



# easter week

A JOURNEY TOWARD  
HOPE AND NEW LIFE



QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES

# DAY 1

## Sunday

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### What You Need:

Paper, blank notecards, pencils, markers, crayons, Bible

### What You Do:

Ask your kids the following questions. Give them a chance to share their answers with you. Invite them to reread the scripture verses. Use this time as an opportunity to connect with your kids. Encourage them to share their thoughts and assist them as they need.

### What You Say:

*BIG Question #1:* What is Palm Sunday?

*Answer:* You know how after a major sporting event, the winning team has a huge parade in the city for all the fans to come out and cheer for them- well think of this as the ultimate Fan Parade! Jesus, who had been helping people, doing miracles, and telling everyone about God's love was coming to the capitol, the most important city. This was something the Bible had been promising for hundreds of years. It was all finally coming together, and the people were going crazy. This day was Palm Sunday.

*BIG Question #2:* Why is it called Palm Sunday?

*Answer:* Usually when a King came to town, they would roll out the red carpet and welcome him in a fancy parade. But Jesus was a humble man who did not boast or brag, but the people sensed his presence and wanted to honor him anyway they could, so they took the coats off their own backs and laid them down for Jesus in place of the red carpet and grabbed palm fronds because that was what they had around them in their environment to wave and cheer him on- think of them as the first foam finger saying, "Jesus, you're #1!" Now, the people didn't actually cheer, "You're #1", but they did cheer "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna, Hosanna!" The word Hosanna means save us. They said this because Jesus was the savior and they wanted to praise Him.

*BIG Question #3:* So, why is Palm Sunday such a big deal?

*Answer:* Well, this was the pinnacle of praise to Jesus as that crowd showed him love and respect, not knowing what he was preparing to do for them in just a few days. We already know the end of the story, and therefore, we can celebrate with hearts that are grateful and happy for the savior who came all those years ago to save a world of hurt and broken people not very different from the world we are living in today. So, let's celebrate! Let's tell our kids about the HOPE that is everlasting and present today as much as He was 2000 years ago.

## DAY 2

### Monday

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#### What You Need:

Paper, blank notecards, pencils, markers, crayons, Bible

#### What You Do:

Ask your kids the following questions. Give them a chance to share their answers with you. Invite them to reread the scripture verses. Use this time as an opportunity to connect with your kids. Encourage them to share their thoughts and assist them as they need.

#### What You Say:

*BIG Question #1:* What were the people doing that made Jesus mad?

*Answer:* The people were using the temple as a marketplace instead of a place for praying and worshiping God. The sellers were gouging, or overcharging people, and profiting by taking advantage of the people. In fact, it wasn't them selling as much as it was their love of money over loving and worshipping God that was wrong. Thinking about our world right now, we have anti-gouging laws in place so stores can't sell toilet paper for \$100 a pack. Just like these sellers from long ago, there are people today who put work, money, and other things above God. Toilet paper is a luxury right now, as silly as it sounds, and people who act out of selfishness, like those sellers in the temple, would like nothing more than to make lots of money from people who are in need. But the truth is without knowing God and Jesus, we are all in need. No amount of money or toilet paper, for that matter, will be enough for us without our savior.

*BIG Question #2:* I know that Jesus never sinned, but I thought being angry was bad?

*Answer:* You are right, Jesus never sinned. His anger was controlled. Recall that Jesus didn't pick up a whip or pull one out of his belt. He made the whip, which requires a purposeful, intentional act. There is no biblical reason to think Jesus harmed anyone, or any animal, or damaged any property. And yet, He single-handedly drove out all the sellers and moneylenders, without being arrested or mobbed. This says a lot about the powerful presence Jesus must have had. More than anger, Jesus was protecting his Father's house and was angry that it was being disrespected, but he did not hurt anyone. Even so, this kind of incident generated hatred from the local religious leaders, who would eventually demand that Jesus be arrested.

*BIG Question #3:* What is Zeal?

*Answer:* The disciples are reminded of Psalm 69:9, which refers to the Messiah- "Zeal for your house will consume me." Zeal is defined as "passion, energy, and devotion." Jesus' passion, energy and devotion for the purity of his father's house is clear. Jesus was certainly humble, gentle, friendly, and loving. And yet, He was not soft-skinned and passive. The gospels also describe Jesus as passionate, direct, quick-minded, and brave. A fragile pushover could never have single-handedly cleared a courtyard full of merchants or stood His ground against the commotion that came after.

## CT Kids Activity: What's It Worth?

### What You Need:

Toys or favorite items, notecards/post its, pencil

### What You Do:

Let kids pick favorite toys- 5 or so. Then using notecards/Post-it write out prices that the child feels are fair for their toys. Set up toys and prices like a market. Ask why are some toys worth more than other toys? Would they let you have the toy for free? Why or why not? Ask kids to think about what they would pay to get their favorite toy back or would they sell it?

If parents want to get 5 of their things (phone, TV remote, etc.) and talk about things they value, that would add to the conversation.

### Now Connect:

We all have things we love and are valuable to us. God provides so we can have fun things, but we need to remember that our relationship with God is our most precious gift.

## DAY 3

### Tuesday

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#### What You Need:

Paper, blank notecards, pencils, markers, crayons, Bible

#### What You Do:

Ask your kids the following questions. Give them a chance to share their answers with you. Invite them to reread the scripture verses. Use this time as an opportunity to connect with your kids. Encourage them to share their thoughts and assist them as they need.

#### What You Say:

*BIG Question #1:* Why were the religious leaders upset with Jesus?

*Answer:* The religious leaders were mad at Jesus because he was a servant to the people, who did not boast or want to be viewed as a “King” and treated like royalty. Think about it like posting on social media. The religious leaders of the time were wanting as many “followers with as many likes and subscribes” as they could get. Now, in their time they didn’t have social media, but they would sit at the head table at church dinners, take the most prominent positions, seek out public flattery- everything they did was done for others to see. When Jesus came along, he preached there was only one Heavenly authority, God the Father, which made the current religious leaders nervous they would lose their high status, special privileges and followers. In today’s terms, they were afraid they’d be ghosted! (Ironic, they will be soon!)

*BIG Question #2:* Why would Judas betray Jesus?

*Answer:* Judas was one of the 12 disciples, so he had spent years following Jesus and learning about him. So, it does seem odd that he would give up his old life to follow Jesus, only to turn around and go against him. Now, if you have ever seen the Star Wars movies, you know that the characters in that movie choose which side to follow and they have a few characters who switch sides. However, some are almost destined to end up on the Dark Side. Similarly, Jesus knew Judas’s heart was set on evil and that he would not turn from it. However, his betrayal will be used for good as it sets in motion the actions needed for Jesus to become the savior of the world. Now, that’s a happy ending.

*BIG Question #3:* Why didn’t Jesus just stop Judas?

*Answer:* Jesus knew Judas was going to betray him so he could have stop Judas. But his betrayal was meant to be as shown in Acts 1:16: “Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus.” What this means is that Judas’s act of betrayal was part of God’s plan. You see to send the Holy Spirit, Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins. It is hard to understand why Jesus must be betrayed but think of it this way. You probably have seen roses before. Did you know that to get the best and most beautiful roses, the plant must be cut back to just a few puny branches sticking out of the ground. However, when spring comes, the flowers will be sweeter and better than ever, like the world after Jesus came back.

## CT Kids Activity: Target Practice

### What You Need:

Paper & Pencil/Markers

### What You Do:

Draw a circle in a circle image. Ask who are people that are easy to love? Why is it easy to love them? Write their names on the outside ring- try to fill it with many names. Then, ask who are some people that we love but are harder to love. Why are they a little harder to love? Write their names in the next ring. Keep going until you get to the middle, bullseye, and ask who is really hard to love? Talk about why it's hard to love some people.

### Now Connect:

Judas is known as the man who turned Jesus in for 30 pieces of silver, but he was not always that person. He loved Jesus and was a loyal disciple for many years. Discuss how even people who are hard to love are important to Jesus.

## DAY 4

### Wednesday

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#### What You Need:

Paper, blank notecards, pencils, markers, crayons, Bible

#### What You Do:

Ask your kids the following questions. Give them a chance to share their answers with you. Invite them to reread the scripture verses. Use this time as an opportunity to connect with your kids. Encourage them to share their thoughts and assist them as they need.

#### What You Say:

*BIG Question #1:* Does Jesus really bring a man back from the dead?

*Answer:* It sounds kind of scary to hear someone was brought back from the dead. There are lots of scary shows on TV and in theaters that give us images to fill our minds. But those are all man-made in the props department on a studio lot. Jesus was not working in Hollywood he was in Judea. He tells his disciples that they must “wake” Lazarus. They arrive four days after Lazarus’ burial, so his disciples know he is not sleeping but in fact, dead. In front of a large crowd, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead in a stirring and spectacular miracle. In real life, bringing Lazarus back was a beautiful thing, not something scary.

*BIG Question #2:* Why does he raise Lazarus?

*Answer:* Have you ever tried to do something because someone told you it was impossible? For example, it is 99% impossible to sneeze with your eyes open, touch your nose or chin with your tongue, or tickle yourself. Did you try to do at least one of those or more? See, our nature is to try it out or to prove to ourselves what we will or won’t believe. The same is true of people who lived when Jesus was on the earth. Lazarus’s sister Martha even asked Jesus why he hadn’t gotten there sooner to save her brother. Jesus says to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live and will never die. Do you believe this?” Martha tells him she does believe, and she believes he is the Messiah. Not much has changed today- people still want “proof”, so by showing Lazarus restored, Jesus not only proves that he is the Messiah, but that he loves his people and those who believe in him have everlasting life.

*BIG Question #3:* When we think about Jesus giving us “rest” what does that mean?

*Answer:* Did you see the movie Frozen? Anna saves her sister Elsa, but Anna’s act turns her to ice. In Frosty the Snowman, Frosty melts so he can save his friend Karen. In Tangled, Flynn saves Rapunzel, but is fatally injured in the process. Each of the stories touch us because the characters sacrifice themselves out of love for another character. Then, just as we think they are done for, another act of love brings them back to life. It is no mistake that this plot is used a lot in movies, because at its root the idea of a love sacrifice comes from our Heavenly Father. When we “rest” in Him, we are accepting him as our savior, and we will never be without him. The best part is that unlike the characters in movies, Jesus isn’t just some character in a story long ago and far away. He is our living God whose act of love towards us on the cross is the best comeback story ever.

## CT Kids Activity: Now You See it. Now You Don't.

### What You Need:

10 jellybeans or other small bite-sized snacks, paper plate- turned upside down

### What You Do:

Adult show the kids the snacks. Tell them you are going to either put on jellybean under the plate, keep it in your hand, or eat it. Make a big show of moving the plate, making a fist, and/or eating something. The kids have to guess if the treat is under the plate, in your hand, or was it eaten? Play a few times, then switch roles and let the kids be in charge of the hiding of the treat.

### Now Connect:

Recap how fun it was to get to have some treats and play a fun guessing game. Then talk about how the people were looking for miracles, like raising Lazarus, to prove Jesus was the Messiah. However, like our snack- just because we couldn't see it or where it went, we still knew it was there. Jesus may not be visual to us today, but we can have faith in him.

## DAY 5

### Thursday

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#### What You Need:

Paper, blank notecards, pencils, markers, crayons, Bible

#### What You Do:

Ask your kids the following questions. Give them a chance to share their answers with you. Invite them to reread the scripture verses. Use this time as an opportunity to connect with your kids. Encourage them to share their thoughts and assist them as they need.

#### What You Say:

*BIG Question #1:* Why is Jesus washing feet?

*Answer:* Have you ever gotten up from dinner and washed the dishes to help your family? Have you ever taken your trash out for pickup and taken your neighbor's trash, too? How about playing an annoying game with your little brother or sister just to make him or her happy? Well, all of these are examples of doing something to show humility and love to someone else. Before the Passover supper, Jesus wanted to teach his disciples one more important lesson, how to humbly serve others. The disciples and Jesus were sitting at the table before dinner and Jesus poured water into a bowl and began to wash the disciple's feet. Jesus said, "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master." By helping others, you are being a humble servant like Jesus.

*BIG Question #2:* What is Passover?

*Answer:* Passover is a celebration. Passover goes back to Moses's time. Moses was sent to do many things, but one was to free the Israelites from Egypt where they had been made into slaves. Moses went to the pharaoh of Egypt, to demand that he free the Israelites from slavery. The pharaoh said no, so God sent down 10 plagues (or punishments) to force the king to change his mind. The word Passover comes from the 10th plague sent out to the firstborn sons of the Egyptians. The Israelites were spared from the plague because Moses had told them to mark their door posts so the plague would "pass over" them. The son of Egypt's pharaoh died from the plague. In his grief, the pharaoh ordered Moses and the Jews to leave Egypt. To this day, people still celebrate Passover.

*BIG Question #3:* What is the Last Supper?

*Answer:* Do you have family dinners? How about special dinners at Christmas or Easter? Jesus wanted to have a special dinner during Passover with his disciples. This was the last Passover dinner they would share because the next day he would be taken away and arrested. This meal is called the last supper. Jesus told the disciples, "You've no idea how much I have looked forward to eating this Passover meal with you before I enter my time of suffering. It's the last one I'll eat until we all eat it together in the kingdom of God." Jesus knew he would be taken the next day and he wanted to give

his friends a way to remember him. So, he tells them about the Lord's Supper or communion. Jesus instructs the men to drink a small bit of wine and eat a small piece of bread in memory of him and his sacrifice on the cross. You and your family can find juice and crackers or other items from home and have communion.

## **CT Kids Activity: Sock it to Me**

### **What You Need:**

10-12 socks

### **What You Do:**

Line up all the players and give the leader all the socks. The leader will walk all around while the rest of the line will stay in a straight line following the leader. While the leader is walking, he will throw a sock- one at a time- over his head. The players walking behind must try to catch the sock, if they run out of line to catch the sock, they are now last in line. Once all the socks have been thrown the person with the most socks wins. Play as many times as you'd like but try to let everyone be the leader once.

### **Now Connect:**

Ask kids was it more fun to be the leader and throw the socks or to be the followers and try to catch the socks. Did it make you mad to have to go to the back of the line? Did someone hog the socks or argue over who caught the sock? What were some fun things about being the leader? What were some fun things about being the follower? Remind kids that Jesus taught his disciples by washing their feet that you can be a leader by serving and helping others.

## DAY 6

### Friday

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#### What You Need:

Paper, blank notecards, pencils, markers, crayons, Bible

#### What You Do:

Ask your kids the following questions. Give them a chance to share their answers with you. Invite them to reread the scripture verses. Use this time as an opportunity to connect with your kids. Encourage them to share their thoughts and assist them as they need.

#### What You Say:

*BIG Question #1:* Why did Jesus have to go to the cross?

*Answer:* Have you ever played with magnets? If you have, you know that if you have two magnets you can either put them together and they will stick tightly together, or you can flip one around and it will actually push the other magnet away. You can feel the pressure between the magnets when they are pushing away from each, but you don't really see anything it's like an invisible hand is keeping them from each other. So, if you think of one magnet as Jesus and the other magnet as all people, the force in the middle that kept them apart is sin. Now all people sin, but Jesus never did. He was free of sin - he was the opposite of the people. Like the two magnets, man's sin was a polar opposite to Jesus's purity. However, God so loved the world he wanted a way for people to be close, to be tight with him, so he sent Jesus. When Jesus went to the cross, he took on all our sins and "flipped" the magnet for people so we can be attached to Jesus, connected to him as our savior where nothing can ever separate us from him.

*BIG Question #2:* Why is it called "Good Friday?"

*Answer:* Have you read the book: Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day? Well, from the title you might guess this book is about a boy who is having a really bad day, to say the least. However, all the things that Alexander goes through in his day are nothing compared to what Jesus had to go through on Good Friday. Jesus is made fun of, yelled at, spit on, and found guilty of no crime, yet he wears a crown of thorns and is crucified on the cross. So, why would it be called "Good" when it was certainly a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day? Because God loved us so much and wanted to make a way to be close friends with us, He took every one of our sins out of our hearts and put them into Jesus. Jesus felt all the hurt, sadness, and loneliness that sin brings. Then Jesus's body stopped working and His body was put in a tomb. All of our sins were buried in that tomb with Him. When God brought Him back to life and He came out of that tomb on Easter morning, our sins were forgiven— forever. The "Good" of that day was that Jesus sacrificed himself to give us the gift of eternal life in him. It was a beautiful, wonderful, magnificent, very Good Friday.

BIG Question #3: How did the world react?

*Answer:* On Good Friday, when the sun should have been shining, the whole earth was dark. There was a physical sadness that could be felt as Jesus was on the cross. Then, when his spirit left his body the temple curtain ripped in two, top to bottom. There was an earthquake, and rocks split in pieces. When the crowds saw everything that was happening, they were scared and they started understanding their mistake saying things like, "This man was innocent. He was a good man. This has to be the Son of God." From the moment of his death, many people began to turn toward Jesus and believe he was the Messiah. The happiest part of the story is coming on Easter day, but the love Jesus showed us on the cross is so important to understand. God's plan was perfect; and, today, we can remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us with communion.

## **CT Kids Activity: Opposites Attract**

### **What You Need:**

2 magnets (from fridge), piece of paper

### **What You Do:**

Ask the kids to think of some things we do that are sins. Write those on one side of the paper, then write in big letter JESUS on the other side. Then, put the magnets together with the paper in-between. Challenge the kids to move one of the magnets to follow the letters in JESUS. Most likely the magnets will fall apart over and over again, making it hard to follow the letters. Then put the magnets together without the paper in-between and have the kids place them on top of the paper and follow the letters JESUS. This should be very easy! Older kids may eye roll at you but make them do it anyway!

### **Now Connect:**

Ask which way was easier to follow Jesus, when our sins were in the way or when they were gone? Remind them how Jesus never sinned but man does have sin, so he died on the cross to take those sins from us.

## DAY 7

### Saturday

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#### What You Need:

Paper, blank notecards, pencils, markers, crayons, Bible

#### What You Do:

Ask your kids the following questions. Give them a chance to share their answers with you. Invite them to reread the scripture verses. Use this time as an opportunity to connect with your kids. Encourage them to share their thoughts and assist them as they need.

#### What You Say:

*BIG Question #1:* What did Jesus's friends do after Good Friday?

*Answer:* How many of you have seen the movie, Avengers End Game? I think most people have heard about the movie's ending, even if you didn't see the movie. In fact, when the movie first came out, people who revealed some of the major spoilers from the movie were ridiculed publicly for ruining the story. However, by this time, most people know that several main characters are lost - one of them is Ironman. Ironman sacrifices himself to save the rest of the world. At his funeral, there is a scene where the other characters come to pay their respects and the camera goes from character to character as they stand there remembering their fallen friend. Now hear me, the Avengers are all fictional characters; while Jesus and the people named in the Bible lived real lives. Still, Jesus is my superhero, he did more for me and you than anyone else will ever do for another. So, I can imagine how the disciples, his friend Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James and Joseph, and other believers felt when they looked at the tomb. However, major spoiler alert, he is not there, the tomb is empty!

*BIG Question #2:* How did Jesus take all sin, even for people who weren't born yet?

*Answer:* Have you ever been to a mirror maze? They have these mazes where you are surrounded my floor to ceiling mirrors, so it looks like you are stuck in a never-ending image of yourself that repeats and repeats and repeats, but the secret is - there is path. There is only one way out and you might smack right into a few mirrors on your way, but if you keep going and readjusting from what you learn as you go, you start to find it gets easier. These mirror mazes are like our sins. We might feel like we are stuck in sin because we all sin, but Jesus is our path out. God knew the path 2000 years ago and it is the same one you and I get to use today; it is through Jesus's sacrifice on the cross that our past, present, and future sins are forgiven. 1 John 2:1-2 says, "I write this, dear children, to guide you out of sin. But if anyone does sin, we have a Friend in the presence of the Father: Jesus Christ, righteous Jesus. When He served as a sacrifice for our sins, He solved the sin problem for good—not only ours, but the whole world's." You know the song, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." It's true - Now can someone pass me the Windex; I need to do a little cleaning!

*BIG Question #3: How can we follow Jesus and be friends with him forever?*

*Answer:* How many of you have friend requests on social media? It's fun to tag friends and share the important, funny, or even bummer kind of things that happen to us each day. However, have you ever been unfriended? That is not so fun. Right? You notice that one of your friends isn't posting much or they seem to have disappeared for good. Maybe you try to send them a DM, add them to a chat or even go so far as to actually call them, but as hard as you try nothing works. Well, the good news about Jesus is He will never unfriend you and He doesn't love you because of how much you do, but simply because you ask for salvation. Salvation is not something you can buy, work for, or earn. The Bible says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast."- Ephesians 2:8. When Jesus died on the cross, that's when the great price was paid for your salvation. If you have not asked Him to be your Forever Friend, you can right now. You can pray a prayer like this one: "Dear God, I am a sinner and I need You to save me. I believe that Your Son, Jesus Christ, died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I ask You to become the Lord of my life, to live in my heart from this day forward. Please send Your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. Amen." Oh, and BTW, there is not friend request limit, so invite your friends and let them know about Jesus, too.

## **CT Kids Activity: He's Got the Whole World in His Hands**

### **What You Need:**

iPhone- search for the song, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," something soft to throw- bean bag, stuffed animal or even balled up socks

### **What You Do:**

Get everyone in a circle, minus one person. One person will be the DJ and play the song on the iPhone. DJ will start the song and one person in the circle will throw the soft item around the circle. The DJ will stop the music at random and whoever is holding the soft item will change spots with them. Now they are the DJ and the other person is in the circle catching and throwing. Keep playing until the song runs out. Most versions of the song are around 2 minutes so with the stopping and all it will take about 4-5 minutes. You can replay or choose a different worship song to use.

### **Now Connect:**

Talk to your kids about their relationship with Jesus. If they have already decided to follow Jesus, pray a prayer of thanks to Jesus for being part of your family. Then talk about who you might want to tell about Jesus - friends or family.

If your child has not made a decision yet to follow Jesus, that's okay, too. Here is a resource from CT Kids to help start that conversation.

*Download the CT Kids Baptism Book at [crosstimberschurch.org/kidsbaptism](https://crosstimberschurch.org/kidsbaptism)*

