themes that you think would resonate well with your family, focus on those. Here are some examples of ways to connect Lent and Easter to things going on in your life.

- Did you recently lose someone close to your family? Pray together about our mortality, and thank God for the ultimate hope we have for resurrection in a new heaven and new earth.
- Have you been talking about disobedience and sin? Connect this to the death of Jesus on the cross, and the sorrow and joy in tension there.
- If conflict seems constant, discuss the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem on a donkey - an animal traditionally associated with peace: Jesus is the Prince of Peace.
- Have any of you been struggling with friendship? Talk about Jesus' friendships with his disciples, and how even the one-day apostles were not good friends to Jesus: They fell asleep on him in the garden, and betrayed (Judas), disowned (Peter) and fled from him during his arrest.

*Abigail and Wesley Tamkin*

# Introduction

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

Because the main themes of Lent and Easter are our sin and depravity, and the rescue from those that could only come from Christ, this family guide is intentionally sparse of “activities” or “programs”. Instead, the focus and encouragement is to take time to rest and be reflective with your family both on our brokenness and the profound joy we have been given through Christ.

As always, this guide is simply to encourage families to set up rhythms for family devotions. Adjust the guide freely to best fit your family. I would simply encourage you to keep the focus the same.

To highlight some aspects of the main themes of Lent and Easter, here are a few suggestions of things to consider adding to (or taking away from) your life for the next 40 days.

- **Set aside time each week to simply rest in what God has done.** Model for your children that we do not find our value, worth, or acceptance through what we do, but what Christ has done.
- **Fast on the special days with your little ones or throughout the week with your older ones.** Be sure to talk with them about why we fast (see resources and intro letter for more on that)
  - Suggested Fasting Guide
    - Week 1: Food
    - Week 2: Media
    - Week 3: Caffeine or Sweets
    - Week 4: Shopping/Outings for Non-Essentials
    - Week 5: Music
    - Week 6: Sleep
- **Read through the additional readings with your older children, break up the main reading into smaller chunks for your younger children, or for your very young children, read stories from the Jesus Storybook Bible that correspond with the main passage**

I pray this Lent Guide is helpful to you and your family as you remember and rejoice in the great work the Lord has done!

*Susanna Hall*

## RESOURCES:

- Between Midnight and Dawn: A Literary Guide to Prayer for Lent, Holy Week, and Eastertide (book)
- Carrots for Michaelmas (blog)
  - <http://www.carrotsformichaelmas.com/2017/02/27/lenten-resources-and-liturgical-living-at-a-glance-march-2017/>
- Fast from, Feast on (song)
- The Feast of Fasting (sermon)
  - <http://veritascolumbus.com/sermon/the-feast-of-fasting/>
- The Village Church 2015 Lent Guide
  - [http://thevillagechurch.net/mediafiles/uploaded/s/0e3028007\\_1422634050\\_seasons-lent-guide.pdf](http://thevillagechurch.net/mediafiles/uploaded/s/0e3028007_1422634050_seasons-lent-guide.pdf)

# Week 1

## READING

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'" And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, " 'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' and " 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time. LUKE 4:1-13

### ***Reading for Younger Kids***

The Jesus Storybook Bible Pages: 208-209

### ***Additional Readings for the Rest of the Week***

Hebrews 2:14-18, Hebrews 4:14-16, 1 Corinthians 10:6-13, James 1:12-15

## RESPONSE

### ***Journaling:***

Encourage your children to journal during the weekly readings. They can draw a picture or write about the passage or how the passage makes them feel.

### ***Questions for them to consider:***

- What stood out to me in this passage?
- What did I not understand?
- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?

### ***Guided Prayer:***

Lead your children in this responsive prayer reflecting on this week's passage. The underlined portions can be read together as a family.

Jesus, You were tempted and You didn't sin. You chose to be obedient and pleased Your Father. We are so different. We often disobey and prefer our own way. Loving Father, Your mercy is so rich. You are pleased with us even when we are in the middle of our worst choices. Please replace our sin-loving hearts and make us clean again. Help us to be obedient. Help us remember that through Your grace we are Your masterpiece.

### ***Worship:***

Rest, reflect, and respond to Christ's divinity as you listen to the song listed below

*Sweetly Broken*

# Ash Wednesday

## READING

And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’” LUKE 15:11-32

### ***Reading for Younger Kids***

The Jesus Storybook Bible: Pages 272-279

## RESPONSE

### ***Journaling:***

Encourage your children to journal during the weekly readings. They can draw a picture or write about the passage or how the passage makes them feel.

#### ***Questions for them to consider:***

- What stood out to me in this passage?
- What did I not understand?
- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?

### ***Guided Prayer:***

Lead your children in this responsive prayer reflecting on this week's passage. The underlined portions can be read together as a family.

All-knowing Father, we have enjoyed reckless living because it felt good for a moment, but it left us lonely, empty, and disappointed. Almighty God, forgive me, a sinner. Change our hearts to make us compassionate like You. We need to be reminded that because of the blood of Jesus our sins are washed clean. Humble us, Lord, so that we may trust You, our Creator and sustainer of all things.

***Worship:*** Rest, reflect, and respond to God's profound grace as you listen to the song listed below

*He is Lord (Cedarhurst Kids)*

***Suggested Activities:*** Consider leading your family in one of these activities to reinforce the message of this special day

**Activity #1:** Stand as a family in a circle. Take a minute to talk about how everyone of us sins against and hurts others. Even when we are acting "good" our hearts have bad motives. Then, take turns having each person go around the family and say simply "Forgive me. A sinner" to every person in the circle. Then, have the person receiving the apology say "God forgives"

**Activity #2:** If your family cannot make the Ash Wednesday service, consider holding your own service at home. Place ash crosses on your children's heads and say "Because of the blood of Jesus, your sins are washed clean. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit"

# Week 2

## READING

One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher." "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." LUKE 7:36–50

### ***Reading for Younger Kids***

The Jesus Storybook Bible: Pages 280-285

### ***Additional Readings for the Rest of the Week***

Romans 6:1-14, Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, Galatians 5:16-24

## RESPONSE

### ***Journaling:***

Encourage your children to journal during the weekly readings. They can draw a picture or write about the passage or how the passage makes them feel.

#### ***Questions for them to consider:***

- What stood out to me in this passage?
- What did I not understand?
- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?

### ***Guided Prayer:***

Lead your children in this responsive prayer reflecting on this week's passage. The underlined portions can be read together as a family.

Merciful God, we are great sinners, but You are a great God, and have complete power over our sin. Make us really sad about our sin and help us to repent. We are so excited that You promise to forgive us when we turn from our sin! Help us say no to our pride so that we can know You better. Give us a growing love for You and bigger hearts to love Your people.

### ***Worship:***

Rest, reflect, and respond to God's profound grace as you listen to the song listed below

*Lead Me to the Cross*

# Week 3

## READING

Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” And they answered, “John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen.” Then he said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” And Peter answered, “The Christ of God.” And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.” And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.” LUKE 9:18–27

### ***Reading for Younger Kids***

The Gospel Story Bible<sup>1</sup>: Page 202

### ***Additional Readings for the Rest of the Week***

Philippians 3:7-16, Colossians 3:1-4, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Hebrews 12:1-11

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<sup>1</sup> This book is geared for slightly older kids so the story may need simplified as it is being read.

## RESPONSE

### ***Journaling:***

Encourage your children to journal during the weekly readings. They can draw a picture or write about the passage or how the passage makes them feel.

#### ***Questions for them to consider:***

- What stood out to me in this passage?
- What did I not understand?
- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?

### ***Guided Prayer:***

Lead your children in this responsive prayer reflecting on this week's passage. The underlined portions can be read together as a family.

Liturgy: All honour and praise belong to You, Jesus! You suffered, were rejected and killed, and then You were raised to life. You are the King of glory! Lead us to deny ourselves and suffer for the kingdom. Show us how to value what You love. Fill us with courage when we speak the gospel.

### ***Worship:***

Rest, reflect, and respond to God's profound grace as you listen to the song listed below

*Lead Us Back*

# Week 4

## READING

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” And he said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.” And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” LUKE 11:1–13

### ***Reading for Younger Kids***

The Jesus Storybook Bible: Pages 222-227

### ***Additional Readings for the Rest of the Week***

James 4:1-10, 1 Peter 5:5-8, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 5:3-12

## RESPONSE

### ***Journaling:***

Encourage your children to journal during the weekly readings. They can draw a picture or write about the passage or how the passage makes them feel.

#### ***Questions for them to consider:***

- What stood out to me in this passage?
- What did I not understand?
- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?

### ***Guided Prayer:***

Lead your children in this responsive prayer reflecting on this week's passage. The underlined portions can be read together as a family.

Liturgy: Holy Father, let Your kingdom come! Help us trust that what You want is being done here just like it is in heaven. Provide for our needs today. Teach us to forgive others because You forgave us. Help us to dread sin and hope for Your grace. We praise You, Almighty God, we are Yours!

### ***Worship:***

Rest, reflect, and respond to God's profound grace as you listen to the song listed below

*And Can it Be*

# Week 5

## READING

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” LUKE 18:9–17

### ***Reading for Younger Kids***

The Gospel Story Bible<sup>1</sup>: Page 211

### ***Additional Readings for the Rest of the Week***

Matthew 13:44-46, Hebrews 13:5-6, 1 Timothy 6:6-12, Matthew 6:19-24

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<sup>1</sup> This book is geared for slightly older kids so the story may need simplified as it is being read.

## RESPONSE

### ***Journaling:***

Encourage your children to journal during the weekly readings. They can draw a picture or write about the passage or how the passage makes them feel.

#### ***Questions for them to consider:***

- What stood out to me in this passage?
- What did I not understand?
- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?

### ***Guided Prayer:***

Lead your children in this responsive prayer reflecting on this week's passage. The underlined portions can be read together as a family.

Liturgy: Holy Spirit, we do not please You by our good deeds or our many words. We are only pleasing to You because You love us. Thank you, Father, that Your mercy covers all our sin. Give us soft hearts that long to please You.

### ***Worship:***

Rest, reflect, and respond to God's profound grace as you listen to the song listed below

*Have Mercy on Me*

# Week 6

## READING

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” LUKE 18:9–17

### ***Reading for Younger Kids***

The Gospel Story Bible<sup>1</sup>: Page 216-217

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<sup>1</sup> This book is geared for slightly older kids so the story may need simplified as it is being read.

## RESPONSE

### ***Journaling:***

Encourage your children to journal during the weekly readings. They can draw a picture or write about the passage or how the passage makes them feel.

#### ***Questions for them to consider:***

- What stood out to me in this passage?
- What did I not understand?
- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?

### ***Guided Prayer:***

Lead your children in this responsive prayer reflecting on this week's passage. The underlined portions can be read together as a family.

Liturgy: Jesus, all of creation sing Your praises. You are the mightiest warrior of all and You value justice. When enemies surround us and tear us to the ground, we don't have to be afraid! You keep us safe when trouble comes; You will set us high upon a rock. Thank You for Your protection over us. Thank You for how You humbly lead us by example. Jesus, Your ways are mysterious and beautiful.

### ***Worship:***

Rest, reflect, and respond to God's profound grace as you listen to the song listed below

*Lead Me to the Cross*

# Maundy Thursday

## READING

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this. LUKE 22:7-23

### ***Reading for Younger Kids***

The Jesus Storybook Bible Pages: 292

## RESPONSE

### ***Journaling:***

Encourage your children to journal during the weekly readings. They can draw a picture or write about the passage or how the passage makes them feel.

#### ***Questions for them to consider:***

- What stood out to me in this passage?
- What did I not understand?
- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?

### ***Guided Prayer:***

Lead your children in this responsive prayer reflecting on this week's passage. The underlined portions can be read together as a family.

Liturgy: Jesus, You knew from the start that Your time on earth would be hard. You knew our disobedience would lead to suffering and punishment. We are weak against sin without You. You knew all this, dear Jesus, so You took the suffering and punishment that we were supposed to get, even though You were perfectly obedient. You must love us so much. Help us to have joy when we obey, out of love for You, because You first loved us.

### ***Worship:***

Rest, reflect, and respond to God's profound grace as you listen to the song listed below

*The Wondrous Cross*

### ***Suggested Activities***

Consider leading your family in one of these activities to reinforce the message of this special day

**Activity #1:** Hold a Passover dinner with your family

**Activity #2:** For those with older children, it may be interesting to tell them about the aspects of the passover dinner (and how Moses' life and the exodus from Egypt pointed us toward Christ)

# Good Friday

## READING

And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.” LUKE 22:39–46

### ***Reading for Younger Kids***

The Jesus Storybook Bible Pages: 294-301

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## RESPONSE

### ***Journaling:***

Encourage your children to journal during the weekly readings. They can draw a picture or write about the passage or how the passage makes them feel.

### ***Questions for them to consider:***

- What stood out to me in this passage?
- What did I not understand?
- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?

## RESPONSE (CONT.)

### ***Guided Prayer:***

Lead your children in this responsive prayer reflecting on this week's passage. The underlined portions can be read together as a family.

Liturgy: Father, we need You. We feel so alone and afraid, but it's not true. You are always near because You promised You would never leave us. You are our strength when we are weak. You comfort us when we are sad. You protect us when we are in danger. We need You so much, all the time. Thank You, that because of Your love for us, You will provide everything we need. Help us remember the truth when we are filled with discouragement.

### ***Worship:***

Rest, reflect, and respond to God's profound grace as you listen to the song listed below

*What Wondrous Love is This*

### ***Suggested Activities***

Consider leading your family in one of these activities to reinforce the message of this special day

**Activity #1:** With your children, write common sins on rocks (lying, hitting others, being selfish, etc). Then, put those rocks in a backpack on your child's back. Have them try to complete various activities with those rocks on their back (household chores, a walk, etc). Finally, dump out the rocks one by one and talk about how Christ took all those wrong things we do upon himself to set us free.

**Activity #2:** Gather nails, thorns, and wood. Allow your children to handle and look at them as you go through the family devotional. Talk about how much one would need to love someone else to endure through those things.

# Holy Saturday

## READING

“Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.” And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.” Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.” But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.”

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other. Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. I will therefore punish and release him.”

But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”— a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are

coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment. LUKE 23

### ***Reading for Younger Kids***

The Jesus Storybook Bible Pages: 302- 309

# Holy Saturday (cont.)

## RESPONSE

### *Journaling:*

Encourage your children to journal during the weekly readings. They can draw a picture or write about the passage or how the passage makes them feel.

### *Questions for them to consider:*

- What stood out to me in this passage?
- What did I not understand?
- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?

### *Guided Prayer:*

Lead your children in this responsive prayer reflecting on this week's passage. The underlined portions can be read together as a family.

Liturgy: God, Your Son did nothing wrong. He had a crown of thorns on His head and nails in His hands and feet. People were mean to Him and all His friends ran away. The whole earth turned dark and then the curtain in the temple was torn in two! All of a sudden, nothing separated us from You... Jesus, You died so that You could take away all our sin. You died so that we could live. Thank You God for loving us so much.

***Worship:***

Rest, reflect, and respond to God's profound grace as you listen to the song listed below

*Jesus Paid It All*

***Suggested Activities***

Consider leading your family in one of these activities to reinforce the message of this special day

**Activity #1:** Gather nails, 2 boards, dissolving paper, and water. Nail the boards into a cross. Have your children write one of their sins on a piece of paper and nail it to the cross. They can pray a prayer of confession as they do this. Afterward, pour water on the cross and watch the sins disappear. Follow up by reading 1 John 1:9

**Activity #2:** Stay up until midnight with your family. Keep the activities solemn until midnight. At that point, celebrate that Jesus is alive.

# Easter

## READING

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were

going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God. LUKE 24

### ***Reading for Younger Kids***

The Jesus Storybook Bible Pages: 310-317

# Easter (cont.)

## RESPONSE

### ***Journaling:***

Encourage your children to journal during the weekly readings. They can draw a picture or write about the passage or how the passage makes them feel.

### ***Questions for them to consider:***

- What stood out to me in this passage?
- What did I not understand?
- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?

### ***Guided Prayer:***

Lead your children in this responsive prayer reflecting on this week's passage. The underlined portions can be read together as a family.

Liturgy: Jesus, You are Alive! It was Your perfect plan all along that You would win the war against our sin and death! Death, where is your victory? Grave, where is your sting? We were troubled and we didn't understand, but now we are filled with joy and wonder. The Lord has risen! He has risen indeed!

### ***Worship:***

Rest, reflect, and respond to God's profound grace as you listen to the song listed below

*In Christ Alone*  
*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

### ***Suggested Activities***

Consider leading your family in this activity to reinforce the message of this special day

**Activity #1:** Spend time together as a family celebrating however your family normally does

