

INTRODUCTION

- Holy Week is the pinnacle of the year for Christians because it was the pinnacle of Jesus' life. The 4 Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John focus on the 33 years of Jesus' time on earth. 40% of the 89 chapters in those books focus on this one week of Jesus' life. John alone devotes nearly half of his book to this week. This week is important.
- In these sheets you'll find Bible readings & discussion questions, along with activities for different ages to teach your family about Holy Week, what Jesus did, and why this week is so important.
- I pray this resource is valuable for your family and shared with those around you!

Palm Sunday is the name given to the first day of Holy Week. Sunday morning Jesus rode into Jerusalem to conclude God's plan of salvation. He rode on a donkey, greeted by crowds waving palm branches & singing psalms, and acclaiming him as the Messiah. This day was prophesied hundreds of years before it happened. Notice how Jesus rides into Jerusalem, humble and meek and yet coming to conquer! Watch all he does and listen to what he says. He's doing this for you!



BIBLE STUDY TIME!

- Open your Bible & read Matthew 21:1-11. Use the questions for personal and family growth in faith!
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- Jesus knew where the donkey was and instructed his disciples to get it. He shows us that he knows everything and knows what is about to happen to him. In what ways does that bring you comfort and assurance for your life?
 - What comfort do you find knowing that God prophesied the events of Palm Sunday in Zechariah 9:9,10, over 500 years before they happened?
 - Look up the word "Hosanna". What does it mean? What did the people confess they believed about Jesus?
 - Jesus rode into Jerusalem even though he knew his enemies were there and they were plotting his death. How does that show you his love for you?



ACTIVITY TIME

- Search "Skit Guys Palm Sunday" on YouTube for a fun explanation about Palm Sunday - for older kids/adults.
- Here is a site that has fun activities for kids.

<https://www.fun365.orientaltrading.com/article/palm-sunday-craft-activities>

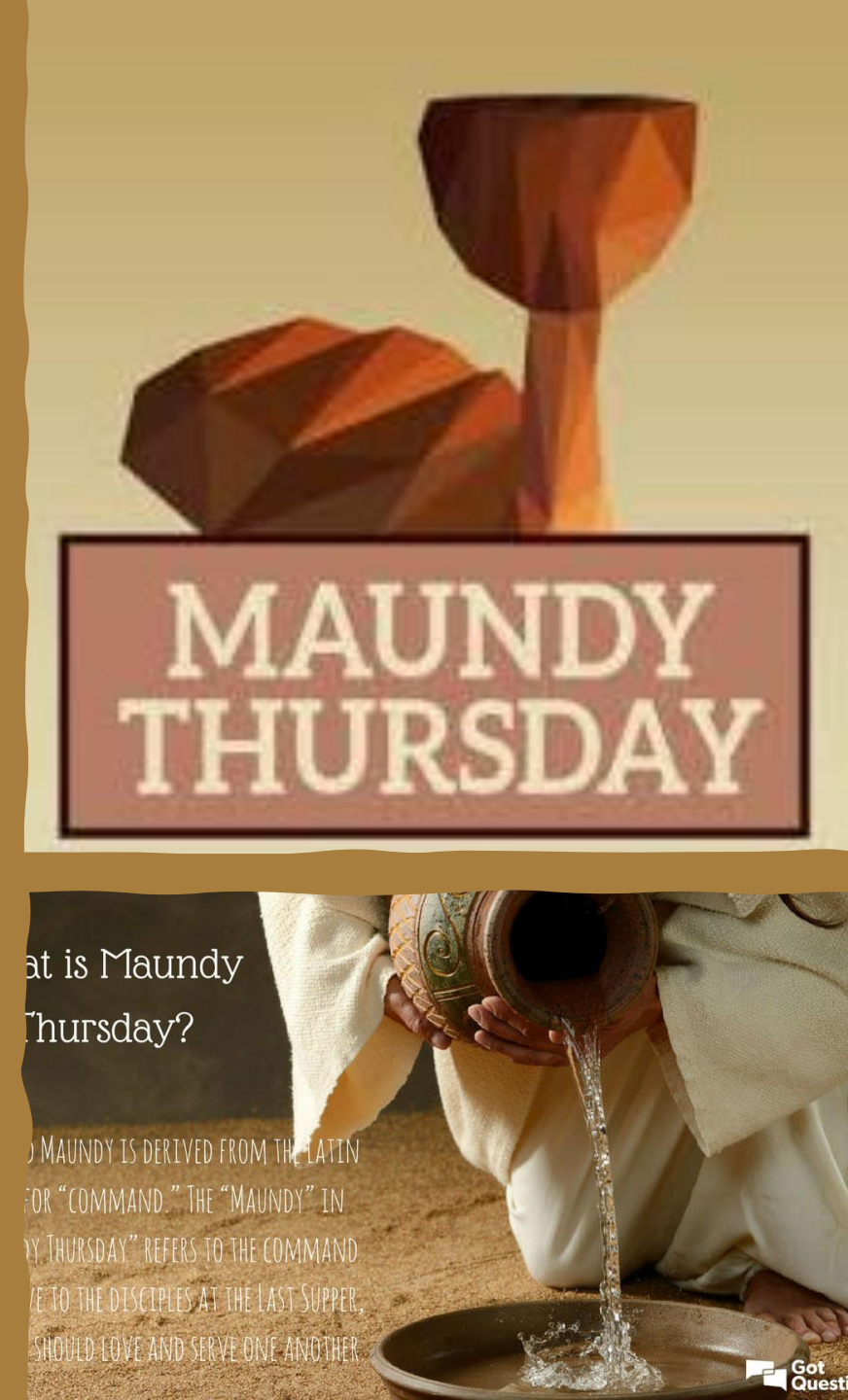
- A good illustrated video for kids to learn about Palm Sunday can be found by searching "God's Story Palm Sunday" on YouTube.
- Cut out some palm branches and have the kids march around the house shouting, "Hosanna! We love Jesus!"

ACTIVITY TIME



Easy to make Hosanna Branch Wavers.

- Maundy Thursday is the name given to the events that happened on Thursday of Holy Week. Maundy comes from the Latin "mandatum" meaning "command".
- Jesus and his disciples celebrated the Passover one final time. During that meal, Jesus instituted a sacred meal called The Lord's Supper. It's a covenantal meal uniting his body & blood with bread & wine, a meal that forgives our sins and strengthens our unity with God and one another. Jesus commanded us to receive this meal often.
- Jesus also washed his disciples' feet that night. He did that to show us how we ought to serve and love one another. He served us by laying down his life to rescue ours. We show our love for others by loving as Christ loved us.
- This is also the night Jesus was betrayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and betrayed by one of his disciples - Judas.



What is Maundy Thursday?

MAUNDY IS DERIVED FROM THE LATIN FOR "COMMAND." THE "MAUNDY" IN "MAUNDY THURSDAY" REFERS TO THE COMMAND GIVEN TO THE DISCIPLES AT THE LAST SUPPER, TO LOVE AND SERVE ONE ANOTHER.

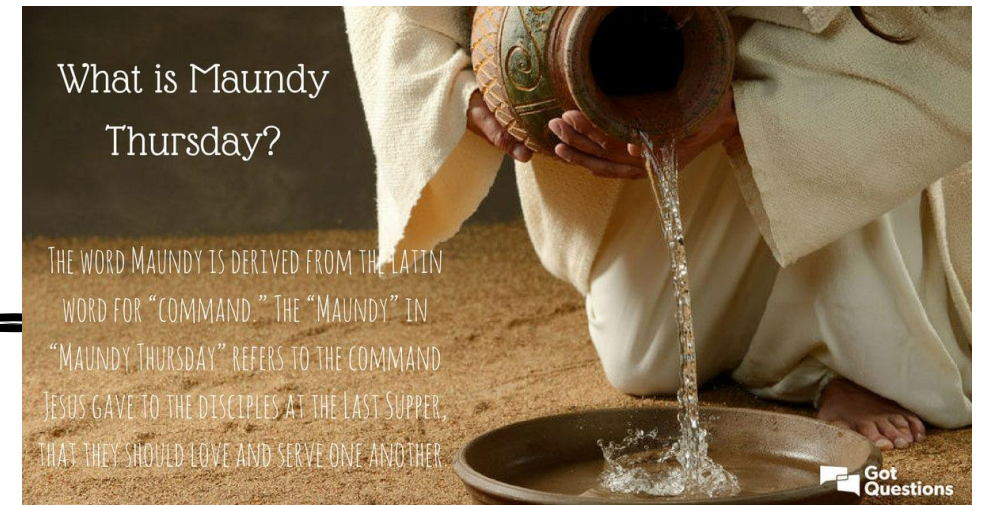
BIBLE STUDY TIME

- Read Mark 14:12–26 in your Bible or Bible app and use the following questions for your growth in faith!
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- Jesus got together with his disciples to celebrate the Passover, something God commanded his people to do every year. What does that show you about Jesus' commitment to doing God's will even near the end of his life?
 - Jesus shared with his disciples he knew one of them would betray him to his enemies. Jesus allowed it to happen because of his great love for people. In what ways does that motivate you to love others?
 - Jesus gave us a special meal called the Lord's Supper that night and that it was a sign of the covenant God makes with us. Read Jeremiah 31:31–34 to learn more about that covenant.



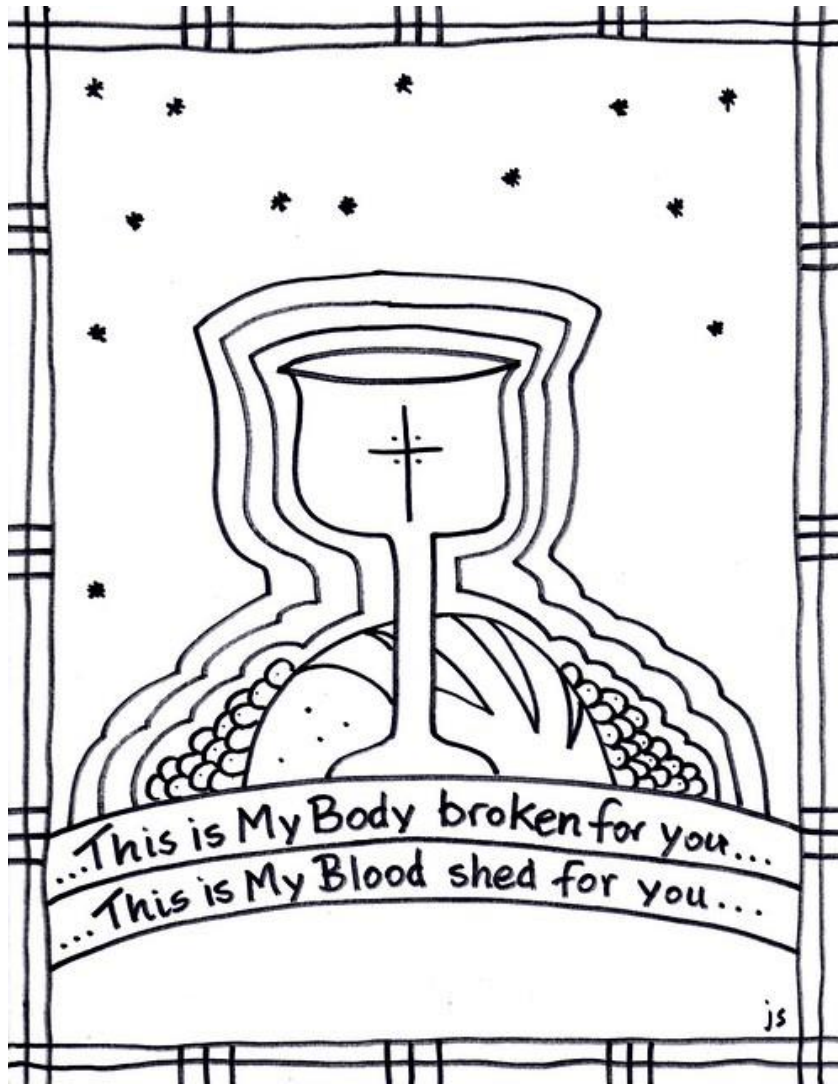
ACTIVITY TIME

- Maundy Thursday was the night Judas betrayed Jesus to his enemies for the price of 30 pieces of silver. Talk with your kids about the importance of kindness and speaking well of others.
- Jesus washed his disciples' feet that night. It showed his love and service to them and a command for all his disciples to love and serve others. Come up with a list of 8 ways you can serve others in your family or neighborhood. Pick 2 and try to accomplish them in the next couple of days.

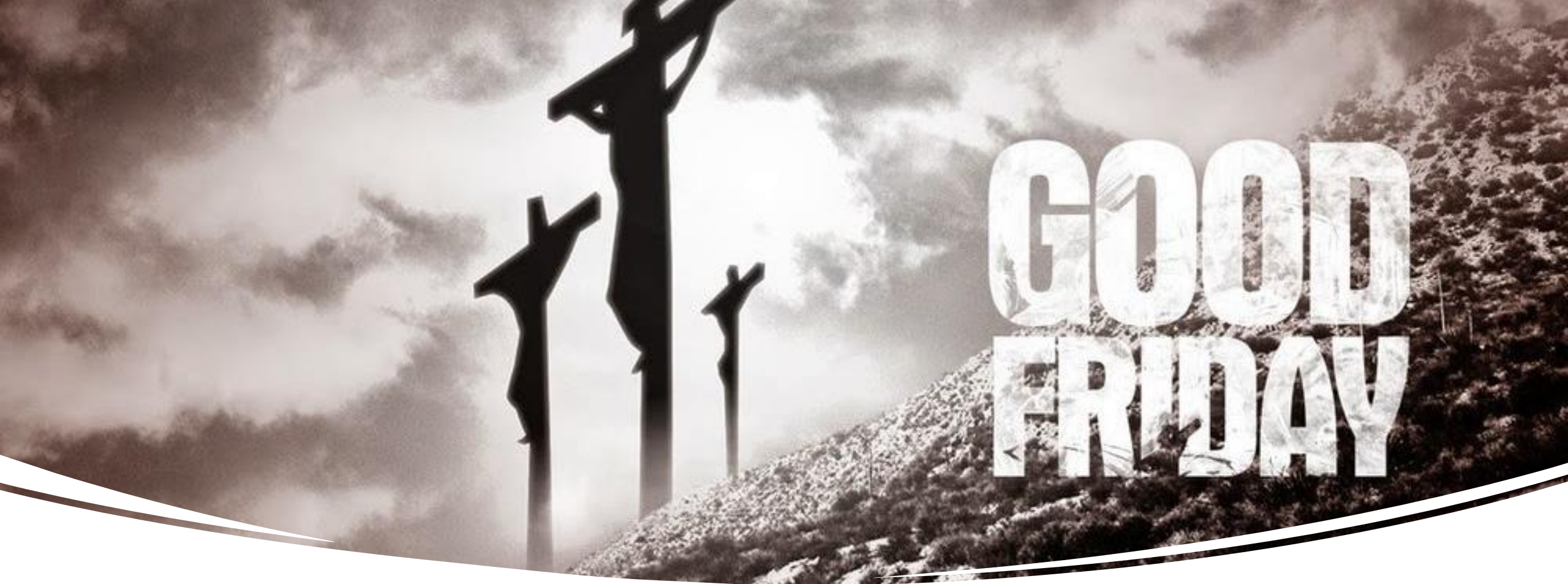


- Jesus did a lot of teaching and praying the night this Thursday night. (Read more in your Bible, John 14–17). Craft a prayer you can use this week to thank Jesus for his love and sacrifice for you, asking him to strengthen and forgive you.
- Make a dinner together with your kids. Have them help gather ingredients and cook the meal with you. Sit down together to eat it and have one of the kids lead the prayer.

ACTIVITY TIME



You can learn more about the Lord's Supper in 1 Corinthians 11:17-33.
Find out what spiritual blessings God gives through it!



- Good Friday is the name given to the day Jesus sacrificed his life on the cross. Jesus was sentenced to death by the Roman governor Pontius Pilate and nailed to a cross around 9:00 am. He hung on the cross until 3:00 pm when the Bible tells us, "he gave up his spirit." In other words, Jesus gave up his life willingly and nobody took it from him, just as he promised.
- Why do we call this day "good" if someone died? As one author said, "if you were supposed to die and someone took your place so you could go free, how would you describe that day?" Good.

BIBLE STUDY TIME

- Read Matthew 26:36–27:66 in your Bible or on your favorite Bible app.

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- This is the most detailed account of late Thursday evening through the end of Friday when Jesus is buried. Read it through and meditate on it.
 - As you meditate on it, ask yourself these questions.
 - What stands out to you the most about Jesus in this account?
 - Find as many different ways as you can see Jesus speaking and demonstrating love.
 - Compare the words in Matthew 27 with Isaiah 53. Isaiah wrote his book 700 years before Jesus and described what Jesus would do on Good Friday. Find as many similarities as you can.
 - What comfort can you take from the events of Good Friday for your own personal life?





ACTIVITY TIME

- The Bible tells us that as Jesus hung on the cross from "12:00 - 3:00 pm darkness fell over the whole land because the sun stopped shining". It used to be tradition that businesses closed from 12-3 on Good Friday. Let's bring that back! From 12-3 pm turn off all phones, TVs, computers, and other distractions. Take that time to rest, read the Good Friday account, and pray. Focus on Jesus!
- Give everyone in your family their own sheet of paper. (You'll have to help little kids with this) Have each person write down on the sheet the things they've done wrong. Then say, "Because Jesus died to pay for our sins, we are forgiven!" Then rip up your paper into tiny pieces and recycle the paper! Sins are forgiven and forgotten by God.

ACTIVITY TIME

- As you honor Good Friday at home with your kids, create tissue paper crafts that mimic the look of stained glass. Using basic glue or Mod Podge, adhere small squares or triangles of colored tissue paper to wax paper. Paint on a smooth layer of glue to seal. When it dries, cut the paper into shapes, such as crosses and hang them on your windows. If you're a fan of decorative jars, try using the tissue paper on the outside of a jar to create a beautiful votive candle holder. Light it using a child-safe LED tea light instead of a flame.



Good Friday Nature Walk



So they took **branches of palm trees**
and went out to meet him...

John 12:13a

Draw & label a picture of the biggest leaf you
can find.

And the soldiers wove a crown of
thorns and put it on his head...

John 19:2a

Draw or write about a plant you see that has
thorns or spiny barbs.

And He went out, bearing his own
cross...

John 19:17a

Make a bark rubbing in the shape of a cross.
Identify & label the type of tree.

...brought **spices** so that they might
go and annoint Him.

Mark 16:1b

Draw or write about a plant that has a sweet-
smelling scent.

And they found the **stone** rolled
away from the tomb...

Luke 24:2

Draw or write about the largest rock you can find.
Include the details of its surroundings.

Why do you seek the **living** among
the dead? He is not here, but has
risen.

Luke 24:5b-6a

Draw or write about an example of new life
that you see.

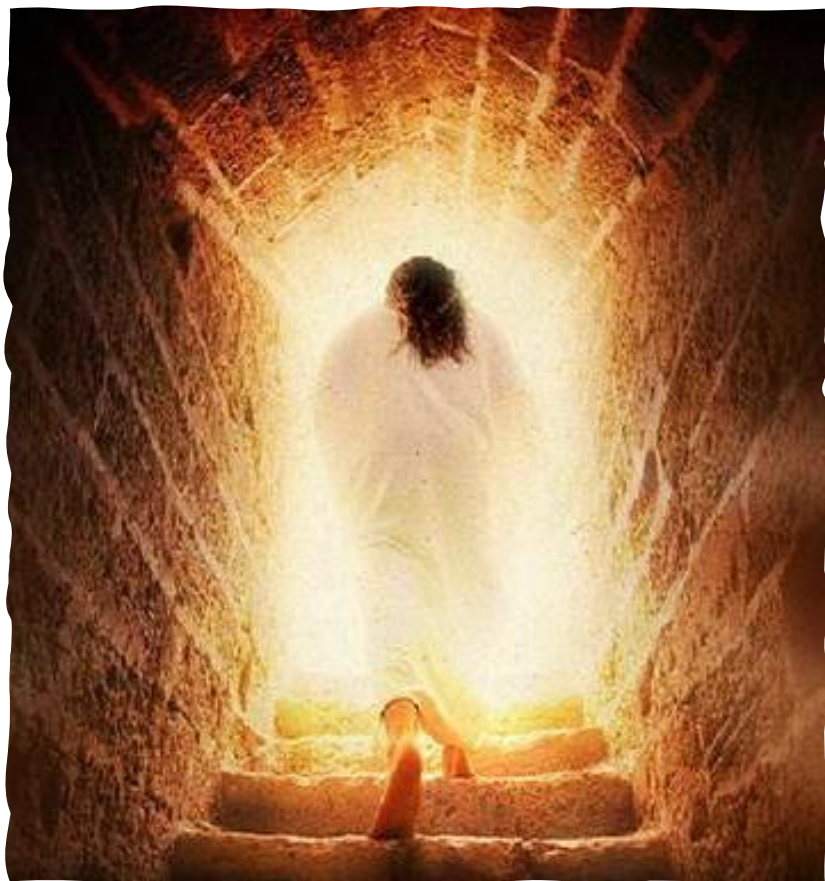




RISEN

DEATH WHERE IS YOUR STING?

BIBLE STUDY TIME



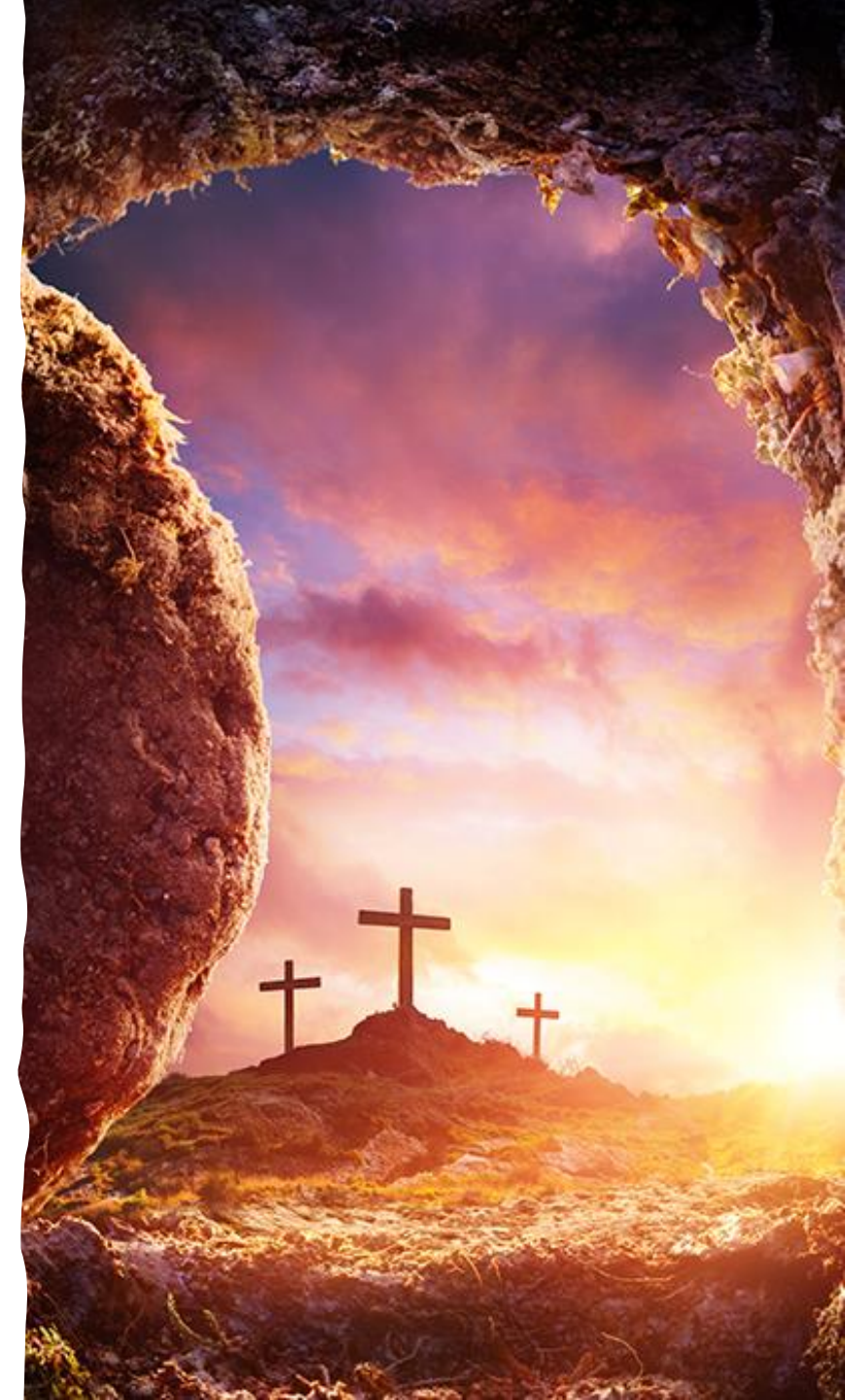
- Read John 20 in your Bible or on your favorite Bible app.
- Why did Jesus make such a great effort to show his disciples he bodily rose from the dead?
- Many different people saw Jesus alive in this chapter and they all had vastly different reactions. Which one do you identify with and why?
- In what ways does Jesus resurrection empower us to do ministry? For certainty in daily life? (v.19–31)
- John 20:31 shares with us the reason Jesus came, lived, died and rose from the dead. Put this verse in your own words to express what Jesus means to you.

ACTIVITY TIME

ILLUSTRATE FORGIVENESS AND NEW LIFE

Gather the following supplies ::

- A dirty penny
- a cup
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 cup of vinegar
- With the kids, combine the vinegar and salt in a cup.
- Drop the dirty penny into the cup and allow it to sit for about five minutes.
- When you pull the penny out of the cup, you will find the old, dirty penny has been transformed into a clean, shiny penny.
- Discuss how the penny demonstrates sin in our lives. The dirty penny is like our sin-filled lives, but because Jesus is our Savior, He washes away our sin and we're made "new" - just like the penny!





ACTIVITY TIME

Easter Resurrection Rolls

Ingredients

- 1 can Pillsbury Crescent Dough...8 large marshmallows...water...cinnamon & sugar mixed together in a bowl

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 375°F. Spray a cookie sheet with cooking spray or line with parchment paper.
- Unroll crescent dough and separate each triangle.
- Have children dip marshmallow in water. Roll in cinnamon and sugar mixture.
- Place marshmallow in the top of the crescent roll and roll into a crescent roll shape, then secure the sides by tucking them under and pinching them closed. (Don't worry about how they look! They will be yummy!)
- Place on prepared cookie sheet and repeat with remaining 7 rolls.
- Bake in preheated oven for 8–10 minutes or until golden brown on the outside.
- Let cool for a few minutes and then let the children pick a roll to open up. The marshmallow has disappeared!

Easter Word Search

RESURRECTION SCAVENGER HUNT

- ☐ Something Black - Represents sin.
- ☐ Bread - Jesus broke this and shared with His disciples.
- ☐ Palm Leaf - Laid in the Street when Jesus entered Jerusalem.
- ☐ Silver Coins - Judas was willing to betray Jesus for 30 coins.
- ☐ Grape Leaf or Thorn - Jesus' crown was made of grapevine thorns.
- ☐ Perfume - Mary Poured on Jesus' feet.
- ☐ 2 Sticks - Jesus' Cross.
- ☐ Something Red - Jesus' Blood
- ☐ Nails - To secure Jesus to the cross.
- ☐ Rock - Tomb
- ☐ Spice Bag - Spices were used to prepare Jesus for burial.
- ☐ Something Empty - Jesus has risen!
- ☐ White/Cream Cloth - All that remained in the tomb.
- ☐ Something New - The old is gone and new has come!

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ANGELS
APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
BLOOD
CALVARY
CROSS
CROWN OF THORNS
CRUCIFIXION
DARKNESS
DEATH
EARTHQUAKE
EASTER
GOLGOTHA
HIGH PRIEST
JESUS CHRIST
JOSEPH
JUDAS ISCARIOT
KING
LAMB

MARY
NAILS
PASSOVER
PIECES OF SILVER
PIERCED
PILATE
RESURRECTION
ROBE
ROMANS
SACRIFICE
SIMON OF CYRENE
SOLDIERS
SON OF GOD
SPEAR
STONE
TEMPLE
THIEVES
THREE DAYS
TOMB