

# WELCOME TO HOLY WEEK

An Easter Family devotional



## Family Time

# Welcome Families

This Easter family devotional has been written to help your family journey through Holy week and Easter.

As many of our families across the territory are currently in isolation due to covid-19, the activities in this devotional have been written taking this into account. The activities utilise common household items, or things that can be easily purchased from your local supermarket or superette.

We hope your family finds this devotional helpful in focusing on God during Eastertide.



# Palm Sunday

## Family Time

- What did you enjoy doing this week?
- What is one thing you learnt this week?
- What is one thing you are grateful for today?

## Read Matthew 21:1-11

## Activity

You will need:

- Clean leaves
- Crayons or coloured pencils
- Paper

Explore your garden or local streets to find some interesting leaves. Using your favourite colours make a creative nature picture by putting your leaves under a piece of paper and gently colouring over the paper with a crayon (or the side of your pencil lead). You'll see the pattern of the leaf appear on the paper as you colour.

## Chat

- I wonder what you liked best about the story
- I wonder what the most important part of the story is
- I wonder if the people in Jerusalem really knew why they celebrated
- I wonder how the disciples felt watching Jesus being treated as a king

## Pray

- Thank God for the things your family are grateful for today
- Ask God to protect your family and community from sickness
- Tell God how amazing He is, and what you love most about Him

# Monday

## Family Time

- Have you seen or done something funny today? What was it?
- Is there anything you wish we would do differently as a family?
- What is one thing you are grateful for today?

## Read Mark 14:3-9

## Activity

Throw yourselves a little pamper party. Put on a movie or read aloud something the whole family loves. You might want to try out some nail polish, cut back your fingernails and toenails, or try out a little bit of hand cream or moisturiser. You might want to give each other a little hand massage. Share some yummy snacks and hunker down for quality family time together.

## Chat

- I wonder what you liked best about the story
- I wonder what the most important part of the story is
- I wonder what the perfume smelt like
- I wonder if the woman's actions made Jesus happy

## Pray

- Thank God for your family and home
- Ask God to help you speak kindly to each other and about one another
- Pray for God to comfort everyone in our territory who is lonely

# Tuesday

## Family Time

- What do you love most about yourself?
- What is your favourite memory of us all together?
- What is one thing you are grateful for today?

## Read Luke 22:1-6

## Activity

It is hard to be kind to each other all the time. Right now, when people can't go outside and see friends, it might be even harder to be kind. Using chalk leave some messages of kindness on the footpath outside your home for passers-by to read while they exercise.

## Chat

- I wonder what you liked best about the story
- I wonder what the most important part of the story is
- I wonder why the teachers of the law and the chief priests were afraid
- I wonder how God felt about Judas' betrayal

## Pray

- Thank God for special celebrations like Passover and Easter
- Ask God to help you show love and kindness to people in your household
- Pray for all those who feel hurt by their friends and family, and that God will help them heal and forgive

# Wednesday

## Family Time

- What is your favourite area of the house?
- What would you like to do when you get older?
- What is one thing you are grateful for today?

## Read Mark 14:12-25

## Activity

Prepare a special dinner together as a family. It might be a new recipe you want to try, or a family favourite. Set up your dining room, or your living room to show that it is a special occasion, with a nice tablecloth, some flowers from your garden, or maybe some cushions to sit on.

## Chat

- I wonder what you liked best about the story
- I wonder what the most important part of the story is
- I wonder if the disciples knew they wouldn't have dinner with Jesus again
- I wonder if Jesus was sad

## Pray

- Thank God for the food you have to eat, and the people you have to eat with
- Ask God to forgive you when you do things that make Him sad
- Pray for those who are struggling to get to a supermarket or don't have enough food at home, ask God to send them help

# Maundy Thursday

## Family Time

- What is the strangest dream you've had?
- What is your favourite breakfast food?
- What is one thing you are thankful for today?

## Read Mark 14:32-46

## Activity

Draw or write letters to God. Let Him know what you are thankful for, what worries you, and what you are excited about. God loves it when we tell him about our lives. If you have a garden or some outdoor space, you may want to do this activity outside.

## Chat

- I wonder what you liked best about the story
- I wonder what the most important part of the story is
- I wonder if Jesus was scared when he prayed to God
- I wonder why Judas chose a kiss as the signal to arrest Jesus

## Pray

You will have already prayed in your letters and drawings. Take a few minutes to close in prayer as a family.

# Good Friday

## Family Time

- How does this Easter feel different to other Easters?
- What do you enjoy most about learning/working from home?
- What is one thing you are thankful for today?

## Read Matthew 27:11-26

## Activity

You will need:

- Hot water
- Bar of soap
- Grater
- Gelatine
- Muffin Case
- Stickers or small plastic toy (optional)

By now, your family might be a little tired of washing their hands all the time. To make it a bit more fun why not follow Nanogirl's instructions to make your own soap at home?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RM3F-7u-xo&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RM3F-7u-xo&feature=emb_title)

## Chat

- I wonder what you liked best about the story
- I wonder what the most important part of the story is
- I wonder why Jesus stayed quiet
- I wonder if Pilate was upset by the crowd's decision



# Holy Saturday

## Family Time

- What is your favourite Easter memory?
- If you could have a superpower what would it be and why?
- What is one thing you are thankful for today?

## Read Luke 23:26-49

## Activity

You will need:

- Eggs
- Needle
- Food colouring or paint
- Paint brushes
- Drop sheet or newspaper
- Bowls

Eggs are an Easter symbol because they are new life. Make some decorated eggs to celebrate Easter Sunday tomorrow. If you want to keep the eggs you will need to gently blow the white and yolk out of the shell. Otherwise you can use boiled eggs, but you'll want to throw them away after Easter or they will begin to smell.

Prick eggs top and bottom with an egg cutter or needle (you may need a larger hole at the bottom) and blow the yolk and white out of the bottom into a bowl. If you're working with small children, make a small hole in the bottom with sharp scissors and let them shake the egg out.

Gently paint your eggs using 1 tsp of food colouring mixed with 1 Tbsp of vinegar and warm water, or paint. Leave them out of the way to dry so you can display them tomorrow.



# Easter Sunday

## Family Time

- What are you most excited about today?
- If God's love were a colour, what colour would it be?
- What is one thing you are thankful for today?

## Read Luke 24:1-12

## Activity

Make empty tomb pizzas. Using pita bread or pizza bases and our favourite pizza toppings make a picture of the empty tomb, bake, then enjoy your tasty snack.

## Chat

- I wonder what you liked best about the story
- I wonder what the most important part of the story is
- I wonder if the two men were excited to tell the women Jesus was alive
- I wonder why the women were the first to find out
- I wonder how much God loves us to send us Jesus

## Pray

- Thank God for how much He loves us
- Ask God to help you build your relationship with Jesus
- Pray for those who don't know Jesus yet, and ask God to help them find out about Him.