

ON PALM SUNDAY

On the Sunday before Easter take a few minutes to celebrate the Messiah's arrival.

READ: John 12:12-15

DISCUSS:

Q: What did the people shout as Jesus entered the city riding a donkey?

A: *They shouted "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!"*

Q: Why do you think the people were so excited about Jesus' arrival?

A: *They had great hopes because they had seen Him do many miracles, including raising a man from the dead! (John 11:38-44)*

Q: Do you think the people realized Jesus would need to die on a cross in order to bring them salvation?

A: *No. In fact, Jesus had to explain it to his closest followers. (John 12:20-33)*

ACTIVITY:

A parent stands at the top of the stairs and tells the children he/she wants them to join him/her upstairs in "heaven." But the kids can't touch the stairs or the railing. Let them mull over the dilemma. If they can't figure out the solution, coach them to ask the parent to come downstairs and carry the kids up on his/her back. Explain that Jesus came down to us to make a way because we could not do it ourselves.

PRAY:

Take turns thanking Jesus for coming to make a way for us to have relationship with God.

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY

Take a few minutes at breakfast, dinner or bedtime to focus the family on key events from the final week of Jesus' earthly ministry.

MONDAY: Read John 13:1-17.

In ancient households the lowest job of all was to wash the feet of guests. Usually this task was only carried out by servants. Discuss the many ways Jesus humbled Himself while on earth. Take turns washing one another's feet and the read Philippians 2:5-8 before praying "Jesus, thank you for humbling yourself for us. Help us to do the same with one another. Amen."

TUESDAY: Read John 17:20-23.

Jesus actually prayed for those of us who would believe in Him in the future. He asked His Father to help us show unity by loving each other. Discuss how your family can show love to each other in a way that pictures God's love. Pray "Jesus, help our family to reflect the kind of selfless love you prayed for us. Amen."

WEDNESDAY: Read Luke 22:47-54.

Even while Jesus is being wrongfully arrested, He shows love and compassion for the arresting soldiers. Pray "Jesus, help us to show compassion and to love one another even when others treat us wrongly. Amen."

THURSDAY: Read Luke 23:13-34.

Pilate condemned Jesus because he feared a riot among the people. These were many of the same people who shouted "Hosanna" just a few days earlier as Jesus arrived in Jerusalem. Later, while on the cross, Jesus prayed for Pilate, the soldiers, and the crowd when He said "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Pray "Jesus, thank you for being willing to forgive us even when we do the most terrible things. Help us also to forgive one another. Amen."

ON GOOD FRIDAY

Join us for AT THE TABLE – A Good Friday experience. Register @

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CAFA722A5F4C70-atthetable>

ON SATURDAY & EASTER SUNDAY

On Saturday (Easter Eve): Take a few minutes at breakfast, dinner or bedtime to reflect on what it was like for Jesus' followers after they lay Him in the tomb.

READ: Matthew 27:57-66

DISCUSS: Have each member of the family name one person who knew Jesus and describe what they must have been thinking/feeling on the day before His resurrection. (i.e. Peter felt guilty for denying Jesus, Mary felt grief over losing her beloved son, Pilate felt nervous for condemning an innocent man.)

PRAY: "Jesus, thank you for going into the grave so that we could overcome death! Amen."

On Easter Sunday: Join us for our Easter Sunday service: <https://radiantlifeministries.com/rlmc/>

Adapted from [Missional Church](#)