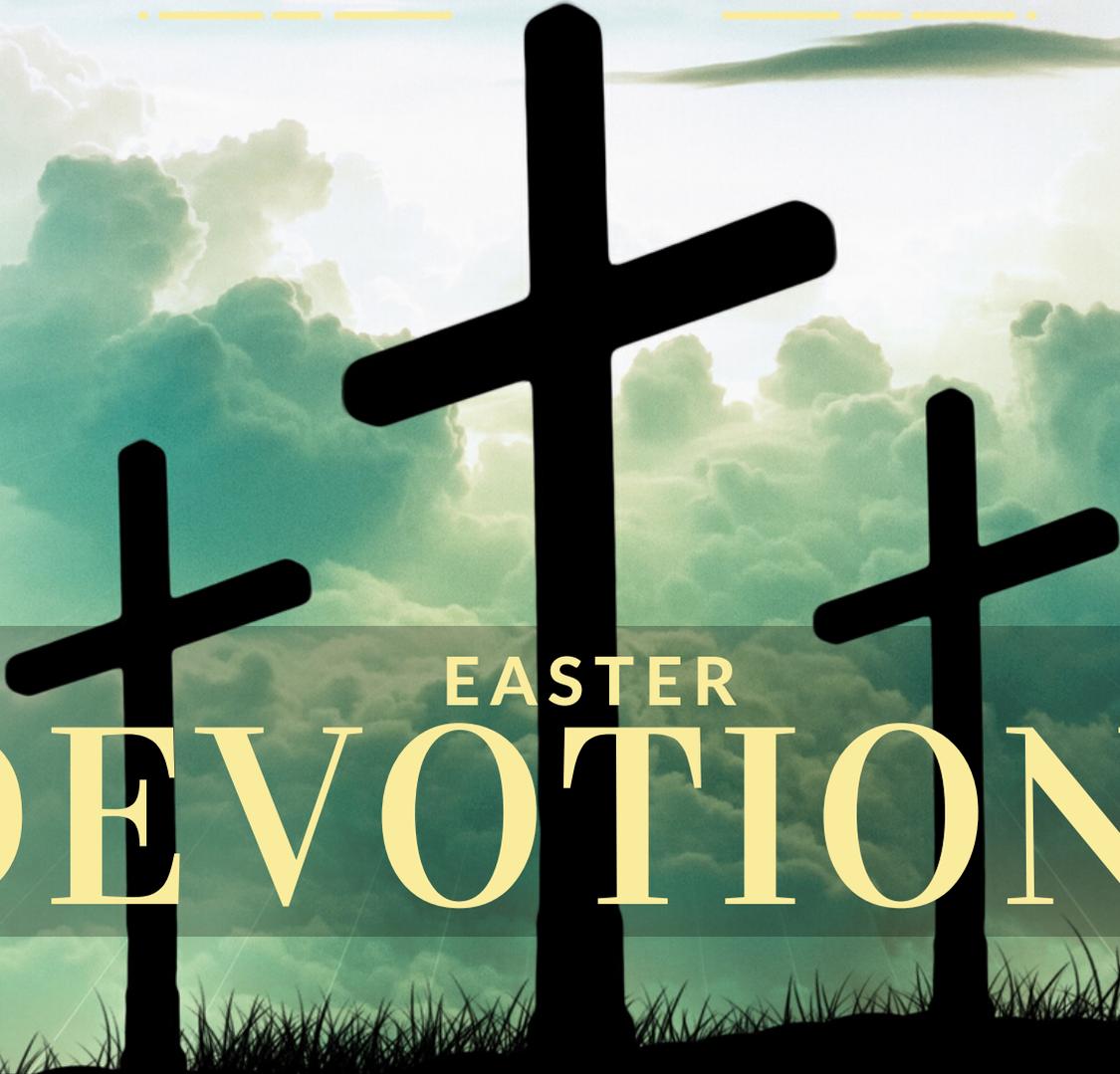


MPLS



MINN

# ELIM CHURCH



EASTER

# DEVOTIONS

FOR FAMILIES



# HOW TO USE THIS EASTER DEVOTIONAL WITH YOUR FAMILY

The purpose of this devotional is to give you, as a parent, a tool to meaningfully connect with your kids during Holy Week as you prepare for Easter. Each of these 7 devotionals includes a brief description you can read to your kids as well as a Scripture reading and questions you can discuss as a family. You can complete each devotional in 10 minutes, but please don't feel rushed. The goal is to have time together as a family to connect and prepare your hearts for Easter. He Has Risen!



Deb Somody  
Director of Children's Ministry

# THE KING HAS ARRIVED: THE KING OF KINGS!

*Palm Sunday*

Sometimes we can be blinded by our wants and miss out on something better, something that we actually need. Maybe you can relate? Have you ever wanted something in the moment that made you miss out on something later?

When Jesus was alive, some of the Israelite people were amazed by his works and miracles. Jesus healed and helped a lot of people, and some of the Israelites wanted to praise him for it. Other Israelite people didn't like some of the things Jesus was doing. They wanted a King, But they were so blinded by their desire to have a king immediately that they missed out on a kind of King—A better King! That's Jesus.

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## ***Question Time:***

**Have you ever wanted something so badly that you had to have it right away? What is so challenging about waiting, even if you know there is something better to come?**

Waiting and seeing is really hard. Sometimes the best things come from waiting. God has something big around the corner and is inviting us to push pause on what we want now, for what will be better tomorrow. In this case, it will be eternity.

**Read Matthew 21:8-11**

## ***Next Steps:***

When you want something so badly, push pause, and think for a moment if there might be something better down the road if you wait. This week, take a moment and thank God for the real freedom he offers you through the love Jesus showed.

# DID JESUS KNOW AHEAD OF TIME THAT HE WAS GOING TO DIE?

*Number 1  
Monday*

Several times Jesus told his disciples that he was going to die. But each time he mentioned his death, the disciples cried, "No!" "Don't say such a thing!" Jesus also told his disciples ahead of time that he was going to rise from the dead. This was impossible for the disciples to understand.

**Read: Matthew 17:22-23; 20:17-19**

## *Question Time:*

**Why do you think Jesus told his disciples ahead of time about his death and resurrection?**

**When these things happened, do you think that the disciples remembered what Jesus said?**

## *Next Steps:*

**Read: Luke 24:4-8 to find the answer.**

# BEST FRIENDS SHARE FEELINGS

**Number 2**  
**Tuesday**

Sometimes it's really hard to share feelings. Sometimes you don't even know how you feel. A lot of people try to tell you not to cry or be sad. But, feelings are human, and it's good to feel whether you're happy or sad.

## ***Question Time:***

**Why is it hard to talk about your feelings? What do you do to help explain how you're feeling? Can you share how you're feeling right now?**

Jesus had feelings too. One minute people were shouting "Hosanna, Jesus save us," but Jesus knew that the Passover was just a few days away and he would be handed over to be crucified. Jesus must have had many feelings knowing he would soon suffer and die. Just before Passover, a follower of Jesus got to show him how she felt about him.

## **Read: Matthew 26:6-13**

Two things to notice: First, the disciples were upset because they felt this woman wasted an expensive perfume when it could have been sold to help the poor. Jesus said that what she did was beautiful. He honored her and said this act would always be told in memory of her.

## ***Next Steps:***

Sometimes it's hard to explain how you are feeling. Here is a trick to help you identify how you're feeling. It's an acronym of different feelings. Chances are, no matter what you are feeling, you are feeling one of these things.

<b>Happy</b>	Use the HASS tool this week. It can be kind of fun. Share with someone how you feel and try your best to open up. Jesus came to earth and experienced the same things you feel. Because of that, you can feel safe sharing your feelings with Jesus and those that love you.
<b>Angry</b>	
<b>Scared</b>	
<b>Sad</b>	

# LET'S EAT AND REMEMBER

*Number 3*  
*Wednesday*

As Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, he wanted to gather and eat with his closest friends, the disciples. A few days later, he was going to be put to death by people who would falsely accuse him of doing wrong. This was going to leave the disciples confused, scared and hurt. Jesus ate with them to prepare them for what was going to happen and asked them to remember how he loved others, and to remember to always trust God.

Maybe you're like the disciples. Maybe you've had a moment when you were confused, hurt or scared. It's easy to get lost in those moments, but if you just remember how Jesus trusted God no matter what, you'll also be able to get through the scariest moments. He is always with you.

## *Question Time:*

**When is a time you have been scared? What aspect of Jesus is important to remember in these moments? What are some ways you can remember Jesus during your day?**

Jesus ate a meal with his disciples and asked them to remember him. He asked them to carry on the mission of bringing hope and freedom to all people. You can remember Jesus today, too. Can you carry on his mission to love even when you're scared? To bring peace, even when others want you to fight? Remember, Jesus is with you always, and you can always talk to him in prayer.

**Read: Luke 22:14-20**

## *Next Steps:*

When it seems dark, when you're scared, take a moment and remember Jesus. A great way to remember is look in the Gospels and see the way he lived. Can you remember Jesus this week? Maybe during a meal, you and your family can take a moment and say one thing you're grateful for about Jesus way of living.

# WHY DIDN'T JESUS SAVE HIMSELF?

*Number 4  
Thursday*

Since Jesus is God's Son, He could have stopped the people from killing him, but he didn't. This is because more than anything, Jesus wanted to be obedient to his Father God in heaven. Jesus was obedient because he loved and trusted God.

On the night before he was put to death, Jesus went to a garden called Gethsemane to pray. He was very sad and troubled. He did not want to die. Jesus fell with his face to the ground and cried out to God, "Abba, Father," He said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will". When Jesus said, "Abba," He meant, daddy, or papa. When Jesus said, "take this cup," he meant to find another way for him to rescue people than for him to have to die.

The people in charge came and arrested Jesus because they were scared that he was leading an uprising to he could be the one in charge of all the people. He was, but it wasn't an uprising against anybody. It was an uprising for everybody's salvation. He wanted all people to experience love and grace, but the authorities didn't believe that and they wanted to get rid of Jesus.

It's really hard to not be liked. It can feel like you're all alone, but your not alone. Jesus is with you. When people say or do hurtful things, you have an opportunity to show them Jesus' way. Like those that wanted to hurt Jesus, people expect you to say hurtful things or do something mean. But it's better to give grace, even to those that try to hurt your feelings. When everyone was screaming for Jesus to be hurt and put to death, he didn't turn around and hurt people. He gave his life for them.

**Read: Matthew 26:36-55**

## ***Question Time:***

**What was a moment recently when you felt hurt? How might you be able to show the people hurting you Jesus' love through your actions?**

Jesus was eventually put to death. But here is the good news: He was put to death so that everyone else might live. His death on the cross was a symbol for all people that pain and hurt will not win. But, healing, hope and love always takes the day. People will try to hurt and silence love, but love always wins in the end.

***Next Steps:*** This week, instead of responding with more hurtful words or actions, try your best to heal by your words and actions. This is what Easter is all about.

# LIFE AND DEATH

*Number 5  
Friday*

Many people understood and believed that Jesus was God's son. They understood and believed what Jesus taught about God's great love for his children. But many others didn't. Some people thought Jesus was crazy. Others thought he was lying. Still others said it was against the law for Jesus to say that God was his Father.

So when Jesus was still a young man, just thirty-three years old, he was killed. Jesus was crucified, or put to death by hanging on a wooden cross. The word crucify means "To attach to a cross." It was a terrible, painful way to die.

## **Read: Matthew 27:32-54**

Jesus died, even though he was the only person who ever lived who didn't deserve to die. Jesus was killed by fearful, angry people who didn't understand the things he said and did on earth.

Remember that hurt never wins. It's true, hurt, pain, death...it will never have the final say on the life that Jesus offers. He gave his life to hurt and death so that you might be able to live a life full of joy forever. If you put your faith in Jesus and believe that he died on the cross to pay the price for your sins, you can have joy in this life and for all eternity. We celebrate Easter, because death has been conquered. Jesus came back to life! That's why we celebrate Easter.

## ***Question Time:***

**When do you feel most loved? How can you believe in Jesus?  
What happens when you put your faith in Jesus?**

## ***Next Steps:***

Jesus was raised from the dead so you can live an eternal life. Believe in Jesus, believe in his way, and you will be forgiven and filled with joy as you start to live more like Jesus. Celebrate with your family the good news of Jesus' life and death. Remind each other to live the way Jesus lived life.

# WHAT HAPPENED TO JESUS' BODY?

**Number 6**  
**Saturday**

One of Jesus' disciples was a rich man named Joseph of Arimathea. After Jesus was crucified, Joseph got permission from the Roman authorities to take and bury the lifeless body of Jesus.

Joseph and his friend, Nicodemus, wrapped Jesus' body in clean linen clothes. Between the strips of linen, they inserted fragrant spices. Then, they lay Jesus' body gently in a tomb. Back then, a tomb was a small, dark room with a dirt floor, carved into rock.

Jesus' mother, Mary, was there. So was Mary Magdalene. Another friend of Jesus'. After they laid Jesus' body in the tomb, Joseph rolled a big stone over the opening to the tomb. Then—they're hearts breaking with sorrow—they all walked away.

## **Read: Matthew 27:57-61**

How shocked and sad people were on the day Jesus died! His mother and brothers and sisters and disciples all missed him terribly. They cried and cried. If only Jesus could somehow come back and be with us, they thought. But that was impossible. Never again would they hear the sound of Jesus' laughter. Never again would they listen to his stories, or feel His big strong hugs.

## ***Question Time:***

**How would you have felt walking away from the tomb that day?  
Do you think the disciples felt alone and abandoned?**

## ***Next Steps:***

Take some time to pray for someone who doesn't know Jesus. Pray for someone who may feel alone or abandoned. Make a card or send them a letter and spread cheer.

# A NEW DAY, A NEW WAY

*Number 7*  
*Sunday*

Three days after Jesus died, early in the morning of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and Jesus' mother, Mary, set off to visit the tomb where Jesus' body had been laid. But when they arrived, the big stone that covered the opening to the tomb had been rolled away. The tomb was empty! Where has the body of our beloved Jesus gone? The women wondered. Moments later, they made a wonderful, important, extraordinary discovery: Jesus was alive! The tomb was empty because Jesus—in the most awesome, miraculous way—was no longer dead, but had come back to life! As fast as their legs could carry them, Mary Magdalene and Mary ran to tell the disciples the good news.

**Read: Matthew 28:1-8**

We've learned so much together this Easter season, but the good news is that it is not over. The whole purpose of Jesus rising from the grave is so that he can give you eternal life and empower you with God's Holy Spirit. The purpose of His Spirit is to give you the very same strength and resolve that Jesus had, even in hard situations. That means there is no task too big and no opportunity out of reach. All you have to do is depend on Jesus and His Way, and you can ntthe ability to levitate cookies and drop them into your mouth. This does mean, however, that when you're doing things for God's Kingdom and for His love to be shown, God will help you accomplish anything.

## ***Question Time:***

**Have you ever felt small and insignificant? How does it make you feel that you've been empowered by the Holy Spirit? What is something this week you can do to share the love of Jesus?**

## ***Next Steps:***

Pray for strength in those moments you feel like you can't accomplish a big task. Don't forget that Jesus is with you always, ready to help, all you have to do is ask.

HE HAS RISEN!  
HE HAS RISEN INDEED!

