



H O L Y W E E K F A M I L Y W O R S H I P

The days and week before Easter, also known as Holy Week, can be a wonderful time of encouraging children to understand the significance of the days before Christ's crucifixion and the resurrection. Holy Week is the week before Easter, beginning with Palm Sunday and ending on Easter.

Beginning on Palm Sunday, I suggest that you select a regular time (perhaps after dinner, or before bedtime) to spend a few moments reading from the Bible about each day in the Jesus' last week before He was crucified, died and resurrected. You might want to begin and close each devotional time with a short prayer.

If in your conversations, your child poses a question for which you don't have an answer, don't be afraid to say, "I don't know," or, "Let's look in the Bible," or, "Let's ask our pastor about that." And don't be surprised when your child teaches you.

As you share with your child, here are some things to remember about children and how they learn.

Ages 3-5: this is not a time to give graphic details about the violence of the cross. "Preschoolers' budding imaginations can build such details into frightening scenes that keep them awake at night...Saying only that 'Jesus died for you' might cause a child to feel guilty. Instead, you might say, 'Jesus died because He loves you and me,' and leave it at that."

Ages 6-9: although children can tolerate more details, "Excruciating details about the nails, scourge, and so forth are still too intense for this age group." Children can learn the sequence of events in Holy Week and some of the details. Telling them about Jesus' concern for his mother while on the cross can help children understand Jesus' humanity and love for others.

Ages 10-14: are ready to move to a deeper understanding of the daily commitment of genuine faith...Children this age have a sense of the dramatic, and learn best when their minds and imaginations are engaged.

The following pages are designed to help you walk through Holy Week as a family. I have given you three different formats that range from no planning necessary to spending two - three hours prepping for the week. I hope you will find one of these that will work for your family to stop and remember how God's love for us was displayed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. My prayer is that our kids will know the Easter story as well or better than they do the Christmas story!



Option 1 for Grades K5-3: 5 Minute Easter Devotional (Daily Video Devotional)

Materials Needed: Access to the Internet on a computer, iPad or television

Our church gives a membership to Right Now Media to everyone who is a member of Shades. If you have already accessed your membership, you can search for “Easter Week- 5 Minute Easter Devotional”. Click on it and you will be ready to watch each day’s video.

If you have not set up your SMBC membership, click here [RIGHT NOW MEDIA](#) and follow the instructions. Right Now Media Membership is completely free to all Shades Members. Once you have set up your account, follow the above instructions to find the devotional.

Option 1 for Children in Grades 4-6: Read the Bible

Materials Needed: Bible

Read through each day’s scripture with your family and talk about what happened on each day. Make sure to pray together as a family after you have read the passage together.

Sunday- Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11

Monday- Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Mark 11:15-19

Tuesday- Jesus Teaches in the Temple

Luke 19:47-48

Wednesday- Jesus Continues to Teach and The Plot Against Jesus

Luke 21: 37-38; Matthew 26:3-5

Thursday- The Last Supper, Judas’ Betrayal & Peter Denies Jesus

Mark 14:17-26, 32-35, 43-50 and Luke 22:14-23, 39-53; Matt. 26:58,69-75

Friday- Crucifixion

Mark 15:16-39 and Luke 23:26-49

Saturday- Guards Are Posted at the Tomb

Matt. 27:62-66

Sunday- Jesus is Alive

John 20:1-18



Option 2 All Ages: Holy Week Poster

Materials needed: Poster Board, Construction paper, markers/crayons

Prior to starting: divide the poster board into 8 sections. Label sections in order from Sunday- Sunday.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

As you read through each scripture reference (see above Option 1 for older kids) have children decorate each section of the poster board using construction paper and markers to show what happened on each day.

Option 3 All Ages: Resurrection Eggs

Materials Needed: Resurrection Eggs

Using a set of Resurrection Eggs, allow children to open the eggs in order during the week. Make sure to read the scripture references from the Bible for each egg. You will need to double up on a couple of days.

If you don't own a set of Resurrection Eggs, they can be purchased here from [AMAZON](#) or here from [LIFEWAY](#).

If you want to make your own set or have your children help to make a set, there are LOTS of ideas on Pinterest.

A Few Fun Extras

Here a couple of ideas you may want to try during the week if time allows.



Palm Sunday

Materials Needed: Worship Music and a Bible

Read Matthew 21:1-11. Talk about what the people were thinking when they saw Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. Talk about what they think Jesus was thinking and if He was surprised by what was happening. Spend time as a family singing one or two worship songs that praise Jesus.



Last Supper Foot Washing (Thursday)

Materials Needed: *basin large enough for an adult foot, liquid soap, warm water, towels*

Prior to the foot washing, think through the logistics of having everything set up and how the night will go.

Read John 13:1-20. Discuss why the disciples needed Jesus to wash their feet and what He was trying to teach them. Have each child wash one foot of one of their siblings. Mom or Dad can wash the other. Allow the oldest child to wash Dad's feet and the youngest child to wash Mom's feet. After it is over, talk about the importance of not only serving others but also letting others serve us.



Easter Sunday- Resurrection Rolls

Materials Needed: *Crescent Rolls, marshmallows, small bowl of water, bowl with cinnamon and sugar mixture, cookie sheet, cooking spray*

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees and spray cookie sheet with cooking spray. Read **John 19** in the New Testament while the oven is pre-heating.
2. Unroll the crescent rolls, separating each section. Explain that this is like the cloth they wrapped Jesus in.
3. Give your child a marshmallow and explain that it represents Jesus. It's white and pure because He was without sin.
4. Roll the marshmallow in a small bowl of water. This symbolizes the embalming oils.
5. Now, roll the marshmallow in the cinnamon & sugar mixture. This is like the spices used to prepare his body for burial.
6. Next up, wrap the marshmallow in the crescent roll dough, making sure to pinch the dough together securely on the sides. Don't worry about what they look like because they'll taste great no matter what! This represents how they wrapped Jesus' body.
7. Repeat with each marshmallow and place the rolls in the oven (symbolizing the tomb) and bake for the amount of time specified on the package – 8 to 10 minutes.
8. While the rolls are baking, read **John 20:1-18**.
9. When the cook time is up, open the tomb and remove the rolls. When they're cool enough to handle, let your child(ren) open one and discover what happened to the marshmallow. It's disappeared! This signifies how Jesus has been resurrected.