

# Easter

## Family Devotional

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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Easter Family Devotional!

Over the next seven days, we'll follow the Easter story, from Jesus' betrayal through those moments on the cross and right into that empty tomb.

This easy-to-follow devotional was created with you and your family in mind and includes the following each day:

## **01 SCRIPTURE**

Here, we work through the scriptures that tell the Easter story.

## **02 DEVOTIONAL**

A thought around this part of the story.

## **03 RESPONSE/ACTIVITY**

This is a moment of reflection on how this part of the Easter story impacts our lives today.

## **04 TODAY'S PROMISE**

A promise from scripture to relate the thought to our lives personally.

## **05 PRAYER**

As we look at the Easter story, that powerful moment in history that our faith is built upon, we pray that you and your children will all have a fresh revelation of the power of Jesus' death and resurrection and what it means for you and your family today.

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED**

Day 5 and Day 7 include an activity. The devotional can be completed with or without these practical activities - but should you want to have these, here's what you'll need:

Day 5

- Communion
  - Grape Juice or Ribena
  - Bread

Day 7

- Easter Eggs
  - A hollow easter egg for each person

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# DAY 1 - THE BETRAYAL

## DEVOTIONAL

So here we are, at the start of Passover week, when Jesus knew what was ahead for Him in the following days - He would give up His life for the salvation of every man, woman, and child. That is how great His love is for us.

However, as He prepared to face this agony, the people He had gathered closely around Him let Him down in a personal, hurtful way. The Bible even says, "Then all his disciples deserted Him and ran away." (Mark 14:50.) Can you imagine all your friends doing that to you?

Betrayal means to hurt a friend on purpose.

Judas betrayed Jesus by choosing money instead of being a loyal friend. He chose worldly treasure instead of eternal treasure. We have all had times when there is a sparkling, golden temptation in front of us but let's learn to choose Jesus instead of earthly treasure.

Peter was embarrassed by the chaos and gossip about Jesus; it was awkward, and he pretended he didn't know Jesus. The moment he said it, Peter must have felt sad that he wasn't loyal to Jesus and that he didn't stick up for his friend. Poor Peter. Now he was in a challenging situation. One lie led to the next, and he kept saying, "No, I don't know that man." It's hard to stop lying once you start!

Have you ever felt betrayed by someone? Have you ever betrayed someone's friendship and trust? Jesus says in this scripture:

### **Matthew 6:14 (NLT)**

**"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you."**

Do you think you can forgive people who have hurt you?

### **Colossians 3:13 (NLT)**

**"Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."**

## READ

**Mark 14:43-50**

**Matt. 6:14**

**Col. 3:13**

**Psalms 34:18**



# DAY 1 - THE BETRAYAL

It's not easy to forgive, but it is an important thing to learn to do.

## RESPONSE/ACTIVITY

Who can you be LOYAL and KIND to today? Your brother or sister or someone at school? Can you think of someone who is having a hard time, or going through something? How could you be an incredibly kind friend to them today? Even if they have hurt you sometime in the past, today you could turn that all around by being a faithful friend. Jesus was a faithful friend when He went to the cross for us, even though we have not always been faithful to Him.

Can you think of something special you could do for that person today to show them love and show that you are a faithful friend? Could you make them a nice card, or give them a little Easter treat?

## TODAY'S PROMISE

**Psalms 34:18 (NIV)**

**"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."**

Being betrayed is tough! We feel so hurt, confused, and disappointed. But God promises to be near us when we are broken-hearted and when we feel crushed. Jesus must have known that His Father would be with Him as He was betrayed, and this would have given Him courage to face the cross.

## PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for being so faithful to us. Thank You for going to the cross even when some of Your friends had betrayed You. I want to be a faithful friend. God, please be near me when I feel hurt, so that I can forgive people who hurt me. Please help me be a kind friend to those around me and stand up for my friends when they need help. Amen.

## READ

**Mark 14:43-50**

**Matt. 6:14**

**Col. 3:13**

**Psalms 34:18**

# DAY 2 - JESUS ON TRIAL

## DEVOTIONAL

Day 2 of our Easter devotional follows Jesus' journey from the Garden of Gethsemane, where an angry crowd of soldiers arrested Him. On the lonely night preceding His death and into the following morning, the soldiers took Jesus to stand trial before the High Priest and Pilate.

Just imagine it, Jesus the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, God Himself, being arrested by the people He had created, being wrongly accused and lied about, being laughed at by those He loved, being left abandoned and deserted by His closest friends.

Jesus was about to endure the greatest physical pain in His death on the cross. However, in this part of the crucifixion story, we get a glimpse of the emotional pain and hurt He would have felt.

For us today, this gives us great peace as we realise that Jesus understands all the emotions we often feel, such as sadness, loneliness or betrayal (as we talked about on Day 1). This is firstly because He created us (and He knows us better than we know ourselves), and secondly because He experienced them Himself.

- Have you ever felt that horrible feeling of loneliness?  
Jesus has felt that too.
- Have people ever lied about you and made up stories about you?  
Jesus had that too.
- Have friends ever left or deserted you when you felt you needed them most? The night before His death, Jesus again felt this too.
- Have you ever experienced the betrayal from a friend we heard about on Day 1 of our devotional? Jesus experienced that too.
- Have you ever been laughed at and hurt by people you loved?  
Jesus once again has felt and experienced this too.

This part of the crucifixion story gives us great comfort that Jesus can relate to us because in that horrible, sad and lonely night proceeding His death, He had felt all those horrible feelings we also feel. So, when you pray to Him, you can have confidence that, not only does He hear all your prayers, but He actually knows exactly how you're feeling. He relates to you, and He's able to comfort you through it all.

## READ

**Mark 14:55-65**

**Psalms 120:1**

# DAY 2 - JESUS ON TRIAL

## RESPONSE/ACTIVITY

Can you think of a time you have felt sad or lonely?  
Why don't you share what was happening to make you feel that way?  
What can you do next time you face a situation when you feel sad or lonely or where people laugh and make fun of you?

## READ

**Mark 14:55-65**  
**Psalms 120:1**

## TODAY'S PROMISE

**Psalms 120:1 (NLT)**

**"I took my troubles to the LORD; I cried out to Him, and he answered my prayer."**

## PRAYER

Jesus, I thank You that You not only died on the cross for my sins but You also know exactly how it felt to be hurt, rejected, lonely and sad. God, next time I feel lonely or sad, please help me to remember that You know exactly how I'm feeling because at the very first Easter, You experienced it all too. Help me to remember that I can bring everything to You. Amen.

# DAY 3 - JESUS IS MOCKED

## DEVOTIONAL

When reading this story, it's quite shocking. Can you imagine treating the King of Kings, the Son of God, like a criminal? The Roman soldiers took Jesus to the governor's headquarters; in Roman history, this was known as the Praetorium, Pilate's house, where Jesus was judged by the people, similar to how we have a judge in the court these days.

The identity of Christ had regularly been questioned as He declared Himself to be the Messiah, the Son of God, the Saviour of the world. Only one chapter before this, in Matthew 27, the Jewish Rulers had already mocked Jesus as the Messiah, and now the Roman authorities mocked Him as King.

They dressed Jesus in the clothes of a king to tease Him as they didn't believe that He was who He said He was, the King of Kings! They dressed Him in a scarlet robe (which only royalty would wear because the dyes to make fabric that colour were so expensive in those days). Instead of giving Him a crown made of gold, like other kings of that time, they placed a crown of thorns on Jesus' head – ouch! They gave Him a reed stick to hold, not a glorious sceptre to symbolise His power, but a flimsy reed that didn't look very kingly.

Their mockery turned really mean! They shouted out fake praise, mocked Him with their words, took back the robe, spat on Him, smacked Him on the head with the same stick they gave Him to carry, and led Him on the way to His crucifixion.

If only they knew and understood who Jesus really was!

## RESPONSE/ACTIVITY

As hard as that passage is to read, there are some things we can learn from it. Of course, not in the physical sense, but do you think that you sometimes treat Jesus as though He's just a normal person, not as His true identity – the King of Kings?

Have you 'mocked' Jesus by not worshipping Him the way He deserves?

## READ

**Matt. 27:27-31**

**Rom. 12:1**

**1 Peter 2:9**



# DAY 3 - JESUS IS MOCKED

## RESPONSE/ACTIVITY

As hard as that passage is to read, there are some things we can learn from it. Of course, not in the physical sense, but do you think that you sometimes treat Jesus as though He's just a normal person, not as His true identity – the King of Kings?

Have you 'mocked' Jesus by not worshipping Him the way He deserves?

### **Romans 12:1 (NLT)**

**"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice - the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him"**

When you tell God you love Him, is your life full of love?

When you sing praise and worship to Him, is it truly full of praise and worship?

When you pray to Him, are your prayers really focused on Him?

We have imagined Jesus looking like a character from a book. This may have hindered us from worshipping Him as our King, draped in a royal scarlet robe, wearing a glorious golden crown, and powerfully holding a sceptre. Is that how you see Jesus?

## TODAY'S PROMISE

### **1 Peter 2:9 (NLT)**

**"But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light."**

Jesus is King, and because, as Christians, we are His 'very own possession', we are royal priests! When we truly recognise the identity of Christ for what it really is, it also helps us to know and understand our identity.

## READ

**Matt. 27:27-31**

**Rom. 12:1**

**1 Peter 2:9**

# DAY 3 - JESUS IS MOCKED

When we can love, honour, and worship God the way He deserves – as the King of Kings – we will understand His love for us! How do we know that? Because Jesus chose to go to the cross because He loves us, even though He was mocked and beaten, and even though the people who were supposed to love Him didn't believe that He was who He said He was. We no longer have to wonder if we're good enough, believe wrong things other people may think about us, or names other people may call us because we know that we are God's very own possession, and our God is King!

## **READ**

**Matt. 27:27-31**

**Rom. 12:1**

**1 Peter 2:9**

## **PRAYER**

Jesus, I thank You that You not only died on the cross for my sins but You also know exactly how it felt to be hurt, rejected, lonely and sad. God, next time I feel lonely or sad, please help me to remember that You know exactly how I'm feeling because at the very first Easter, You experienced it all too. Help me to remember that I can bring everything to You. Amen.

# DAY 4 - THE CRUCIFIXION

## DEVOTIONAL

If we could look back through time and see Jesus stumble to the cross, everything would have looked upside down and round the wrong way. Jesus, the Saviour of the world and Creator of all things, was too weak to even carry his cross. God's most precious Son was mistreated, mocked and shamed.

After the soldiers had spat on Him, called Him names, mocked Him by giving Him a 'crown' of thorns and pretended to worship Him, Jesus says some of the most POWERFUL words ever spoken; "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." (Luke 23:34)

In the midst of the most horrendous treatment, his friends denying Him and leaving Him alone when he needed them the most, Jesus is more concerned about them than Himself: "They don't know what they're doing, Father, it will hurt them, please forgive them." And in the next moment, while He was in the most unbearable pain, Jesus reached out to the criminals who were being crucified with Him with deep compassion. At the same time, whilst one mocks, He leads the other into eternity with Him. While He was giving up his life and facing unimaginable pain FOR THEM because he loved them and He forgave them.

We can face horrible things every day that make our hearts hurt. Have you ever been bullied? Have you ever had something happen to you that made you so angry and hurt you so much that you kept thinking about it over and over? Maybe some mean words are stuck in your heart and mind, and you can't get them out of your head.

Most of us would know what it's like to be called names and it can make us feel lonely, unloved, not good enough and even ashamed. Sometimes we can even hurt others because we are hurt. But Jesus knows that it can hurt us when we don't forgive and let go of the hurt or anger. He wants us to be free from those words, thoughts and feelings. They're only hurting us, not those who said them!

Forgiveness, as Jesus showed, is being kind to those who aren't kind to you, encouraging others when they are using discouraging words to you, and showing respect to those who haven't shown respect to you.

## READ

**Matt. 27:32-44**

**Luke 23:26-43**

**Matt. 6:14-15**

**Deut. 31:6**

# DAY 4 - THE CRUCIFIXION

## RESPONSE/ACTIVITY

Are you holding any unforgiveness or anger towards anyone in your life? If so, remember Jesus and how He forgave the worst possible treatment, the unforgivable. Today, Jesus forgives us if we forgive those who have hurt or harmed us.

## READ

**Matt. 27:32-44**

**Luke 23:26-43**

**Matt. 6:14-15**

**Deut. 31:6**

### **Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV)**

**For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.**

It's not always easy to forgive, but if we just take one day at a time, forgive one thing at a time, then we can live free.

## TODAY'S PROMISE

### **Deuteronomy 31:6 (NLT)**

**"So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the LORD your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you."**

What a cool promise, God is always with us, and He will never leave us.

We CAN be bold and courageous, and we CAN forgive because no matter what names we are called, no matter what people say to us, God, the Creator, the Saviour, the King of Kings will always go with us wherever we go. He has the most beautiful plan for us so we can be free from shame and hurt.

## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for loving me and for going through all this pain so I can be free. Thank You that You know all my hurts and pain and where I am struggling to let go of thoughts and words in my mind. I am so grateful that You forgive my sins, so please help me be strong and courageous and forgive those who have hurt me. Help me to live every day free of hurt so that I can be the best me that I can be. Amen.

# DAY 5 - THE DEATH OF JESUS

## DEVOTIONAL

Today's devotional includes an activity. Firstly wow! This is the heart of the gospel. Jesus died for us to take away our sin! Can you imagine being there that day? The darkness came over the land as the Light of the World, Jesus, died for us.

What three things happened when Jesus died?

1. The temple curtain ripped in two (v51).
2. There was an earthquake (v51).
3. Godly people were raised from the dead (v52-53)!

When Jesus died, people came alive! How absolutely incredible! The Romans soldiers were all astounded!

### **Matthew 27:54 (NIV)**

**When the centurion and those with Him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"**

Wow! Don't you love what the guards said? It really was the truth.

They were right, He WAS the Son of God. Yes, the SON of God. They had heard Him teach, they had seen Him do miracles, and they wondered who He really was, this Jesus from Nazareth. Many knew his family and knew where He grew up. It is so easy to take Jesus for granted and treat Him as common in our lives. But that day, many had a true revelation of who He was when they saw the powerful events that occurred.

Today, as we take communion, the most important thing is to stop and worship God. As we pray together, let's believe we wouldn't just know about Jesus, but we would have a revelation of who He really is.

When we read this account, it leads us to worship! Everything He suffered, remember, He did it for us. He wasn't just a good man, or a clever teacher, He was and IS the Son of God!

### **John 17:3 (NLT)**

**"And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth."**

## READ

**Matt. 27:45-56**  
**John 17:3**  
**1 Cor. 11:23-24**  
**Rom. 6:23**  
**Rom. 10:9-10, 13**

**WHAT YOU  
WILL NEED**  
**Grape Juice**  
**or Ribena**  
**Bread**



# DAY 5 - THE DEATH OF JESUS

## ACTIVITY/RESPONSE

We are going to take communion now.

NOTE TO PARENTS: We take communion often at church and in Kids Church. It is important to encourage children to take communion with the right heart, and not to take it lightly or be silly around communion.

Read through 1 Corinthians 11:23-24 to see how important it is to take communion with reverence.

The Bible talks about looking at our own hearts before taking communion. As we ask God for forgiveness, we also need to forgive others for things they have done to us.

### Communion Time:

#### 1. Forgive others

Before we take communion, let's look in our heart and ask God to forgive us for any bad thoughts or unforgiveness we've had towards anyone. Let's pray for them and bless them. Sin isn't just doing wrong things; it can also be holding onto grudges against others. Jesus died so that we could be free from this too!

#### 2. Receive God's love

Sometimes we can feel so hurt, because of mean words that have been spoken to us. As you give God that hurt, let's ask God to fill you with His big love.

#### 3. Forgive ourselves and ask for forgiveness.

Ask God to forgive you for anything wrong you have done, pray for anyone you have hurt and ask God to help you say sorry.

#### 4. Let's be grateful for all that Jesus suffered for us.

#### 5. Let's take the drink – what does it represent? Jesus' blood.

#### 6. Let's pass around the bread, rip a bit and pass it on. What does the bread remind us of? Jesus' body.

#### 7. Thank God for forgiving our sins and for His great love for us.

## READ

**Matt. 27:45-56**

**John 17:3**

**1 Cor. 11:23-24**

**Rom. 6:23**

**Rom. 10:9-10, 13**

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

**Grape Juice  
or Ribena  
Bread**

# DAY 5 - THE DEATH OF JESUS

## TODAY'S PROMISE

**Romans 6:23 (NLT)**

**For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.**

We have so many promises because of what Jesus did for us. The greatest truth is that God loves us and that if we believe in Him, we shall live forever with Him!

If you haven't received Jesus into your heart – maybe you would like to. At this time of Easter, it is always good to think about your salvation and be reminded of God's great love for you.

## PRAYER

Thank You, Jesus, that You died on the cross for me. Thank You that You showed me how much You love me. I am so grateful for all that You did. I repent of the wrong things I have done, and release forgiveness to others, knowing You forgive me. Thank You for saving me from my sin. I accept You into my life as my Saviour. I want to be more like You, Jesus, and follow You every day. Help me to know You more and more. I worship You – You are the Son of God! Amen.

## READ

**Matt. 27:45-56**

**John 17:3**

**1 Cor. 11:23-24**

**Rom. 6:23**

**Rom. 10:9-10, 13**

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

**Grape Juice  
or Ribena  
Bread**

# DAY 6 - THE TOMB

## DEVOTIONAL

Day 6 takes us right into one of the most hopeless days ever recorded in human history, the day following Jesus' death. Can you just imagine all Christ's closest friends seeing Jesus? Their hope, their Saviour, their answer now lying dead in a grave? Their situation looked well and truly hopeless, this was a bad, bad day! Can you just imagine them in all their sadness, wondering if things would ever get better again? On that sad, hopeless day, they didn't realise that two days later, they were about to experience the most wonderful day ever to be recorded in history, the day of the resurrection.

When we go through dark days and face hopeless situations, like the disciples, we can't always see the big picture and don't always know what's waiting for us just around the corner.

This brings us great hope that no matter how sad or lifeless a situation is, even on the very darkest days of your life, with Jesus there is always hope.

Next time you have a bad day, let this moment in the Easter story remind you that even on your saddest days - in God, there is always hope. If God was able to bring life out of the most lifeless of situations and turn everything around, we can be encouraged that He is able to take even the most hopeless situations in your life and turn them around.

## RESPONSE/ACTIVITY

Can you remember having a bad day?

Have you ever faced a situation that looked hopeless?

Share with a friend or family member what you did and why.

## READ

**Matt. 27:57-65**

**Jer. 29:11**

# DAY 6 - THE TOMB

## TODAY'S PROMISE

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

## READ

Matt. 27:57-65

Jer. 29:11

## PRAYER

God, next time I have a difficult day, help me to remember that in You there is always hope. Next time I face a dark situation, help me to remember the Easter story, where Jesus was laid in that tomb. Please let me be encouraged that, if You were able to turn that situation around, You can turn my dark days around. I thank You, God, that You are faithful, and we can trust You that, as Jeremiah 29:11 says, You have good plans ahead of me for my life. Amen.

# DAY 7 - THE EMPTY TOMB

## DEVOTIONAL

How do you think Jesus' friends felt that Easter Sunday morning? Their Friend, the One who walked with them, talked with them, the One who fed them, laughed with them, healed them and taught them, was gone. All their hopes of a better future were sealed in the tomb with Jesus' lifeless body. They woke up early on that Easter Sunday morning, completely hopeless and overwhelmed with sadness and disappointment.

And then in one moment, everything changed. First, with an earthquake and then, if that's not enough, a bright shining angel appears and rolls the massive stone away from the door to the grave. What a surprise! This was not what the two Marys were expecting. The soldiers were so frightened they fainted and fell down. And wow, what an exciting message the angel gave.

I'm sure they didn't quite understand everything, but in an instant, hopelessness turned to hope, sadness to great joy. In that moment, everything changed, not just for the Marys and the disciples but for everyone. That empty tomb now means that we can have forgiveness for all the wrong things we've done, and just like the disciples, we can have a friendship with Jesus.

The story gets even better as the two Marys then bumped into Jesus Himself. Later, He gave the disciples that incredible promise, "I am with you always, even to the end of the world." The wonderful thing about that promise is that it isn't just for the disciples or the two Marys. That promise is for everyone.

Because of Easter Sunday when Jesus rose from the grave, we have the hope that no matter what we walk through, Jesus is with us always, even to the end of the world.

## READ

**Matt. 28:1-20**

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

**Easter Eggs**



# DAY 7 - THE EMPTY TOMB

## RESPONSE/ACTIVITY

Today, as you enjoy Easter eggs, why don't you take a moment and share why you think Jesus' death is so important. You might not realise it, but the hollow Easter egg represents the empty tomb on Easter Sunday.

Can you share why his resurrection is so important?

## READ

**Matt. 28:1-20**

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

**Easter Eggs**

## TODAY'S PROMISE

**Matthew 28:20 (NLT)**

**"Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**

## PRAYER

Dear God, thank You so much for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die for my sins. Thank You for raising Him from the dead on the third day; thank You that the tomb is empty, and that means we always have a living Hope.

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