



Read all or parts of Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:35-46; and John 12:12-19 from your Bible.



Jesus came into Jerusalem with cheers and celebration! The people had heard the great miracles of Jesus, and they believed in His power. The people displayed their worship of Jesus by waving palm branches and laying them out on the path as Jesus rode into the city on a donkey.

The people shouted "Hosanna!" Do you know what that word means? It means "Save now!" The people were shouting hosanna because they believed Jesus was coming to be their king and to rule over them with goodness and mercy. They were probably expecting Him to be an actual king—like one who leads armies and sits on a throne—but Jesus is more than that. He is the King of kings. He is the King who came to save all who believe in Him from sin.

John 3:16 says, "For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." This was the true reason why Jesus came—to bring salvation and eternal life for anyone who believes in Him. Jesus is the King who has come to save!

Jesus is the Messiah spoken about by the prophet Zechariah: "Look, your King is coming to you; He is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9). One day, Jesus will return to earth on a white horse as King over everything.

**Pray:** Jesus, You are the King who has come to save! Help us to follow You and obey You as King. We wait with excitement for the day when You will return to rule over everything forever and ever!





"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him."

Deuteronomy 18:15





Begin each day with a prayer of praise. Like the people in the streets, say "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna!" What are some ways you can honor Jesus as King today?

# **Evenings**

Ask God for His peace to rule over any difficult situation your family is facing. How was Jesus so calm when He knew this would be His final week before His death on the cross? How can we have confidence and peace through knowing Him as King?



### For Fun

Choose some smooth rocks from your yard or a nearby park. Use acrylic paints to decorate the rocks with words of praise or the word hosanna. Place the rocks in your yard or around your neighborhood. Jesus told the Pharisees that if the people did not praise Him, then the rocks would cry out and praise Him. Talk as a family about how these rocks can remind us to worship Jesus as King.

### To Serve

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, some of the people threw their cloaks on the ground in front of Him. This was a way to worship Him as King. Donate unused coats or clothes to individuals or organizations who have need. Consider starting a collection with people in your church to provide winter coats for others. Serving others is another way to worship Jesus as King.





Read all or parts of Matthew 22:15-22,34-46 from your Bible.



When you go to church next Sunday, you'll probably read a Bible verse or sing a song that uses the word Lord. Have you ever wondered what that word means? The word lord describes someone having power, authority, or influence over others; like a master or ruler.

In Psalm 110, King David used the word Lord to talk about the Messiah. The prophets said the Messiah would be called Son of David, which meant he would be born into the family line of David. David believed the promise that the Messiah would be his descendant, but he also knew this future King would have power, authority, and influence over him.

Jesus fulfilled the words of the prophets by being born into the family of David, but He fulfilled the words of David by also being much more! He is the Son of God, the Savior who died and rose again, and the King who has authority over everyone and everything! Philippians 2:10-11 says, "... at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth—and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."

When the religious leaders questioned Jesus, He answered with wisdom and power. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. He is the Word of God, who came to show us exactly what God is like.

**Pray:** Lord Jesus, You have authority in heaven and on earth! We praise You because You are the Son of God. We look forward to the day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that You are Lord!





"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him."

Deuteronomy 18:15





Ask God to help you love the people you meet today. What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself? How does this kind of love show Jesus to others?

## **Evenings**

Thank God for the gift of His Word—the Bible. How has God's Word been a comfort in times of trouble? Why is it good to store God's Word in your heart?



### For Fun

Make a family tree by tracing your family as far back as you can. Talk with grandparents or relatives to hear stories and share memories. After, read the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:1-17. Talk about how Jesus is the Son of David and the Son of God—fully man and fully God!

### To Serve

Jesus commands us to love our neighbor as ourself. Choose one neighbor to show love to this week. This might include taking them a meal, offering to do yard work, or some other simple task that can help them feel loved.





Read all or parts of Matthew 23:1-36 from your Bible.



Have you ever heard the phrase "putting lipstick on a pig"? It might sound like a rough job for a farmer, but it's actually a way of describing the useless things people do to make something look better than it really is. No amount of lipstick can make a dirty pig look pretty, and no amount of good deeds can make up for a heart that loves itself more than Jesus.

The religious leaders said they loved God, but they failed to love others. They wanted people to praise them for how well they obeyed the laws, but they didn't obey what Jesus said was the greatest commandment. Jesus said that anyone who followed these religious leaders was being lead further from God, not closer.

Those who trust in Jesus receive a new heart with new desires. They desire to obey God for the right reasons: to honor Him and to share Him with others. Their love for God is shown through the ways they love others.

Jesus said that the greatest commandments are to love God and love others. (Matt. 22:37-39) The religious leaders loved themselves most of all. When we trust in Jesus, He makes us right with God and changes our hearts so we can love and obey Him.

**Pray:** God, help us to show our love for You by loving the people You have placed in our lives. Remind us of Your amazing love that was shown to us through Jesus. We want that love to overflow from our hearts so that we can love others as You love them. Amen.





"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him."

Deuteronomy 18:15





Ask God to help you see people the way He sees them today. Pray for opportunities to show and share the love of Jesus with others. How does loving and serving others show our love for God?

## **Evenings**

Thank God for the love He has shown through Jesus. Try to think of as many blessings that you have been given through Christ as you can. Thank God for each one. How does God's love for us motivate us to love others?



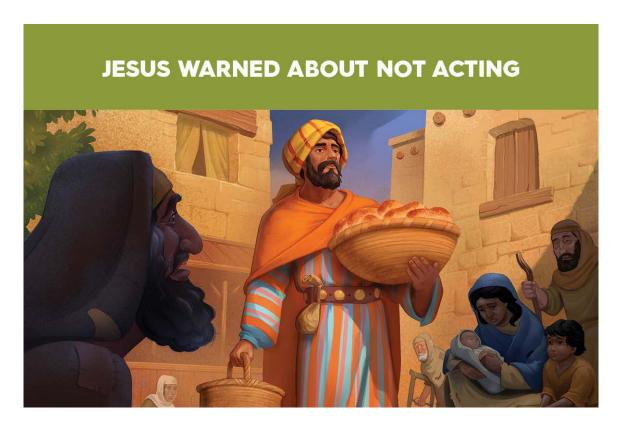
### For Fun

Play a game of charades as a family. Let kids lead the game by creating a list of occupations, animals, activities, or chores. Cut the list into strips and place in a bowl. One person will draw a strip and act out what is written while the rest of the family guesses the correct answer. Talk with kids about how the behavior of the religious leaders was a charade of what Jesus actually calls His followers to. Remind kids that Jesus wants us to show our love for Him by loving others, not through actions meant to earn the praise of people.

### To Serve

Create encouraging cards to anonymously give to people in your life. Remind kids that love is not just a feeling, it is an action. We need to show our love through words and actions because God calls us to do so, not because we want attention or compliments from people.





Read all or parts of Matthew 25:14-46 from your Bible.



In this Scripture passage, we see that each servant was given an amount of money by their master and also the command to use the money wisely. While two of the servants put what they had been given to good use, one of the servants did the opposite. Rather than follow the master's instructions, the servant decided to do nothing with the money he had been given.

Jesus gave his life to love and serve the world. Those who believe in Jesus can show their love for Him by giving their life to serve him. Some ways we do this are by feeding those who are hungry, clothing those in need, and helping those who are sick. When we serve others in these ways, we are serving the Lord.

While we wait for Jesus' return, we can work to serve Him and tell others about Him. We've received so many blessings through Jesus Christ. Like the servants were commanded to use the money they had been given wisely, Christ-followers are commanded to use the talents and blessings we have been given to serve God and others. This is how we worship the One who has loved and served us!

Every believer, as a servant of Christ, has the task of serving God with his or her life. We eagerly wait for the day we can share in the joy of our Master. Heaven is the joy of knowing, worshiping, and enjoying Jesus forever.

**Pray:** We love You, God! You have shown us the greatest love by sending Jesus to serve us through the dying on the cross. Because He loved and served us, help us to love and serve others until Jesus returns. Amen.





"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him."

Deuteronomy 18:15





Pray for those dealing with uncertain or difficult situations in your city. Ask God to bring them peace in their current circumstances and that those who are able to help will do so. How can we help meet the basic needs of others? How might this help them to learn about Jesus?

# **Evenings**

Ask God to show you ways you can serve your family, your school, and your church. Look for those opportunities and jump in to serve Him. How might we find delight in serving God?



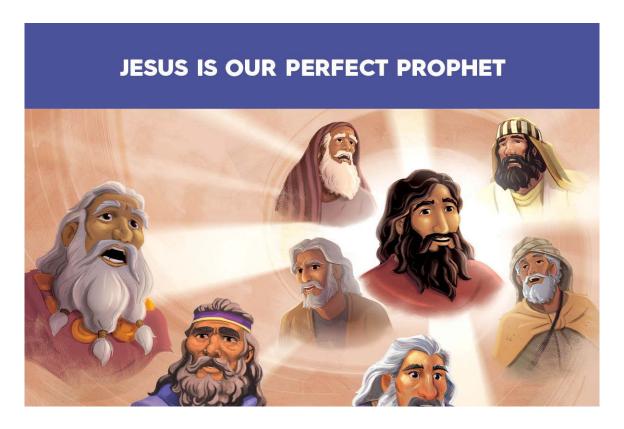
### For Fun

Ask kids to brainstorm ideas for how they would use \$20 to support the work of a missionary. Encourage them to think about how they could combine the money with their time and talents to actually raise more money. Some ideas might be purchasing supplies for a lemonade stand, using the money to make cards that would ask others to donate to missionaries, or purchasing ingredients to make cookies to sell at a bake sale. Let kids pitch their ideas to the family as if they are prospective entrepreneurs.

### To Serve

Give kids a set amount of money to carry out the ideas they pitched to the family. If their ideas are not doable, work together to create an alternative plan. Celebrate the additional funds raised and make a donation to a local or foreign missionary.





Read all or parts of Deuteronomy 18:15-22 from your Bible.



When someone has a message for you, there must be a messenger. There needs to be someone who delivers that information to you. Otherwise, the message still exists but you have no way of knowing about it!

Jesus came as the perfect Prophet—the One who would deliver God's message that the war with sin is over. Jesus told people that He was the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Jesus relayed the most important message of all. He told people that eternal life was a free gift for everyone who believes in Him.

Jesus' message of victory was special because not only was He the messenger, He was also the One who won the battle for us! His death on the cross and His resurrection from the grave have defeated Satan and broken the curse of sin. Everyone who trusts in Jesus shares in His victory over sin.

Jesus is the perfect and final prophet God promised to send. Jesus is the Word who became a man. He came into the world not only to tell people God's message but to bring people to God through His death and resurrection.

**Pray:** God, we praise You because You are faithful to keep Your promises. You promised to send a Rescuer to save people from sin, and that promise is fulfilled in Jesus. He is the perfect Prophet who delivers the best news of eternal life through faith in Him! Amen.





"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him."

Deuteronomy 18:15





Thank God for His Word—the Bible. Thank Him for all that it teaches us about Him and His plan to rescue people from sin. Why is it important to know that the Bible is truthful?

## **Evenings**

Ask God to give you a love for His Word. Pray for the discipline and wisdom to read the Bible, learn from the Bible, and cherish the Bible. How can time reading our Bibles help us to know God better? How does this knowledge motivate us to love and obey Him?



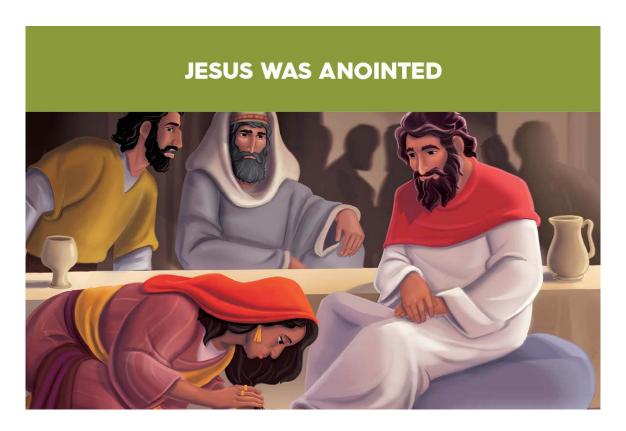
### For Fun

Make a newspaper for your family. Assign each family member to report on certain aspects of your life this week. This might include dinner menus, family activities, or interviews with family members. Have fun reading the family news together. Talk with kids about the good news that came through Jesus our perfect Prophet.

### To Serve

Prophets delivered God's messages to the people. Sometimes those messages were warnings, and other times they were good news about the promise of Jesus. There are messages all around us today, for example road signs. This week, when you see a stop sign pray and ask God to help you stop and notice those who you can show His love to. And when you see a green light, praise God for Jesus, the perfect Prophet.





Read all or parts of Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8 from your Bible.



In 2013, a world champion boxer gave his wife a pretty elaborate Christmas present. What was the gift that made worldwide news? It was a 24 carat solid gold bathtub! The bathtub was valued at over \$2.2 million. That's a crazy expensive way to get clean!

Think of the most generous gift someone has given you. Maybe it was something you had wanted for a long time. Maybe it was elaborate and expensive, or maybe it was simple and homemade. A gift can be simple, but still mean a lot to us because of the heart or attitude with which it was given.

While Jesus was dining at Simon's house, a woman named Mary came into the house. Mary was the sister of Lazarus and a friend of Jesus. Mary took an expensive jar of oil and poured it out on Jesus. The smell of the extravagant gift filled the entire house.

The others in the room thought Mary's actions were wasteful and irresponsible. After all, the oil was worth a whole year's wages! But Jesus saw that Mary's trust and worship were good because He is worthy of everything we can give to Him. Mary's gift was a sign that helped others see how great and worthy Jesus is because He is the promised Messiah.

Pouring the expensive oil on Jesus was not a waste; it was worship. By allowing Mary to anoint Him, Jesus showed that He is more valuable than anything. Jesus knew He would soon die, be buried, and rise from the dead on the third day to rescue sinners.

**Pray:** Jesus, You are the promised Messiah. You are the One who came to rescue people from sin by dying on the cross for us. Help us trust in You and give our lives to honor and obey You. You are worthy of everything we can give to worship You. Amen!





For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15





Ask God to help you worship Jesus extravagantly. Think about something you could offer to Jesus to show how worthy of praise He is. Is there anything that is too much to give to Jesus?

## **Evenings**

Thank God for the opportunity to give back to Him through our work, our tithes, and our offerings. Ask Him to give you a cheerful heart when you give back to Him. How is giving our offerings to God an act of worship?



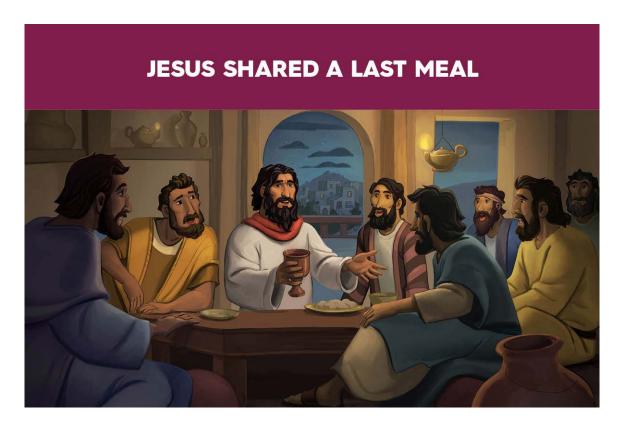
### For Fun

Take turns washing the feet of family members. After washing and drying, use an essential oil to wipe their feet. Explain to kids that in the Bible this action was a sign of love and worship. Ask kids to imagine how Mary's gift would've smelt in the house where Jesus was dining. How did her actions show Jesus' worth?

### To Serve

Explain to your kids how your family gives a tithe or offering to the church. Read aloud 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 and talk about how our cheerful giving is an act of worship. If you normally give online, consider giving in person this week to let kids participate in the worship of giving.





Read all or parts of Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; and Luke 22:7-23 from your Bible.



On their last night together, Jesus and the disciples shared a very special meal—the Passover meal. Passover is a time to remember when the angel of death passed over the homes of the Israelites who placed the blood of the lamb on their doors. The sacrifice of the lamb protected God's people. Like the lambs that saved the Israelites, Jesus sacrificed His body and shed His blood on the cross to save all who believe in Him.

The Passover meal was full of symbols that point to Jesus. The bread of the meal symbolized perfect holiness because it was without leaven or yeast, which represent sin. The meal also included cups of wine or juice that represent the promises that God would redeem, or save, His people. As Jesus sat with His disciples, He told them that the bread and the cup were now to remind them of His body and His blood. Even though He was perfectly holy and had no sin, Jesus gave up His body on the cross for our sin so that the judgment of God might pass over all who believe in Him.

God's people had broken the old covenant, and God promised to make a new covenant to forgive sins. The new covenant says that everyone who turns away from sin and trusts in Jesus' death and resurrection will be forgiven of his sins and will have eternal life.

**Pray:** God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for the promise to send a Savior even when we sinned against you. We thank You for Jesus who is the true Passover Lamb.





For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15





Thank God for the promises He has made to us. Focus on a different promise each day and think of creative ways to remember that promise throughout the day. Why can we trust in God's promises? How was Jesus the fulfillment of God's promises?

# **Evenings**

Ask God to reveal sin in that needs to be confessed and removed through the forgiveness Jesus offers to us. How is Jesus' sacrifice enough to cover our sins? How can you live in a way that shows thankfulness for His sacrifice?



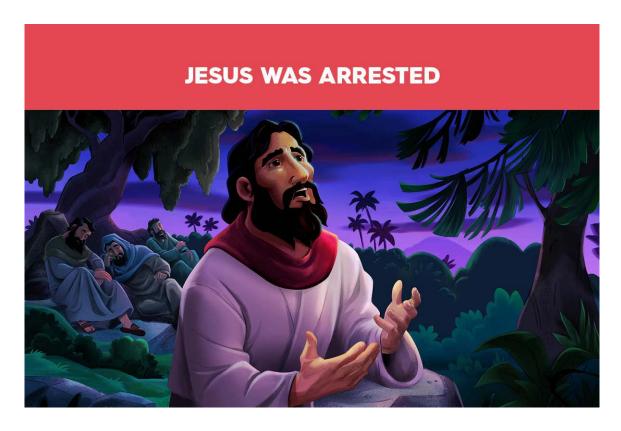
### For Fun

Create a poster to celebrate and remember Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb that provides for our salvation. Write John 1:29 on the poster and hang it inside your front door. As you pass through the door each day, pause to remember Jesus' sacrifice.

### To Serve

During Passover, Jesus had a special meal with His disciples. Host a special dinner and invite friends or family over to celebrate with you. Consider sharing what you have learned about the symbolism of Passover and its different components.





Read all or parts of Matthew 26:31-56; Mark 14:27-52; and Luke 22:31-62 from your Bible.



Jesus' final days on earth were difficult to say the least. He was betrayed by one of His disciples. He was unfairly accused, tried, and sentenced to death by the religious leaders. And then He suffered pain and agony as He went to the cross. These cruel thoughts make us wonder why it had to happen like this. Was this all part of God's plan?

This week, we learned about the night Jesus was arrested. He went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray. He was troubled because He knew everything that was about to happen. When the guards came for Jesus, Peter drew his sword to defend Jesus, but Jesus stopped him. Jesus was about to be arrested, accused, put on trial, and eventually crucified, but He said this was all part of God's plan.

Jesus knew the sadness, injustice, pain, and agony that was coming for Him. Even though it troubled Him, Jesus willingly followed God's plan. He knew that there was no other way for people to be saved.

Jesus knew that His death was God's plan to save people from sin. Jesus' friends turned against Him and He was arrested and put on trial, but Jesus followed His Father's plan in order to bring salvation to the world.

**Pray:** Lord Jesus, thank You for enduring the sadness and pain that You faced. We know that all of this was God's plan. Thank You for following God's plan so that salvation could come to all who believe in You! Amen.





For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15





Ask God to help you obey your parents, teachers, and leaders today. How was Jesus obedient to God and His plan? Why is it important for you to obey those God has placed in charge?

# **Evenings**

Thank God for the friendships He has provided for you. How can a friend help you follow God's plan during hard times? How can you be a good friend to others?



### For Fun

Play a family game of "Simon Says". Allow each family member to lead the game for a round. Talk about obedience and why it is difficult for us to obey perfectly. Remind kids that Jesus obeyed perfectly and was even obedient to the point of death on the cross.

### To Serve

Give up something important this week like TV, video games, or even a meal, if health permits. As you think about what you have temporarily given up, ask God to remind you of the suffering and the sacrifice of Jesus.





Read all or parts of Hebrews 7 from your Bible.



Think about a time when you've been asked to clean up your room. What if, instead of picking up the toys and clothes, you just shoved everything under the bed? The messiness is covered by the bed, but it's not really clean because the mess is still there. If your parent were to look under the bed, you would probably be in trouble.

In the Old Testament, God gave His people a way to cover their sin through sacrificing animals. The High Priest would offer these sacrifices to God to seek forgiveness for the people. But these sacrifices could never completely break the curse of sin, and the priests did not have the power to save people forever.

The Bible says that Jesus is our Great High Priest. Unlike Melchizedek or Aaron, Jesus is perfect and has the power to save people forever. The sacrifice Jesus made for sinners was not temporary; it is eternal. Jesus gave His own life to once and for all defeat sin and offer complete forgiveness to all who believe in Him. He didn't just cover our sin; He completely cleanses us from all sin!

Jesus is the perfect priest, the high priest who interceded on behalf of the people by laying down His life to be a once-and-for-all sacrifice for sin. Everyone who trusts in Jesus has salvation from sin through His perfect life, death, and resurrection.

**Pray:** Jesus, thank You for being the Great High Priest. Thank You for living as one of us to understand the struggles we experience. Thank You for being merciful and faithful to save all who trust in You. Amen.





For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15





Psalm 19:14 asks God to give us words and thoughts that are pleasing to Him. Ask God to make your words and thoughts honor Him and point others toward Him. What are some thoughts that honor God?

# **Evenings**

Praise Jesus for being better than anyone or anything we can imagine. How is Jesus better than anything else? How does the worthiness of Jesus help us to trust and obey Him?



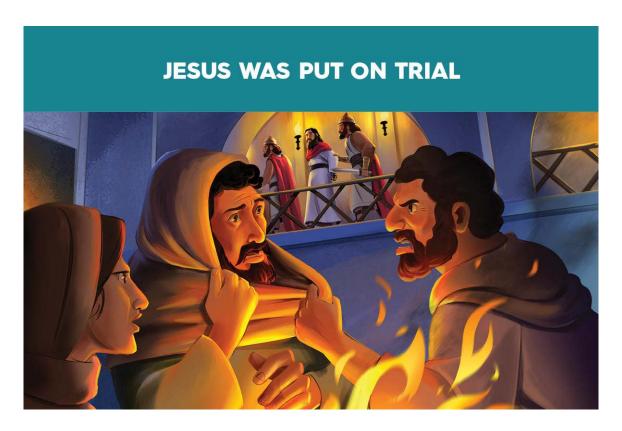
### For Fun

Use shaving cream to clean your kitchen table or counter tops. Spray small piles of shaving cream and allow kids to spread the cream out with their hands. They can draw or write in the shaving cream before wiping down the surface. Remind kids that Jesus' sacrifice did more than cover our sin. It completely washes our hearts clean from sin!

### To Serve

Work as a family to clean the whole house. Assign specific tasks to each family member. Make the work fun by playing music. After the house is clean, talk with kids about the difference between the animal sacrifices that the High Priests offered and the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus offered on the cross. Explain how the sacrifice of Jesus did more than just cover sin. His sacrifice offers new life and clean hearts to all who believe.





Read all or parts of Matthew 26:57–27:26; Mark 14:53–15:15; Luke 22:66–23:25; and John 18:12-40 from your Bible.



Judges have a tough job. They take an oath, or promise, to uphold justice and fairness. During a trial, if a person is found guilty, the judge must decide on the appropriate sentence, or punishment. It is the judge's responsibility to be impartial and fair in her decision.

The Bible teaches us that God is just, which means He is perfect in His judgments and His punishments are always fair. Because God is holy, sin must be punished. He can't overlook it or give a lighter sentence to some people—that wouldn't be fair. That's bad news for us because we're all guilty of sin and deserve to be punished.

But the good news of the Bible is that Jesus came to take the punishment we deserve. Though He was innocent, He took the guilt that belonged to us and faced God's justice for us. Sin had to be punished and the sentence was death, but Jesus gave His life to save ours.

Jesus was unfairly sentenced to die although He did no wrong. Jesus was the perfect substitute for us, dying on the cross for our sins and rising from the dead. Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever.

**Pray:** God, we know that You are right and just to punish sin, but You showed us Your amazing love by giving Your Son to take on our punishment. Jesus was perfectly innocent, but He willingly took our punishment to offer us forgiveness and new life. Help us know Jesus, trust in Jesus, and share Jesus with others. Amen.





I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!

Revelation 5:13





Ask God to help you see the habits that cause you to sin each day. Ask for the Holy Spirit's help to avoid sin and to honor God throughout the day. What is a sin you struggle with?

### **Evenings**

Praise God for His mercy and love. Think about His willingness to punish our sin by sending His own Son to die on the cross. If Jesus was willing to take our punishment for sin, how much more will He be willing to help us avoid sin and obey Him?



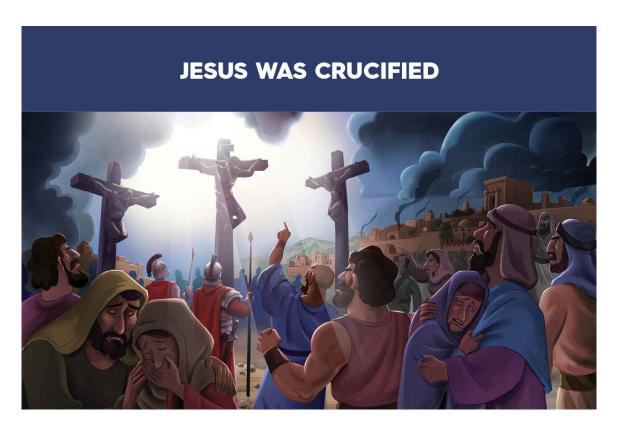
#### For Fun

Visit a local courthouse. If possible, speak to a judge or a lawyer about their jobs. Help kids understand that the system is meant to protect the innocent and punish those who commit crimes. Talk with kids about how Jesus was innocent yet was sentenced to death on the cross. Discuss why this was part of God's plan to rescue us from sin.

#### To Serve

Consider making a monetary donation to your child's school or to a local elementary school to cover outstanding lunch debt. Talk with kids about how the debt was owed by someone else, but our gift will erase the debt and provide a fresh start. That kid will no longer owe lunch money. Remind kids that Jesus took on our debt—the punishment for sin that we owed—and He gives new life to all who believe in Him.





Read all or parts of Matthew 27:27-56; Mark 15:16-41; Luke 23:50–24:12; and John 19:38–20:10 from your Bible.



Did you know that a sneeze is your body's way of blowing out bacteria and other harmful junk? The nose becomes irritated when dust, pollen, or smoke invades the nostrils and it tells your brain that it's time to clear it out by sneezing. The sneeze might be uncomfortable, but it's an important part of staying healthy and breathing easily.

The Bible says that all people have sinned. From the moment we're born, sin has invaded our hearts and separated us from God. As Jesus agonized on the cross, the Bible says He cried out with His final breath, "It is finished." After saying this, He died.

Like a sneeze that gets rid of impurities from your body, those last words of Jesus were the final blow to get rid of sin. God required that sin be punished, so Jesus' death was the final payment for our sin. He died in our place so that we can be forgiven and made right with God.

We deserve to die because of our sin, but God loves us and kept His promise to send a Savior. Jesus never sinned, but He died in our place. Now those who trust in Him have forgiveness through his blood and are no longer separated from God.

**Pray:** Father, thank You for loving us so much that You would send Jesus to die in our place. Thank You for counting His death as the payment for our sin and for offering His righteousness to anyone who trusts in Him. Amen.





I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!

Revelation 5:13





Thank Jesus for specific ways He endured pain and suffering while dying for our sins. How did Jesus react to those who accused Him? How did Jesus respond to the soldiers who beat and mocked Him?

### **Evenings**

Thank God for the love He showed us by sending His Son to die on the cross for us. How does it feel to know you are loved with such an amazing love? How should we respond to such a love?



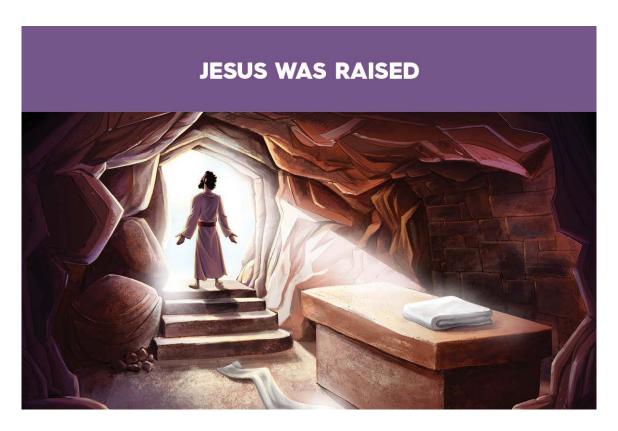
#### For Fun

Use painter's tape to create a cross on an art canvas. Take turns splatter painting across the canvas. The messier the better! After the paint dries, remove the tape to reveal the cross. As He was dying on the cross, Jesus' final words brought hope to the world. Remind kids that Jesus' last words declared that He had conquered sin and made forgiveness available for all who believe.

#### **To Serve**

Look up a local health organization that organizes blood donors. Explain the process of blood donation and how it helps save lives. Pray for the health organization, the donors, and the recipients. Talk about how the blood sacrifice of Jesus was the ultimate gift that saves all who trust in Him.





Read all or parts of Matthew 27:57–28:15; Mark 15:42–16:18; Luke 23:50–24:12; and John 19:38–20:10 from your Bible.



What is something amazing that you've experienced this week? Maybe you've watched a caterpillar leave its chrysalis as a butterfly. Or maybe you watched a sports game where the underdog won in the final seconds of the match. Or maybe you got a good grade on a math test that you were nervous about. Amazing things happen every single day, but there is nothing more amazing than the miracle of the resurrection of Jesus!

On the third day after Jesus' death and burial, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. An angel of the Lord had rolled back the stone. The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." (Matt. 28:5-6) At this announcement, the women ran to share the good news with the other disciples.

The death and resurrection of Jesus is at the center of the gospel. We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. Because Jesus is alive, we do not need to fear anything. Those who trust in Jesus have forgiveness and eternal life, and we can joyfully obey Him. Now that's amazing!

Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He didn't stay dead. God was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead on the third day to reign as King over all creation. Jesus provides salvation from sin and the promise of eternal life.

**Pray:** Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross for our sins and for resurrecting on the third day. We celebrate and worship because You are alive! You have defeated sin and Your resurrection guarantees eternal life for all who believe in You. Amen.





I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!

Revelation 5:13





Ask God to help you see the beauty of new life today. How does creation remind us of death and new life? Where else do we see the beauty of new life?

### **Evenings**

Praise God for new life in Christ. What must we do to receive eternal life? How does the resurrection of Jesus guarantee the promise of eternal life?



#### For Fun

Search online for the recipe to make Resurrection Rolls and make the treat as a family. Discuss why the empty tomb is good news for us and how the resurrection of Jesus proves that Jesus is the Son of God and King over all creation.

#### To Serve

Use <u>The Gospel: God's Plan for Me</u> to create a witnessing tool your family can use to share Jesus with others. Use an index card to draw the icons and write the Scripture references for each part of the plan. Encourage kids to carry the card in their backpack and ask God for opportunities to share the gospel with friends.





Read all or parts of Ephesians 6:10-20 from your Bible.



How would you describe a king? What are his responsibilities and powers? A king is usually in charge of a certain group of people. He should look out for their best interest and make decisions that help His community.

Unlike any earthly king who only has power over His kingdom or country, Jesus has total power and authority. While an earthly king fears the power of other countries and works to protect the livelihood of his own country, Jesus has already defeated His enemies and He has secured eternal life for all who belong to His kingdom. Jesus is the perfect King!

Most of us don't like to be told what to do or have anyone rule over us. That's usually because we don't trust them to be good to us or rule with a loving hand. Jesus is the perfect King because He can always be trusted to do what is best for those who follow Him. He sits on a throne with all power and authority, and He loves with an everlasting, sacrificial love. He is the King of all kings!

Paul encouraged believers by reminding them that Jesus is great. Jesus is God's Son, and He died on the cross to rescue people from sin. Jesus conquered sin and death and reigns as King over all.

**Pray:** Jesus, You are King over all creation. Help us to know You and follow You. You rule with love for those who follow You and You can be trusted to always do what is right. You are the perfect King! Amen.





I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!

Revelation 5:13





Ask Jesus to remind you of His power as King. Ask Him to show you how He is sovereign—in control—over everything that happens in your day. If Jesus is in control, how does this change the way we face the ups and downs of our day?

# **Evenings**

Praise Jesus for being the good and perfect King. Think about how earthly kings fight to get power and riches for themselves. Compare that to Jesus who rules in love and sacrifice for those who follow Him. Why can we trust Jesus as our King? How does the Bible reveal His character and help us follow Him?



#### For Fun

Set a schedule for each family member to be king or queen for a day. Allow them privileges to pick meals, be served first, and assign tasks for others to help them throughout the day. Keep the tasks within reason but try to let them rule according to their personality. At the end of each day, talk about the good and not-so-good ways the family member reigned over the family. Compare their ways of ruling to the perfect ways Jesus rules as King.

#### To Serve

Schedule a Family Worship Night for your family. You may also want to invite other families to attend. Make it a night of reading Scripture, singing songs, and praising Jesus as the perfect King. Invite kids to write prayers, poems, share stories, or lead in singing songs that exalt Jesus as King over your family and over all creation.