

“Family Plan”



Please take 5-10 minutes each day to recite the verse with your child, discuss the topic for the day, and pray with them.

The verse for the week is: Zechariah 9:9

Goin' Home

Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he,

MONDAY

This week is a very special week. It is called Holy Week. Sunday we celebrated Palm Sunday. Do you remember what that celebration was about?

Allow answers

We remember how the people of Jerusalem celebrated when Jesus entered the town. It is called the Triumphal Entry. The people waved palm branches before Jesus. Do you remember what the palm branches symbolized? Victory over enemies! And they laid them on the road along with their cloaks before Jesus as he rode into town. What did the people call out? *Read Mark 11:9-10*

What were they expecting from Jesus? *Allow ans.*
A king that would defeat the Romans who controlled Jerusalem! Is that how Jesus came?

No. He came riding on a donkey. This was a symbol of a king entering a town in peace. In fact hundred of years earlier the prophet Zechariah had said Jesus would do this! *Read Zechariah 9:9.*

Jesus did not come as a king of war on a horse but as the king of peace bringing what all people really need...salvation!

PRAY (Thank Jesus for bringing not what people want but what people need! Salvation from our sin and peace with God!)

TUESDAY

Jesus had entered Jerusalem to cheering and celebration. But not all the people were happy. The religious leaders of the day did not like Jesus. He threatened their position of power.

Even worse, Jesus openly challenged their authority and how they followed the Bible. On Monday of Holy Week Jesus went into the Temple and cleared out those who cheated people selling animals for sacrifice for too much money. Also, some people came from other countries to Jerusalem and needed their foreign money traded for the local money. People were setting up booths in the Temple to do this but were cheating their customers. Jesus was furious about this!

What did he say the Father's house should be? A house of prayer not a den of robbers!

On Tuesday Jesus taught in the Temple and challenged the authority and faithfulness of the religious leaders. He taught about real faith and began to let everyone know that he was the Christ, the Messiah they were all waiting for that had been promised for hundreds of years. Listen to Jesus' teaching in Mark 12:28-34.

PRAY (Thank Jesus for his wonderful teachings. Thank him showing us what true faith in God and love is)

WEDNESDAY

Wednesday of Holy Week was two days before the Passover and the Jewish religious leaders had heard enough. Jesus had challenged them too many times. He had made claims that he was God and they would not stand that. They began to make plans. What type of plans do you think they were making? *Read Mark 14:1-2*

What is the Passover celebration? Do you know?
Allow answers

The Passover celebrated the last plague when the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. God had told the Israelites through Moses that the firstborn of all the Egyptians was going to die because Pharaoh would not let them go. But the Israelites were to sacrifice a perfect lamb and spread its blood over their doorway. Then the angel of death God sent would “pass over” their home because they trusted God and were his people. And the Lord delivered His people from Pharaoh.

PRAY-Give God praise for delivering His people from slavery to Pharaoh so many years ago.

FRIDAY

Friday of Holy Week is known as Good Friday. It is the day Jesus was sentenced to death by the Roman governor and crucified on the Cross. In one sense it was a terribly sad day. Jesus who lived a perfect life, who loved as no one ever has or ever will love was killed by those who feared and hated him. He was beaten, made fun of, humiliated and killed even though he had committed no crime.

It was a time of great sadness. But also a part of God’s great plan. What happened for us on the Cross? *Allow answers.* Listen to Colossians 2:13-14

This verse teaches that though we were dead to God because of our sin, God made us alive, forgiving our sin. Why? Because Jesus paid the price, the penalty of our sin on the Cross. This is why we call it Good Friday. Though it is sad, it is good and part of God’s plan. And though it is Friday... Sunday’s coming!

PRAY-Thank Jesus for being willing to accept the penalty for our sins on himself as he died on the Cross. Though perfect and holy, though deserving no punishment, he took ours fully so that if we believe in him we can be forgiven our sins and part of the family of God.

THURSDAY

Thursday of Holy Week was very busy! After sundown Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples. Do you know what special event he started at that dinner? Listen to Matthew 26:26-28 and see if you can figure it out. Did you get it? It’s Communion!

On that same night, probably after midnight, Jesus was betrayed and brought before the Jewish court. He was convicted guilty of blasphemy against God.

Do you see some similarities? On the night celebrating Passover, which celebrated God delivering His people from slavery to Egypt and involved the sacrifice of a perfect lamb, Jesus was betrayed and turned over to be killed. His death, his perfect sacrifice, would allow for a new delivery from God, delivery from sin! John the Baptist called Jesus the “Lamb of God” (John 1:29). Paul calls Jesus our “Passover Lamb” (1 Cor. 5:7) Jesus is the Lamb of God, sacrificed for us so God would forgive our sins and pass them over, that we may be a part of His family!

PRAY-Praise Jesus, the Lamb of God. Worthy is he of all praise and thanks!

SATURDAY

The Bible does not tell us much about Saturday during Holy week. What we do know is this. Jesus’ followers wept and mourned his death. Jesus had told them he would have to die. But he had also told them he would rise again to life. After all, he is God!

Still they mourned. They didn’t completely understand what Jesus meant when he said he would return to life. And not only were they sad but they were scared! And we probably would be too! They probably thought the people that killed Jesus wanted to kill them also.

But something wonderful was about to happen. Something that would change how they felt. Something that would bring joy, hope and courage. Do you know what that was? *allow answers*

We will celebrate it tomorrow. It demonstrated and proved Jesus is God. That his sacrifice for us was accepted by the Father. It shows us that if we believe in Jesus and follow him, though we die one day, we will still have life! The Resurrection was coming! Easter Sunday! What a wonderful day!

PRAY-Praise Jesus! Give praise and glory to him. Thank him for all that happened during Holy Week. Thank him for Good Friday and Easter!