

DAY 1



During the time Jesus lived, kings and rulers usually traveled on large, powerful horses. Imagine a parade with its Grand Marshal riding on the biggest, most powerful float in the parade. When kings traveled, people lined the streets, threw flowers, and cheered as they passed. Jesus was even more important than kings and rulers. He was the Son of God, the Savior that people had been waiting thousands of years to see. When the people heard He was coming into Jerusalem, they excitedly lined the streets, ready to greet their king. But He didn't come on a powerful, white horse. And people didn't throw flowers as He passed. Let's read find out what happened instead, when Jesus came into Jerusalem. . . .

READ

Mark 11:1-11

ASK

Which do you think is fancier: a big, pretty white horse or a tiny brown donkey?

Why do you think Jesus decided to ride a donkey into Jerusalem?

What do you think it means that Jesus was humble?

DO

Trace your hands on green construction paper, then cut them out. Pretend your hand prints are palm branches. Wave them around as one person pretends to be Jesus going into Jerusalem.

By riding into Jerusalem on a donkey instead of a horse, Jesus showed that He is a different kind of King than what most of us would have expected. He didn't come to tell everyone what to do or be more important than everyone else. Jesus was a humble king. Just like good kings bring peace to their kingdoms, Jesus can bring us peace today. No matter what we face this week, we can let God give us an attitude of humility and peace, just like Jesus.

PRAY

God, help us to have humility and peace this week, no matter what happens. Thank you for sending Jesus to be our King. Amen.

DAY 2

READ

Luke 22:7, 13-20

ASK

How do you think Jesus felt knowing that this was going to be His last dinner with His friends before He was going to die?

How is Jesus our Passover lamb?

What do you think it would have been like to be at the Last Supper and hear Jesus say He was going to die?

Jesus was going to take the place of the lamb as the sacrifice for sins. Sin is anything we do that God doesn't want us to do. Aren't you glad we don't have to make animal sacrifice in order to earn God's forgiveness anymore? Instead, we can thank God because Jesus came to earth so we can be forgiven for all the things we do wrong. Jesus is the sacrifice for all of our sins, forever.

PRAY

Lord, help us to never forget the sacrifice that Jesus made. Help us to live like what Jesus did matters! Amen.

Passover is a special dinner celebrated by the Jewish people that celebrates how God delivered the Israelites from being slaves to Egypt thousands of years ago. In this dinner, each Jewish family used to kill a lamb and then eat it together. The lamb was a symbol that a sacrifice was needed in order to gain God's forgiveness for their sins. The last time Jesus celebrated the Passover dinner with His disciples, He knew it would be His last meal before He died. Jesus wanted to make this last supper very special because He had a big announcement. Jesus announced He'd be giving the lambs a break. He was going to take the place of all the lambs that were sacrificed. Let's read this story from the Bible to learn more about it . . .

DO

Get some bread or crackers and grape juice. Go around the table and ask each person to say one thing God has forgiven them for and one thing they're thankful for. Have communion together and spend some time singing worship music together.

DAY 3

Have you ever faced something you didn't want to do alone? Have you ever faced something you thought you needed help with? Of course! We all have! Even Jesus once felt like he needed some support from His squad! It happened right before Jesus knew He was going to die. He brought His friends to the Garden of Gethsemane so they could have His back. He asked them to pray for Him while he went farther into the garden to pray alone. When He got there, Jesus asked His Father if there was any other way He could save the world, or if He really did have to die. God didn't answer, because this was the only way, and Jesus knew it. When Jesus came back to His friends, He found them sleeping! Let's find out more . . .

READ

Mark 14:32-42

ASK

Can you share about a time when you were so sleepy that you couldn't stay awake?

Why do you think Jesus asked His Father if He could do things in a different way?

Why do you think Jesus decided to follow His Father's plan after all?

Do you think Jesus was upset with His disciples when they fell asleep?

DO

Have one person leave the room and come back at any time (within two minutes). When they leave, everyone will pretend to be asleep. If the person in the room comes back in and sees anyone moving, they are out!

Have fun playing!

Jesus came back to find the disciples sleeping three times! But Jesus didn't freak out. What did He do? He told them to get up, because His time had come. He accepted that He was going to die for our sins, even though He was perfect and even though it was going to be painful. Jesus chose to do the hard thing because He knew it was God's plan. Just like Jesus, we can do things that are hard (like staying awake to pray), because God will help us.

PRAY

God, help us remember that even when You seem silent and things don't go our way, You have a plan for us that is far better than anything we could come up with on our own! Amen.

DAY 4

READ

Luke 22:31-34 & 55-62

ASK

Why do you think Peter said he didn't know Jesus?

Has anyone ever pretended like they weren't your friend? How did it make you feel?

Have you ever been so afraid of what might happen if you told the truth that you lied?

Do you think Jesus still loves us after we lie?

Peter lied about knowing Jesus because Peter was afraid of what people would do to him. Peter made a mistake, and he knew it. In our lives today, we might also have times when we're afraid of what people will think of us, so we lie or pretend like we don't know God to keep ourselves safe. But with Jesus, we can be brave and bold about the fact that we know God! And if we mess up, like Peter did, we can always ask God for forgiveness.

PRAY

Father, help us to be brave and stand up for you no matter what. Forgive us for the times we denied you with our actions, words or attitudes. Amen.

Peter was one of Jesus' closest friends. He was usually the brave one of Jesus' crew. Peter was the type of person who would take risks, do daring things, and trust Jesus — even if that meant stepping out of a boat to walk on water. So when Jesus told Peter that Peter was going to deny the friendship he and Jesus had, Peter said, "NO WAY!" Peter was confident that even under pressure he would stand tall and back Jesus up to the end. When Jesus was arrested, Peter followed closely to see what would happen to his friend, but everything changed when people in the crowd began to recognize Peter. Let's read this story from the Bible to find out what happened next . . .

DO

Play the game Two Truths and a Lie. Each person will share two things that are true about themselves and one lie (in any order). Everyone has to guess which statement is not true. You might have to be creative to try and trick each other!

DAY 5

After Jesus was arrested by soldiers, He was bullied and beat up and brought before the temple priest to go on trial and see if He was guilty of breaking the law. Even though He was innocent, they sentenced Jesus to die on a cross. Jesus already knew this would happen — He was born for this very reason. Jesus came to earth to lay down His life and be the sacrifice for our sins. Even while He was on the cross, Jesus prayed for the Father to forgive the people God had made. He even told one of the two thieves that were being crucified next to Him that the man would join Jesus in paradise when He died. Let's read more about what happened . . .

READ

Matthew 27:35-50

ASK

How do you think Jesus felt when he was being bullied by the people He loved?

If Jesus was innocent, why do you think He had to die?

Who did Jesus die for?

Why can we find hope in the death of Jesus?

DO

Use painter's tape to make a cross on a piece of paper or a canvas, then paint over the paper with watercolor paint. When the paint is dry, take the tape off and reveal a beautiful cross picture. Hang it somewhere in your house that will remind you of the amazing sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

Jesus died on a cross not because He deserved it, but because He loves us. Jesus would have died on the cross for each and every one of us, even if we were the only people on earth. Isn't that amazing? Let's thank Him for His great love for us.

PRAY

God, thank you so much for loving us so much that you would sacrifice Your Son for us.. Help us to love one another and share His love with others. Amen.

DAY 6

READ

Matthew 28:1-8

ASK

Have you ever missed a friend or family member that was gone for a long time? How did you feel when you saw them again?

Do you think Jesus' friends believed Him when He said he would come back to life?

How do you think they felt when they found out He was alive?

Why was it important that Jesus came back to life?

The angel told the women who visited the tomb that Jesus wasn't there, because He was alive! How excited do you think those women were when they heard that good news? We can celebrate and share the Good News today too — the best news ever! It's the news that Jesus is alive!

PRAY

God, thank you that we have hope and can have a relationship with you because of Jesus. Thank you that He conquered death and is alive today! Amen.

Have you ever felt sad and disappointed because you thought something amazing was about to happen, but instead something terrible happened? That's how Jesus' family, friends and followers probably felt when He died. They thought Jesus was about to save the world and become King . . . but then He died! Jesus died on a Friday. Since no one could do any work on Saturday because it was against the Jewish law, early in the morning on Sunday, some of the women who followed Jesus went to prepare His body for burial. When they got to the tomb where Jesus' body was supposed to be, they found the huge stone that had been placed at the entrance of the tomb had been rolled away! Let's see what happened . . .

DO

Use blankets and couches or chairs to build a fort and pretend it's the empty tomb. Dance around the empty tomb to celebrate that Jesus is alive! Go inside the empty tomb and sing a song your favorite song of celebration. Then take turns going in and out of the fort and shout "The tomb is empty! Jesus is alive!"