

EASTER SUNDAY

Read Matthew 28

Write a poem describing your feelings about Christ's empty tomb.

Think of some songs (maybe even sing them) that remind you of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus says to you:-

"I will be with you
always"



Check out 1 Corinthians 15v 51 to 58

Listen to this secret truth: we shall not all die, but when the last trumpet sounds, we shall all be changed in an instant, as quickly as the blinking of an eye. For when the trumpet sounds, the dead will be raised, never to die again, and we shall all be changed. (v51-52)

But thanks be to God who gives us
the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! v57

FOR THE FAMILY Read Luke 24v1-9

You'll need cupcakes and a trick re -- lighting candle. Light it and talk about how Jesus came to be the light of the world. On Saturday, it looked like the light had been blown out. Blow out the candle and wait in silence while the flame is gone. When the flame comes back, celebrate! Point out that nothing can ever snuff out Jesus, the light of the world.

Out & About

Celebrate God's love by showing God's love to others.

Choose 1 person in your family and tell them how you are going to show and express your love for them this week. Eg. Go for a walk together, play a video game with each other, give mum a massage.



Celebrating Easter with the Salvos

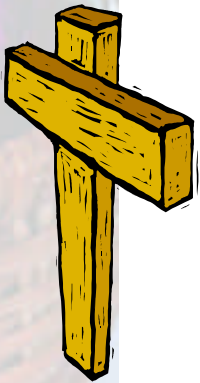
Each Easter K

These devotions are in the 1st person as though you are actually re-living the week. This is only a guide, I'm sure God will show you plenty of other scripture to read.

Maybe you could do this
together as a family or ring a friend.
Make time each day to intentionally
discover and discuss Jesus' love and
sacrifice for each of us.

Use these experiences to
create memories this Easter.

Easter Celebrations have an
amazing impact on children.



PALM SUNDAY Read Matthew 21v 1-11

We rise early with Jesus and the disciples. The people gathering for the celebration of the week- long Passover Feast in the city of Jerusalem heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem and gathered palm branches to wave in honour of their coming King, Jesus. This was a direct fulfilment of what the prophet Zechariah saw and wrote about 400 years earlier **Read Zechariah 9v9**

I want to make every day a Praise Day.

I want to put on the garment of praise!

How can you praise?

Listen to some Praise Cd's,

Write out a prayer of praise

Read Matthew 21v 12-17

We will enter the Temple with Jesus.

Watch and Listen to the children and babies offering praise.

Look up **Malachi 3v 1-5**.

We need to get going to arrive at Bethany before the Sabbath, Acts 1v 12 tells us it's only a kilometre away.

AS A FAMILY

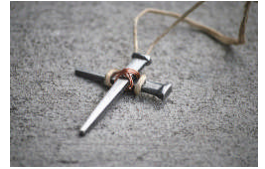
Make palm -- leaf cookies. Cut **frozen cookie dough** into 6cm strips. Place aluminium foil on a cookie sheet and spray it with non-stick cooking spray. Roll the cookie strips and shape them into an outline of a palm leaf on the foil. Close all edges in the outline. Crush **green hard lollies** in a bag with a hammer, and sprinkle to fill in the cookie centre. Bake at 190c for about eight minutes. Contrast the sweetness of the cookies with the harshness of breaking the lollies with a hammer. Tell your children that this was a sweet day for Jesus, but he knew that soon he would be broken-or would die-for our sins.

Out & About *Think of a reason to praise Jesus each time you take off a shirt during the week.*

Make some more cookies and share them with a lonely person or another family.

AS A FAMILY Read Mark 15v21-39

You'll need two horseshoe or carpenter's nails, light gauge wire, and a shoelace for each child. Help children lay their nails across each other like a cross, then start wrapping the wire around the point where the nails intersect to bind the nails into a cross. Crisscross the wire in the centre. Have the kids recall an event of the Crucifixion with each wrap. Wrap more wire around the top and make a loop to hold the shoelace.



Out & About

Write or draw a prayer on some post-it- notes and put them into the shape of a cross and stick on the fridge.

EASTER SATURDAY Read Matthew 27v 62-66

Early in the day guards have been placed at the tomb of Jesus. This is to make sure that the tomb is not opened.

The tomb is a dark and lonely place.

Sometimes we sit in the dark and are frightened, feeling physically and emotionally uneasy about an uncertain future.

AS A FAMILY Read Mark 15v42-47

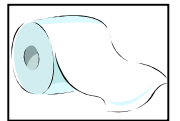
Take turns **wrapping each other in toilet paper** just as Jesus may've looked when prepared for burial.

Talk about how the disciples might've felt when all their hopes seemed destroyed when Jesus died. Ask, *"How would you have felt if you had been there when Jesus died? What would you have done?"*

Talk about how the burial isn't the end of the story, but that it was a very sad day for Jesus' friends.

Out & About

Plan some special time together to laugh, play and share...



THURSDAY Mathew 26v47– 27v 28

In the next few hours Jesus will undergo 6 trials. Jesus comes out of his 3rd trial just in time to hear Peter deny a 3rd time to being a follower of Jesus.

Jesus action and attitude show me how I am to face emotional, spiritual or physical difficulties.

Every problem with children, each disagreement with my family, each stressful day at work provides an opportunity to call on God to strengthen my faith, to develop my perseverance, and to build my character.

AS A FAMILY Read John 13v 1-5

Jesus washed feet to show his love. **Have a bowl, a bar of soap, and paper towels** ready. Take turns washing each other's hands and drying them as you express love to each other. Display the soap at your family worship space.

Out & About *Get your shoes out of the cupboard and clean each others shoes.*



GOOD FRIDAY Read Isaiah 52v 13-53v12

Luke 22v66 –23v 25

Jesus is now led to a hill and crucified. It is the same hill that Abraham brought his son 4000 years earlier, (Genesis 22v 1-19) a loving father offered his only beloved son, a parallel to the crucifixion of Jesus.

Read Luke 23v26 –43 Jesus first words on the cross were "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do"

Even as he is rejected, Jesus forgives. Think about your life. List sin you've committed in the last 2 days, harsh words, uncaring attitude, etc.

Tear it up and write a prayer thanking God for the forgiveness he offers you.



MONDAY Read Matthew 21v18-22

We wake early the next morning, to see Jesus and the disciples on their way back to Jerusalem and the temple. On the way Jesus is hungry, he finds a figtree without any fruit. We stand by in amazement as we listen to Jesus. He recognises unfruitfulness and he took action to remove it.

As I read this I was challenged about my own life.

Is it fruitful? Do I have enough faith?

What does he say in verse 22.

Jesus spends the day preaching in the Temple. **Read through to the end of chapter 23.**

Jesus leaves the temple for the last time Matthew 24v1 . Check out what the Prophet Ezekiel says in chapter 10v1-22.

After discussion between the leaders and Jesus, Jesus walked out of the temple and the disciples followed. The disciples thought that this was the long awaited moment, the moment when King Jesus would take control and according to scripture would reign and rule from Jerusalem. The disciples listen as Jesus replies that the temple would be destroyed. The disciples were stunned. They realise they are not familiar with the current plan of Jesus. That evening they return to the Mount of Olives and sit with Jesus.

Sit with Jesus, listen to Him (silence or cd's)

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AS A FAMILY Read Mark 11v15-18

Tell your children that this area of the temple was the place non - Jews could come to pray, but it had become a dirty, noisy, unworshipful place. Together, decorate a worshipful space in your home for Easter Week. **Include a Bible, candles, and an area to display** the items you'll use this week. You can review these items at the beginning of each devotion. Light the candles or turn on the lights only during devotions to keep it special and meaningful.

Out & About

Jesus was cleaning out the temple, as a family you could offer to clean an older persons car.



TUESDAY Read Matthew 26v 6– 16

As we wake we go with Jesus to the house of Simon a leper whom Jesus has previously cured.

This made me think how all throughout the Bible, hurting, suffering people turn to God and have found compassion and healing like Simon. Jesus spends more time with him.

Is there someone you need to visit, to spend time with?

Judas departs to meet with the Jewish leaders to betray Jesus and receives the 30 pieces of silver. Look at Zechariah 11v 2

AS A FAMILY Read aloud Mark 14:3 - 9.

This woman gave Jesus a gift that was very precious. We can give gifts that come from our heart, too.

As each child shares something he or she can do to honour Jesus, **spray perfume** into the air or on the child.

Decorate a beautiful piece of paper and form a cylinder around the perfume bottle for display at your family worship space.

Out & About

Who do you want to honour?

Make a card or write an email to a friend/ grandparent.



WEDNESDAY Matthew 26v 17– 46

We wake up and follow Jesus to Jerusalem to eat the Passover dinner and celebrate it with the disciples in an upper room made ready by some friends. Look at **Exodus 12v 1-36 and Leviticus chapter 23.**

All the disciples are seated around Jesus and he begins to explain how one of the disciples will betray Him.

As I'm typing this I'm thinking " how easily we can betray Jesus in our thoughts and actions". I want to do and say what God wants every moment of my life. What about you?

After the meal, and a short walk to Gethsemane, Jesus asks the disciples to wait while he goes and prays. **Read John 17v1-26**

I love this prayer, especially because I realise He's praying for all of His followers including us, his future followers.

The Garden is the ideal place to reveal that God is in control. It was so many years ago that Adam and Eve lost the relationship with God through their disobedience in the Garden of Eden .

Jesus is now arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane

Go one step further— his resurrection is in another Garden.

AS A FAMILY Read aloud Matthew 26v14-16

You'll need 30 silver coins. Tell kids that Judas betrayed Jesus for about 120 days wages. Let the kids count the coins and place them at your family worship space. Ask, "Was Jesus' life on earth worth more than 30 pieces of silver? Why or why not? What was the true value of Jesus' life to our family?"



Out & About

As a family decide what you can do with the 30 silver coins.