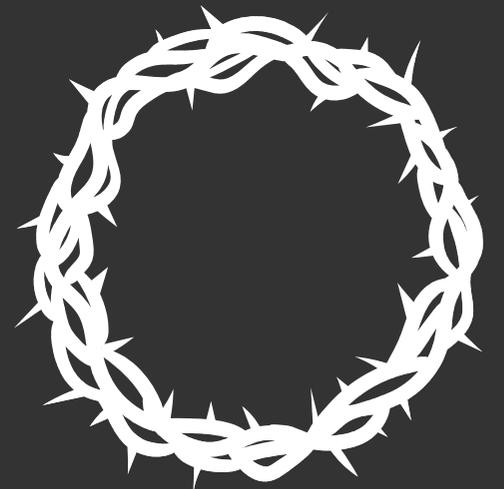




**HOLY  
WEEK**



**MAR 29 -  
APR 5**



# HOLY WEEK

## SCRIPTURE READINGS & PRACTICES



Discipleship is the process of devoting ourselves to Jesus by learning His teachings and following His example. **Holy Week** (the week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday) presents an opportunity to be intentional in discipleship - to pause and reflect on Jesus' example and sacrifice, rather than brushing past something that seems familiar, and celebrate the good news that Jesus is alive!

This simple eight-day guide gives an opportunity to focus on the events of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection through each day of Holy Week, and practice spiritual practices that position us to connect with God and grow through the Spirit.

*\*Note for parents:* Some of what happened during Jesus' last days on earth can be difficult for kids to grapple with, but we believe it is important to invite them into the conversation from an early age. Read Scripture together, engage in the practices, and talk, pray, and celebrate with your kids this week!



# DAY 1 - PALM SUNDAY

## READ

Read **Luke 19:28-40** about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the fulfillment of this prophecy. Look back at **Zechariah 9:9-13** (about 500 years before Jesus was born) and read the prophecy of the coming King.

## PRACTICE

**Prayer Walk:** Take a prayer walk around your neighborhood. Pray for the houses and businesses that you pass, that God would reveal Himself to your neighbors over Holy Week/Easter.

## FOR KIDS

Act out Jesus' entry on Palm Sunday together with blankets or coats. Talk about God's plan and why Jesus is our Savior. ([Watch this video together if you need a starting point.](#))

## PRAY

Ask God to help you see the story of Jesus' sacrifice and God's plan with a fresh perspective this week.



# DAY 2 - MONDAY

## READ

Read **Matthew 21:10-17** about Jesus driving out those who were buying and selling in the temple.

## PRACTICE

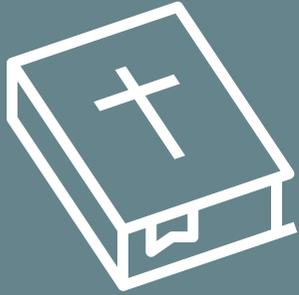
**Confession:** The people in the temple took something intended for worshiping God and made into something that was selfishly about them. When we do the same thing in our lives today, we can confess and turn back to God. Spend time confessing to God an area where you need to make it about Him again.

## FOR KIDS

Talk about why Jesus was so upset. (People were trying to make money off of people trying to worship in the temple!) Model what it looks like to confess to God and one another when we are selfish or unkind and talk about how He forgives and loves us.

## PRAY

Ask God to turn your heart to the things that matter most to Him, and thank Him for His forgiveness when your actions are selfishly motivated.



# DAY 3 - TUESDAY

## READ

Read **Matthew 21:33-44**. Jesus taught in the temple this week, and this parable in particular reflects His coming sacrifice.

## PRACTICE

**Pray Scripture:** Read Psalm 118, which was one of the Psalms often read/sung to conclude the Passover meal. Pray the Scripture back to God (use the Bible's words to pray), praising Him for His goodness and His sacrifice.

## FOR KIDS

Read Psalm 117 together. (Fun fact: this is the shortest chapter in the Bible!) Have everyone take a turn reading it, try memorizing it, or try singing it.

## PRAY

Pray for a desire to read Scripture more, an understanding of Scripture, and that the Spirit would show you how to apply truth in your everyday life.



## DAY 4 - WEDNESDAY

### READ

Read **Matthew 26:6-13** about the woman who anoints Jesus with a sacrificial gift.

### PRACTICE

**Generosity:** Plan a way to generously bless someone in your life or in your community. Sacrificial generosity is a way to grow in trust in God and acknowledge that everything in your life is His. (Some examples: donating money or items to a mission or cause, paying for someone's groceries, leaving a large tip, giving someone a free night of babysitting, donating to the local food bank, etc.)

### FOR KIDS

Guide your kids in what it could look like for them to be generous today. (Use something simple like snack time to help them with a visual representation of what this word means.)

### PRAY

Ask God to bring someone to mind or in your path that you can bless and for your heart to be joyful in giving.



# DAY 5 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

## READ

Read about the washing of the disciples' feet (which the word "maundy" comes from) in **John 13:1-17**. Read **Luke 22:7-20** about the celebration of Passover/the Last Supper, and how Jesus takes the place of the lamb for the forgiveness of sins.

## PRACTICE

**Serve:** Plan a way to sacrificially serve (with your time or talent) a family member, friend, neighbor, or someone you don't even know today. (Some examples: bake for someone, help a neighbor get their yard cleaned up for spring, do a job at work that no one else wants to do, wash your spouse's car, make your child's favorite meal for dinner, volunteer at an organization, etc.)

## FOR KIDS

Help kids serve a sibling, parent, neighbor, friend, or grandparent today in a way that is tangible for them. Talk about what it means to serve someone out of love.

## PRAY

Ask God to give you a heart that desires to serve others, even those you're struggling with, and that moments of grace that point to Jesus would come through serving.



# DAY 6 - GOOD FRIDAY

## READ

Read the story of Jesus' trial and crucifixion in **Matthew 27:1-54**.

## PRACTICES

**Silence:** Practice 10 minutes of silence as you reflect on Good Friday. (This is simply stepping away from the busyness of life, releasing any distractions as best you can, to be alone with God and attentive to His presence.)

**Fasting:** Fasting, going without food for a set amount of time, is an opportunity to awaken our body and soul to our deep need for God. Try fasting a meal or fasting until dinnertime and shift your focus to God during that time.

## FOR KIDS

Use colorful chalk and painters tape to decorate your sidewalk in a cross mosaic and share the good news of Holy Week and the love of Jesus with your neighborhood. (For an extra challenge, incorporate some art that tells the story of what happened during Holy Week.) Talk about why even in the midst of the terrible things that happened on this day, Friday was GOOD because of God's promise!

## PRAY

Pray that the Spirit would move in your heart to better understand Jesus' sacrifice, His love for you, and that you would be able to share His love with others in new ways.



# DAY 7 - SATURDAY

## READ

Read **Matthew 27:57-66**, about what happened after Jesus' death. What do you think Jesus' followers were thinking today?

## PRACTICE

**Rest:** Sabbath (traditionally practiced on Saturdays in the Jewish culture) is a gift - an invitation to cease striving and rest. Practice living *unhurried* today (or even a portion of the day) and rest in the truth that it's not about what you have done, but about what Jesus did for us! (Rest might look like spending time in nature or with loved ones, engaging in activities that provide refreshment, taking a nap, and spending time in worship.)

## FOR KIDS

Include them in practicing rest (even if just for a brief period). Also, read John 3:16 together, remind them of God's plan for His people, and talk about what is coming on Sunday!

## PRAY

Express gratitude to God for His sacrifice, His goodness, and His steadfast love.



# DAY 8 - RESURRECTION SUNDAY

## READ

Read **Matthew 28:1-20**, which details what happens on Sunday morning.  
**King Jesus is alive!**

## PRACTICES

**Worship:** Start your day by listening to this song: [Because of Jesus](#) (Charity Gayle) and give God praise for what He has done in your life!  
Attend sunrise service at 717 (or an Easter service at another church) and worship the risen King together with other believers! Invite a friend!

**Community:** Invite someone into your home and feast together, celebrating what God has done and continues to do!

## FOR KIDS

Include kids in practicing community and find a way for them to share in hospitality with you (helping with the meal, setting the table, welcoming guests, making placecards, decorating the table, etc.)

## PRAY

Thank God for the hope we have in Jesus! Take some time today to pray for those in your life that have not yet trusted in Him.