

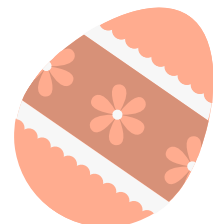
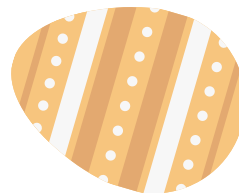
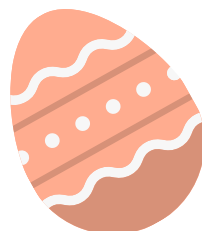
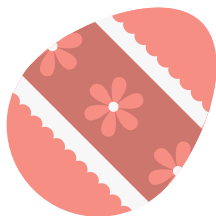
EASTER DEVOTION GUIDE

HAPPY EASTER FROM WEST ACRES KIDS

During Easter we celebrate the life, death, and resurrections of Jesus Christ. Our prayer is your family can use this guide the week before Easter to remember and reflect upon the beauty of what has been done through the cross of Christ.

Dates to Remember:

- April 5, NO Wednesday Activities
- April 6, 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service
Childcare for 3yrs and under will be provided
- April 9, Easter Sunday
- 8:45am Sunday School
10:00 Worship
WAK Zone (Children's Church)



DAY 1
APRIL 2

JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

READ: Jesus and His disciples walked toward Jerusalem. As they neared, Jesus sent two of the disciples into a village. "Go to the village. You will see a donkey and a colt. Untie them and bring them to Me." Jesus fulfilled a prophecy Zechariah made: "Tell Jerusalem that their King will come riding on a donkey. He will come with gentleness and humility." The disciples obeyed Jesus and brought the donkey and the colt. They laid their robes on the donkey, and Jesus sat on it. A large crowd gathered. The people spread their robes on the road. Some cut palm branches and placed them on the road. The people shouted, "Hosanna! The King who comes in the name of the Lord is blessed!" When Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem, the whole city was surprised. The crowds of people kept saying, "This is Jesus!" And everything Jesus did was exactly as the prophet Zechariah had said would happen. —based on **Matthew 21:1-11**

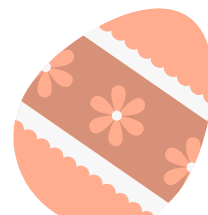
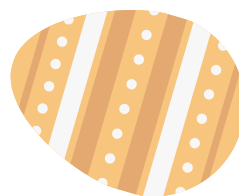
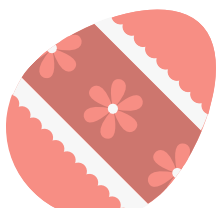
FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What message of hope did the prophet Zechariah give? (The promised King would come riding on a donkey.)
- Why does the coming of Jesus give us hope? (Jesus was sent to be our Savior.)
- What are ways we can show Jesus that we love Him and want to give Him praise?

(We can show Jesus we love Him by obeying Him, spending time with Him in prayer, studying our Bibles, loving people like Jesus loves them, and giving our time and money to serve others.)

PRAY: Dear God, thank You for the hope of salvation and eternal life with You. We praise You for the gift and sacrifice of Your Son who brought that hope to all people. Help us continually praise You and show our gratitude through living for You.

ACTIVITY: Have a Palm parade in your home. Gather some branches from outside or make some palm leaves out of construction paper or fabric and re-enact Jesus' Triumphal Entry. Choose one person to parade in a room and everyone else should shout "**Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**"



DAY 2

APRIL 3

JESUS WASHED THE DISCIPLES FEET

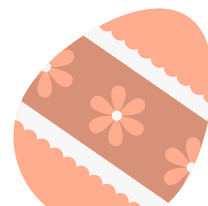
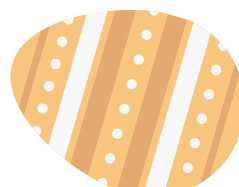
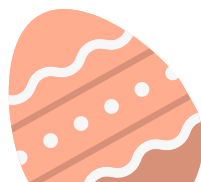
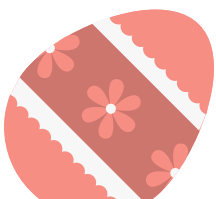
READ: Jesus and the disciples had gathered together in a room in the city of Jerusalem. Jesus knew that soon He would have to leave the disciples. Jesus loved the disciples. After supper, Jesus stood up and got a towel. He poured water into a bowl and began to wash and dry the disciples' feet. When Jesus came to Peter, Peter asked, "Lord, are You going to wash my feet?" Jesus told Peter, "What I am doing, you will not understand now. Later you will understand." When Jesus had washed all of their feet, He asked them, "Do you know what I have done for you?" "You call Me your Teacher and Lord. If I, your Teacher and Lord, have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example that you should do what I have done for you." —based on [John 13:1-15](#)

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does it mean to serve others? (Serving someone means helping someone else. Often, serving requires giving up something like time or money.)
- How did Jesus serve the disciples? (He washed their feet.)
- How can our family serve other people and follow Jesus's example? (We can serve other people by meeting needs, praying for people, and looking for opportunities to encourage or help others.)

PRAY: God, thank You for sending Jesus and for teaching us what it looks like to love and serve others. Help our family serve one another and the people around us even when it is difficult. Please give us greater humility as we serve and follow You.

ACTIVITY: Wash each others feet. Talk about how the disciples must have felt when Jesus washed their feet.



DAY 3
APRIL 4

THE LAST SUPPER

READ: One day Jesus told two of His disciples, Peter and John, to get everything ready for a special supper. “Where do you want us to prepare the supper?” they asked. Jesus said, “Go into the city. You will meet a man with a water pot. Follow the man into the house he goes into, and tell the owner of the house that I want to eat a special supper with My disciples at his house.” Jesus’s disciples did what Jesus told them to do. When they saw the man, they followed him to a house and told the owner of the house everything Jesus had said. Peter and John got everything ready for the special meal. When it was time to eat, Jesus and the disciples went to the house. They sat at the table. As they were eating, Jesus took some bread. He thanked God for it, and then He tore the bread into pieces. Jesus gave some bread to each disciple. Then Jesus took a cup and gave the men something to drink. Jesus said thank You to God. Jesus shared the cup with each man. Jesus told His disciples to always remember the things He did. “Remember Me, and always think about Me,” Jesus said. After supper, Jesus and His friends sang. Then they left the house and went to the Mount of Olives to pray. —based on [Matthew 26:17-30](#); [Mark 14:12-16](#); [Luke 22:7-23](#)

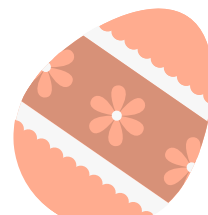
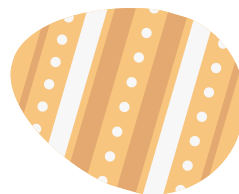
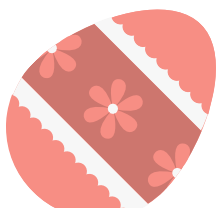
FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What did Jesus tell His disciples to do as they ate the bread and drank from the cup? (Jesus told them to remember and always think about Him when they did this.)
- Why do believers celebrate the Lord’s Supper? (The Lord’s Supper is a special time when believers eat the bread and drink from the cup to remember Jesus and His sacrifice.)

PRAY: God, thank You for Jesus. We love You and praise You for all of the wonderful things You have done. Help us always remember these things. Amen.

ACTIVITY: Make unleavened bread with your family.

Ingredients: 1 Cup all-purpose flour, 1/3 cup vegetable oil, 1/8 teaspoon of salt, & 1/3 cup water. Preheat an oven to 425 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Mix together the flour, oil, and salt. Slowly add the water to the mix and combine. Form dough into six equal balls and press into circles. Bake in a preheated oven until the bread is cooked, about 8-10 minutes. Flip bread after 4 minutes to evenly brown on both sides. Explain that the meal Jesus ate with His disciples included unleavened bread similar to the bread you made.



DAY 4

APRIL 5

THE PRAYER IN THE GARDEN

READ: Jesus and His disciples walked to a place called Gethsemane. It was a garden near the foot of the Mount of Olives. Jesus said to the men, "Sit here while I go pray." Then Jesus told Peter and two other disciples, James and John, to go with Him. Jesus became quiet. He began to think about the plan God had for Him and the things that would happen soon. Jesus told His friends He was sad and wanted them to stay near Him. While Peter, James, and John waited, Jesus walked a little farther away. He fell down on the ground and prayed. Jesus asked God to help Him. "Whatever You want, God, I will do," Jesus said. Jesus walked back to the disciples. He found them sleeping. "Stay awake and pray," Jesus said to the men. Jesus walked away again to pray some more. When He finished, He went back to the disciples. They were sleeping again! So Jesus went to pray again. He asked for help to be ready to do God's plan. When Jesus finished praying, He returned to His disciples. He told them that the time had come.

—Mark 14:32-42; Matthew 26:36-46

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why was Jesus sad and asking His friends to stay near? (Jesus knew He was about to fulfill God's plan by suffering and dying for our sin.)
- Did Jesus think prayer was important? How do you know? (Yes, Jesus spent part of His final days talking to God in prayer and asking His disciples to pray for Him.)
- Do other people who know you believe prayer is important to you? Why or why not? (Lead kids to discuss what prayer is and why it is important.)

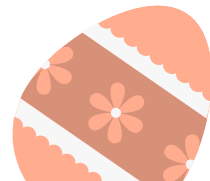
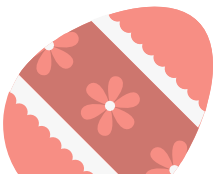
PRAY: God, thank You for sending Jesus to earth. Thank You for the example Jesus gave us: that even in times of great distress, we can talk to You and be comforted.

ACTIVITY:

ITEMS NEEDED: Bible, index cards, 6 plastic cups, foam ball

DIRECTIONS: Write five scenarios on the cups. (E.g., a severe storm, changing schools, speaking to a restaurant server you don't know) Stack the cups in a pyramid on a table. Invite one family member to read Philippians 4:6-7 in a Bible or Bible app. Lead each person to knock over the cups with the foam ball. The number of cups knocked over will direct the person's response to one of the situations provided:

- Even number: describe a fearful response.
- Odd number: describe a courageous response.
- All cups knocked over: choose another person to respond to the situation. Talk about the importance of recognizing a situation and choosing to respond in courage and faith. Remind your family that, no matter the situation, you can always pray to God, and He hears you.



DAY 5
APRIL 6

PETER'S DENIAL

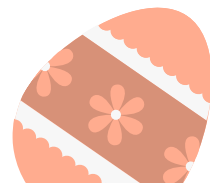
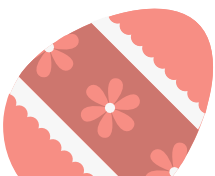
READ One day, Jesus's friend Peter was sitting in a courtyard. A servant walked up to Peter. She said, "You were with Jesus from Galilee." This surprised Peter. He was afraid for the people to know He was Jesus's friend. Peter shouted so everyone nearby could hear: "I don't know what you are talking about!" Peter walked out to the gateway. Another woman saw him and spoke to the people. The woman said, "This man was with Jesus!" Now Peter was even more upset. Again he shouted, "I don't know the man!" After a little while, some more people standing near Peter spoke up. They said, "You certainly are one of the people following Jesus. The things you say show that!" Now Peter was even more afraid. He was angry at the people. "I do not know the man!" Then Peter heard a rooster crow. Suddenly Peter remembered what Jesus had said earlier that night. Jesus said that before the rooster crowed, Peter would say three times that he did not know Jesus. Peter was so sad. He was Jesus's friend, but he told the people he did not know Jesus. Peter left the people and cried. —**Matthew 26:69-75**

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Jesus told Peter he would deny Jesus before it even happened. What does this tell us about Jesus? (Jesus knows everything because He is the Son of God.)
- Do you think Jesus still loved Peter even after Peter denied Him three times? Why or why not? (Yes, Jesus loved Peter, even when He sinned. Jesus forgave and restored Peter and had a special plan for his life to tell others about God. Jesus also loves us even though we sin.)
- 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 sin to Him? (Peter was very sad and upset after he denied Jesus. We should feel sad about our sin, confess it to God, and commit to obey and follow God.)

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

ACTIVITY: Choose a room in your home and play a game of Hide and Seek. The challenge is that people can only hide in that one room. After a few rounds, talk together about how difficult it was to hide in a room full of people. Say: "Just like it was hard for us to hide in a crowded room, Peter was unable to hide in the crowd of people. When he was found out, he lied and denied knowing Jesus. This was sin. Sin breaks our relationship with God, but we can talk to God about our sin."



DAY 6
APRIL 7

JESUS' BETRAYAL, ARREST, AND TRIAL

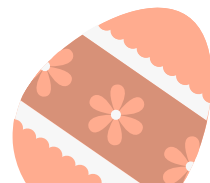
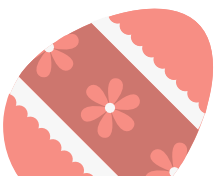
READ: The religious leaders did not like Jesus. They wanted to get rid of Him. One of Jesus's disciples, Judas, went to the religious leaders and made a deal. Judas agreed to betray Jesus. The leaders had Jesus arrested, and they sent Him to Pilate, the governor. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus told him, "You have said it." The religious leaders began telling lies about Jesus, but Jesus said nothing. Pilate was amazed at Jesus. He decided to let the people decide what he should do. Pilate could let a criminal named Barabbas go free, or he could release Jesus. Pilate knew that the religious leaders were jealous of Jesus and that is why they had arrested Him. The religious leaders got the people to tell Pilate that they wanted Barabbas to be free. When Pilate asked the people about Jesus, the people said they wanted to crucify Him. Finally, Pilate agreed to the people's demands to free Barabbas and sentence Jesus to be crucified. —based on [Matthew 26:47-50, 57-68; 27:1-31](#)

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Jesus knew everything that was going to happen to Him, and He still obeyed God's plan. What does this teach us about Jesus? (Jesus loved and obeyed God. He came to fulfill God's plan even though it would cost Him greatly.)
- When are times it is difficult to believe that God is in control? (Lead kids to discuss experiences where they have felt out of control.)
- How can we trust God when our circumstances feel uncertain? (Encourage your family to consider practical ways you can remember God is in control, no matter what.)

PRAY: God, thank You for Jesus and His willingness to fulfill Your perfect plan for His life on earth. Thank You for being in complete control of everything. We trust You, and we love You.

ACTIVITY: Set up an obstacle course. Choose one person to be blindfolded and another person to call out directions to complete the obstacle course. Play again with other family members, changing the course after the player has been blindfolded so he or she cannot see the new obstacles. Continue playing with new family members being blindfolded and others calling out directions. Discuss how challenging it was to navigate through the obstacle course when you couldn't see where you were 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 He is in complete control of everything.



DAY 7
APRIL 8

THE CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL

RREAD: The religious leaders did not like Jesus. They wanted to get rid of Him. A mob of people found Jesus and arrested Him. They took Him to Pilate. Pilate allowed Jesus to be beaten up. Pilate told the people, "I can't find any reason to charge Him (Jesus)." But the religious leaders yelled, "Crucify Him!" The religious leaders did not believe the truth about Jesus. Pilate tried to release Jesus. He was afraid of what was happening, but the crowd of people would not give up. They wanted Jesus to be crucified. Finally, Pilate agreed. Pilate had a sign made for the top of Jesus's cross that said, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." While Jesus was dying on the cross, Jesus asked John to take care of His mother, Mary. He knew that every Scripture prophesied about Him would be fulfilled, so He said, "It is finished." Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sin. Joseph of Arimathea was a follower of Jesus. Joseph went to Pilate and asked permission to bury Jesus's body. Nicodemus and Joseph took Jesus's body and wrapped it in linen cloths. They placed His body in a new tomb in the garden. The next day, the religious leaders asked Pilate to give orders for the tomb to be guarded because Jesus had said, "After three days I will rise again."

—John 19:1-42; Matthew 27:62-66

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

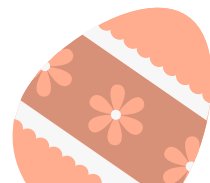
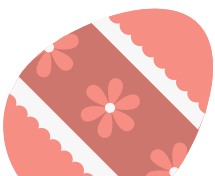
- Who is Jesus? (Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth to save us. He never sinned and came to be the perfect sacrifice for our sin.)
- Why did Jesus have to die? (Jesus died on the cross and rose again because this was God's plan to rescue people from sin. Jesus took our place and paid the punishment that was supposed to be for us.)

PRAY: God, thank You so much for Jesus's sacrifice. Thank You that Jesus willingly chose to die on the cross to rescue people from sin. Help us be grateful each day for this amazing gift.

ACTIVITY:

ITEMS NEEDED: Brown or gray circle cut out of construction paper, poster board with a circle drawn on it the same size as the construction paper circle, blindfold, tape

DIRECTIONS: Give a family member a prepared circle. Blindfold that family member and gently spin him or her around three times. Challenge the family member to stick the circle onto the poster board where the circle is drawn to "seal the tomb."



DAY 8

APRIL 9

JESUS' RESSURECTION

READ: After Jesus died on the cross, He was buried in a tomb. Jesus's friends and disciples were very sad and did not know what to do. Three days later, on the morning after the Sabbath (Saturday), some of Jesus's followers took spices and perfumes to His tomb. When the women arrived, the stone was rolled away and Jesus was not there. They were confused. Suddenly, two men appeared and asked the women, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here. He has been resurrected! Remember, He told you, 'The Son of Man will be betrayed, crucified, and rise on the third day.'" The women remembered what Jesus had told them. They went to the disciples and shared the good news! Peter ran to the tomb to see. He looked inside and only found the cloths Jesus's body had been wrapped in. He was amazed at what had happened! Jesus is alive!

Matthew 27:62-28:10; Luke 24:1-12

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What did the angel tell the women at the tomb? (The angel asked the women why they were looking for Jesus. He was not there. He had been resurrected.)
- What is the resurrection of Jesus? (The resurrection is a real event during the life and ministry of Jesus where someone was dead and came back to life. Jesus came back to life from physical death with a glorified body, never to die again. Jesus's resurrection shows that He is the Son of God.)
- Why is Jesus's resurrection good news? (Jesus came to die on the cross and rise again to pay the punishment for our sin, and He did! When we believe that Jesus is God's Son and trust in Him, we are saved from sin and are called God's children.)

PRAY: God, thank You for sending Jesus to pay the price for our sin. We praise You for raising Jesus from the grave. Help us share this good news with others. Amen.

ACTIVITY:

ITEMS NEEDED: 2 balls, a circle made of rope, yarn, or string

DIRECTIONS: Stand in a circle and place a ball in the middle of the circle. Explain that the ball in the middle is the "door" of the tomb. Challenge your family to take turns holding the other ball and sharing one truth they have learned this week about Jesus's life, death, and resurrection. After sharing a truth, that person may roll the ball he or she is holding to try to knock the "door" to the tomb out of the circle.

