



FAMILY HOLY
WEEK PLAN



From Hosanna to Hallelujah

Holy Week gives families a special opportunity to slow down and walk through the most important story ever told — the final days of Jesus' life, His death on the cross, and His resurrection on Easter morning. From the shouts of Hosanna when Jesus entered Jerusalem, to the song of *Hallelujah* at the empty tomb, this week reminds us of the love of Christ and the faithfulness of God.

This scavenger hunt devotional is designed to help you lead your children through Holy Week in a meaningful and interactive way. Each day includes a small object to hide and find, a short Scripture reading, and a brief family devotion. The goal is not to do something complicated, but to create moments where your family can talk about Jesus, ask questions, pray together, and remember why Easter changes everything.

Throughout the week, you will notice that the readings also connect to the Psalms. Long before the cross, the Psalms gave words for praise, sorrow, waiting, and hope. They help us see that God's plan was always leading to Jesus. As your family walks through Holy Week together, the Psalms can guide your hearts, the Gospels can fix your eyes on Christ, and the story of the cross can lead your home from ***Hosanna to Hallelujah***.

Take time to hide the story item each day before your devotion time, let your children search for it, then read the passage and talk together. Keep it simple and let the story of Jesus be the center of your home this week.



Day 1 – Palm Sunday

The King Arrives



Hide: A leaf / branch / piece of paper palm



Read: Matthew 21:1-11

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

From the temple of the LORD we bless you. ²⁷ The LORD is God. He has been good to us. Take branches in your hands. Join in the march on the day of the feast. March up to the corners of the altar. ²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise you. You are my God, and I will honor you. ²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever.

~ Psalm 118:26-29, NlrV

When Jesus came into Jerusalem, people waved palm branches and shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is the King!” They thought Jesus came to be the kind of king they wanted; a strong king who would fix their problems right away and make their lives easier. But Jesus came to be the King they really needed. He didn’t come to fight with swords. He came to change hearts. Jesus knew that before the week was over, the same people shouting “Hosanna” would be so mad that they would turn on Him. But He still rode into Jerusalem because He loved them. And He loves us too. Sometimes we can be like the crowd. We like Jesus when He does what we want, but we don’t always want Him to be in charge of our lives. When Jesus is our King, we trust Him, follow Him, and love Him, even when we don’t understand what He is doing.

Pray

Jesus, help us love You as our King and follow You every day.

Action

Wave the branch and shout together: **Hosanna! Hosanna! Jesus is our King!**

Talk

- Why were the people so excited when Jesus came into Jerusalem?
- What do you think the people thought Jesus was going to do for them?
- How was Jesus a different kind of king than they expected?
- How can we show Jesus that we want Him to be the King of our lives?

Day 2 – Monday

Making Room for the King



Hide: A small broom / towel / cleaning cloth



Read: Matthew 21:12-17

*“Who can go up to the temple on the mountain of the LORD? Who can stand in his holy place? **Anyone who has clean hands and a pure heart.**”*

- Psalm 24:3-4a

After Jesus rode into Jerusalem, He went to the temple. The temple was God’s house; the place where people were supposed to pray, worship, and come close to God. But when Jesus got there, He saw something very wrong. Instead of worship, people were buying and selling. Instead of thinking about God, they were thinking about money. The temple had become noisy, messy, and full of the wrong things. Jesus loved God’s house, so He did something surprising. He turned over the tables and said that God’s house was meant to be a house of prayer. Jesus wasn’t being mean. He was showing that God cares about what happens in His house, and He wants it to be a place where people can truly know Him. Our hearts are God’s house too. God doesn’t live in a building now. He wants to live with us. But sometimes our hearts get messy, just like the temple did. We let in things that don’t belong, like selfishness, anger, lying, jealousy, or disobedience. Jesus came to change us; to clean our hearts so they can be a place where love, truth, kindness, and joy can grow. We can ask Jesus to help clean out anything that doesn’t belong and help us love Him with our whole heart.

Pray

Jesus, help our hearts be clean so we can love You.

Action

Clean something together in the room.

Talk

- What was wrong with what people were doing in the temple?
- Why do you think Jesus cared so much about God’s house?
- Why does Jesus want to clean our hearts?
- What is one thing you can ask Jesus to help you with today?

Day 3 – Tuesday

The True King



Hide: A toy or paper crown



Read: Matthew 22:34-45

“Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD who rules over all.

He is the King of glory.”

~ Psalm 24:10

Jesus loved teaching people because He had so many important things to share! Sometimes people tried to use tricky questions to get Jesus to say the wrong thing, but Jesus always knew what was right. One day, Jesus told everyone the two most important rules: Love God with your whole heart, and love other people the way you love yourself. Those two things matter more than anything! Then Jesus asked the teachers a question about the Messiah, the special King God had promised to send. The teachers said, “He is the son of David!” But Jesus helped them see that the Messiah was even greater than that. He wasn’t just a regular king. He is God’s own Son, the forever King who is in charge of everything! That King is Jesus! He is wise, strong, and so good. He wants to be the King of our hearts, our homes, and everything we do. When we follow Jesus, we love Him with all we’ve got, and we love the people around us, because He loves us first!

Pray

Jesus, You are our King. Help us love like You.

Action

Take turns wearing the crown and say: “Jesus is King”

Talk

- What is the most important commandment Jesus gave?
- How can we love God with all our heart, soul, and mind?
- Why is Jesus more than just a king like David?
- How can we show that Jesus is the King of our hearts today?

Day 4 – Wednesday

Choosing the Wrong Thing



Hide: Coins (real or toy)



Read: Matthew 26:14-16

*“All my enemies whisper to each other about me. They want something terrible to happen to me. ⁸ They say, “He is sick and will die very soon. He will never get up from his bed again.” ⁹ **Even my close friend, someone I trusted, has failed me.** I even shared my bread with him.” - Psalm 41:7-9*

Jesus had twelve close friends called disciples. They walked with Him, listened to Him teach, and saw His miracles. Judas was one of those friends. He had been with Jesus for a long time. He had heard Jesus talk about love, forgiveness, and trusting God. But something happened in Judas’s heart. Judas chose money instead of Jesus. He chose what he wanted instead of what was right. This was so sad, because Jesus loved Judas. But Judas let his heart care more about money and power than about Jesus. Sometimes we can be like Judas too. We may not trade Jesus for coins, but we can choose other things instead of Him.

The good news is that Jesus knew people would fail Him, and He never stopped loving them. And He doesn’t stop loving us either. When we choose the wrong thing, we can ask Him to forgive us. And He will. Remember that nothing is worth more than Jesus, and we want to choose Him with our whole heart.

Pray

Jesus, forgive us when we choose wrong things. Help us choose You.

Action

Hold the coins and say: **Jesus is worth more than anything.**

Talk

- What did Judas choose instead of Jesus?
- Why do you think Judas made that wrong choice?
- What are some wrong choices kids sometimes make?
- Does Jesus still love us when we make wrong choices?

Day 5 – Thursday

The Table



Hide: Bread / cup / plate



Read: John 13:1-5, 12-17

“The LORD is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need. ² He lets me lie down in fields of green grass. He leads me beside quiet waters. ³ He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths for the honor of his name.” ~ Psalm 23:1-3

Jesus loved His friends so much. They had followed Him everywhere, learned from Him, and seen so many amazing things together. On the night before He went to the cross, Jesus sat down to share a very special dinner with them. Jesus did something that surprised everyone. He got up from the table, wrapped a towel around His waist, and began to wash His disciples' feet — one by one. Back then, people walked on dusty roads in sandals, so feet got really dirty! Washing feet was a job for servants, not for the most important person in the room. But Jesus didn't mind. He knelt down and served His friends, showing them that real love means caring for others and putting them first. Jesus is called our Good Shepherd, and that night He was being exactly that. A shepherd watches over his sheep and keeps them safe. Jesus knew His disciples were about to go through something scary and confusing. So He stayed close. He cared for them. He loved them. Jesus is your Shepherd too! He watches over you and takes care of you. When you mess up, He forgives you. When you don't know which way to go, He leads you. And no matter what, He never leaves you.

Pray

Jesus, thank You for loving us and caring for us.

Action

Share a snack together and thank Jesus for caring for you.

Talk

- What did Jesus do while He was eating dinner with His friends?
- Why was it surprising that Jesus washed their feet?
- What does a shepherd do for his sheep?
- How is Jesus like a Good Shepherd to us?

Day 6 – Friday

The Cross



Hide: A cross



Read: Mark 15:25-39

“My God, my God, why have you deserted me? Why do you seem so far away when I need you to save me? Why do you seem so far away that you can’t hear my groans?”

~ Psalm 22:1

After Jesus was arrested, the Roman governor Pilate couldn't find anything wrong with Jesus. But the crowd kept shouting for Him to be crucified. So Pilate handed Jesus over. The soldiers were cruel. They put a crown of thorns on His head and a purple robe on His shoulders and mocked Him, calling Him "King of the Jews." They didn't realize they were actually telling the truth — Jesus really is King! Jesus carried His cross through the streets. He was tired. He was hurting, but He kept going, for you and for me. When Jesus had carried every sin, every mistake, and every broken thing we would ever do, He said three powerful words-**"It is finished."** That didn't mean it was over in a sad way. It meant the work was done. Jesus paid for our sin — completely, perfectly, and because He loves us.

Pray

Jesus, thank You for loving us enough to die for us.

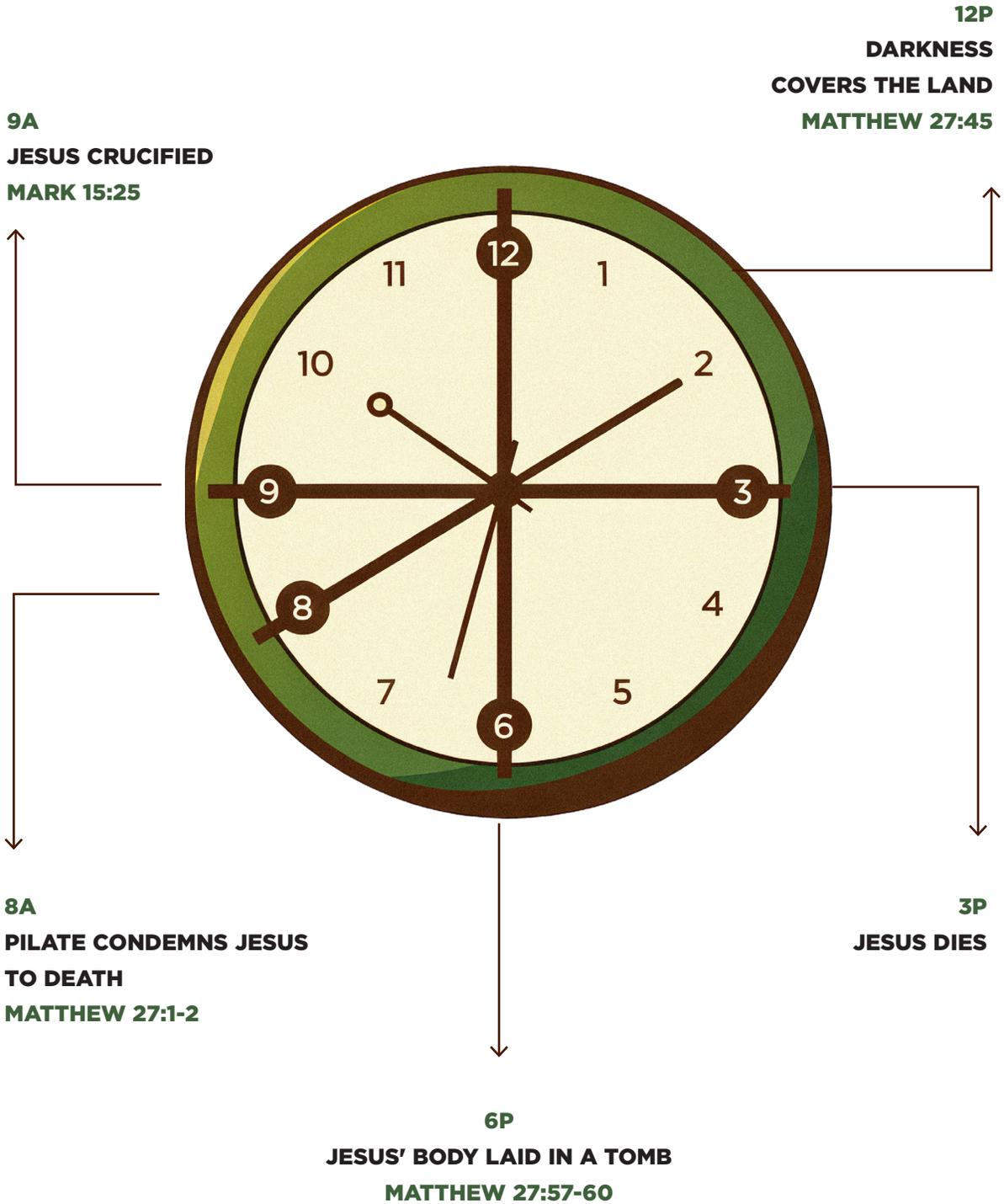
Action

Watch the clock together today. Point out parts of the Good Friday story at the time they happened (include attached image of the clock)

Talk

- Why do you think the crowd was so mad at Jesus?
- How was Jesus really the King of the Jews?
- Jesus said, "It is finished." What do you think that means about what Jesus did for our sin?
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus loves you so much that He died to save you?

Good Friday



Day 7 – Saturday

The Waiting



Hide: A rock / stone



Read: Matthew 27:57–66

With all my heart I wait for the LORD to help me. I put my hope in his word. 6 I wait for the Lord to help me. I want his help more than night watchmen want the morning to come. I'll say it again. I want his help more than night watchmen want the morning to come.

- Psalm 130:5-6

Jesus was in the tomb, and a big stone was rolled in front. It felt like the story was over. But God was still working. Sometimes we have to wait and trust God. The stone in front of the tomb did not stop God's plan. The silence did not mean God had forgotten. The waiting did not mean the story was over. Waiting is hard, but waiting with God is never wasted. We can trust Him because He keeps His promises. He sees what we cannot see. He knows what we do not know.

And He is always working for good. Today we remember that even when life feels quiet, slow, or confusing, we can trust God. He is still working, and His story is not finished.

Pray

God, help us trust You when we have to wait.

Action

Sit quietly for 30 seconds.

Talk

- What do you think it would have been like for Jesus' friends that Saturday?
- Have you ever had a time when something was sad and confusing and you didn't understand what was happening?
- What are some things we can do while we are waiting on God?
- How does it feel to know that God is always working in our lives?

Day 8 – Easter Sunday

Hallelujah! Jesus is Alive



Hide: Something bright (egg, flower, light, ribbon, etc.)



Read: Matthew 28:1-10

You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you. ²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. ~ Psalm 118:28-29

The stone was rolled away. The tomb was empty. Jesus is alive! At the beginning of the week people shouted **Hosanna**, but they didn't understand what He had come to do . Today we shout **Hallelujah** because now we know the full story. Jesus didn't stay in the tomb. He died for our sins, and He rose again on the third day. The story didn't end with sadness — it ended with victory! Jesus rose. Jesus is King forever!

Pray

Jesus, thank You for saving us.
We praise You! Hallelujah!

Action

Spend time worshipping and celebrating: **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Talk

- What happened when the stone was rolled away from Jesus' tomb?
- How do you think Mary Magdalene and the other women felt when they saw the empty tomb?
- Why do we shout "Hallelujah" when we remember that Jesus is alive?
- How can we praise Jesus today for being alive and being our King forever?

