# JOURNEY TO EASTER 2020

# PARENTS,

You are in the lead. God has trusted you as the spiritual leader of your family. This is an important job—perhaps your most important job—and one we know many parents feel a desire to be better prepared for. As your church family, we want to help you lead. Whether you talk about God all the time in your home or this is the first time, we hope this resource helps you open up the Bible and have faith conversations with your kids. And remember, it's just a resource. Every family is unique. You have the freedom to use this guide in the way that serves your family best.

The Kids' Life Team



# STEP-BY-STEP PARENT INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Choose 15 minutes each day during Holy Week for your family to have fun together. Get everyone involved, including parents, older siblings and pets!
- 2. Be sneaky... you will hide Jesus (the printable or cell phone version) in a spot in your home that relates to the Bible passage. We have some ideas for you! For example, on Palm Sunday, you might hide Jesus with your coats.
- 3. Explain to your kids that Jesus is hiding somewhere in your home and they must work together to try to find Him. But first, they need to listen closely to a rhyme to help them think of possible places you might have hidden Jesus. For younger kids, you can place emphasis on certain words or tell them when they are getting closer or further away.
- 4. When your family finds Jesus, see if the kids can figure out why He was hiding in that spot and what it has to do with the story.
- 5. Read the Bible passage together and use the discussion questions to get your family talking more.



# PRINTABLES JESUS AND ANGEL PRINTABLE

If you don't have a way to print this at home, no worries. Here are two different ideas you could try:

- Find a fun picture of Jesus on your phone to screenshot. Keep your display on and hide your phone for your kids to find "virtual Jesus."
- 2. If you're feeling crafty, draw Jesus, cut him out and hide your own original version instead.







Used with permission from The Gospel Project.



Used with permission from The Gospel Project.

# HIDING SPOTS

DAY	LOCATION IDEAS
Palm Sunday	Coat closet
Monday	Purse or piggy bank
Tuesday	In a shoe
Wednesday	In the garden or tucked in bed
Thursday	In a sink
Good Friday	Tissue box or tool box
Saturday	Behind a locked door
Easter Sunday*	Same location as Saturday, but unlocked this time

\*On Easter Sunday, switch and hide the angel instead of hiding Jesus. Shh! Don't tell your kids. Let them be surprised when they find someone different.



# PALM SUNDAY JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

#### THE HUNT

Palm Sunday is the day when branches were waved, coats were laid down and voices were raised. "Hosanna! Hosanna!" the people all sing. They wanted Jesus to be their new king.

#### WHERE WAS JESUS?

Where was Jesus hiding? Why do you think He was there?

#### **FAMILY READING**

Luke 19:28-40

#### LET'S TALK

On what mission did Jesus send two of his disciples?

What did Jesus know about the colt? How do you think He knew these things?

What was the crowd saying as Jesus rode by?

What kind of king did the people expect Jesus to be? What was Jesus' bigger plan?



# MONDAY JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

#### THE HUNT

A trip to the temple, merchants had a bad day. Jesus turned over tables, the money was scattered, and the doves flew away. The temple is not for the buying and selling of wares. It is a place of worship and a place of prayer.

#### WHERE WAS JESUS?

Where was Jesus hiding? Why do you think He was there?

#### FAMILY READING

Matthew 21:12-17

#### **LET'S TALK**

What did Jesus find when He entered the temple? How did Jesus respond?

Why do you think this made Jesus angry? What should have been happening at the temple?

Do you think it's possible to go to church and not worship God? Why or why not?



#### TUESDAY JESUS CELEBRATES THE PASSOVER MEAL WITH HIS DISCIPLES

#### THE HUNT

The Passover feast was for Israel to celebrate. God saved them from Egypt and helped them escape. Jesus spoke to his disciples as He knelt and washed their feet. He was giving an example of how to treat others whenever we should meet.

#### WHERE WAS JESUS?

Where was Jesus hiding? Why do you think He was there?

#### **FAMILY READING**

Luke 22:1–6, John 13:1–17

#### LET'S TALK

What were the chief priests and teachers of the law trying to do?

After Judas agreed to help them, what did he start doing?

When dinner was served, what did Jesus do? Why do you think He did this?





# WEDNESDAY JESUS PRAYS IN THE GARDEN

#### THE HUNT

The Garden of Gethsemane, a place where Jesus went to pray. The disciples did not stay awake, they just couldn't find a way. The chief priests and the guards did not a word speak. Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss on the cheek.

#### WHERE WAS JESUS?

Where was Jesus hiding? Why do you think He was there?

#### **FAMILY READING**

Matthew 26:36-56

#### **LET'S TALK**

What was Jesus talking to His Father about? How do you think He felt while He was praying?

Do you think it would be easier or harder to follow God if you knew what was going to happen next? Why?

When the crowd came to arrest Jesus, how did He respond? What does this tell us about Jesus?

Why did Jesus choose to stay instead of hiding or running away? What would you do?



# THURSDAY JESUS ON TRIAL

#### THE HUNT

The guards made a crown to put on Jesus' head. It wasn't made of gold or jewels, but made of thorns instead. Pilate found Jesus innocent, washed his hands, and said Jesus should be freed. The people cried, "Crucify!" then Pilate finally agreed.

#### WHERE WAS JESUS?

Where was Jesus hiding? Why do you think He was there?

#### FAMILY READING

Matthew 27:11-31

#### LET'S TALK

When Jesus was on trial before Pilate, how did He act? Why do you think He chose not to defend Himself?

Did Pilate think that Jesus was guilty? How did He try to get out of having Jesus crucified?

Why did Pilate give into the crowd's angry demands?

What did the soldiers do to Jesus?

Jesus went through all of this because He knew it was a part of God's rescue plan. How does it feel knowing Jesus endured all of this for you and me?



### FRIDAY JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

#### THE HUNT

The day turned dark as Jesus was dying. The clouds rolled in and the sun stopped shining. The curtain in the temple was torn apart, signaling a brand-new start. No longer is needed a priest to intercede, now we have Jesus. He is all that we need.

#### WHERE WAS JESUS?

Where was Jesus hiding? Why do you think He was there?

#### FAMILY READING

Luke 23:26-27, 32-35, 44-49

#### **LET'S TALK**

What did Jesus pray for as He was being crucified?

What unusual things happened when Jesus died?

How did people react? What did they do, feel and say?

If you were in the crowd watching, how do you think you would have reacted?



# SATURDAY JESUS' TOMB IS GUARDED

#### THE HUNT

"We did it! We killed him", the Pharisees said. "But remember He promised He would rise from the dead." "Let's go and tell Pilate to lock the tomb with a seal." So Pilate sent a guard, agreeing to the deal.

#### WHERE WAS JESUS?

Where was Jesus hiding? Why do you think He was there?

#### FAMILY READING

Matthew 27:62-66

#### LET'S TALK

Who was worried about Jesus' body being stolen? Why were they concerned about this?

How did Pilate respond to their request?

How would a report that Jesus was raised from the dead be worse for the Jewish leaders than the things Jesus said and did before his crucifixion?





# EASTER SUNDAY

#### THE HUNT

Jesus was dead, but that changed on day three. Jesus' heart beat again, oh, how can that be? The women went back to the tomb, bringing spices with them there, but instead of finding Jesus, they saw an angel appear. "He is not here. He is risen from the dead. Jesus is alive, go and tell what I said."

#### WHERE WAS JESUS?

Where did you expect to find Jesus? Who did you find there instead?

#### FAMILY READING

Matthew 28:1-10

#### **LET'S TALK**

What do you think the women expected to see when they got to the tomb? Who did they find instead?

How would you feel if you had received this news from an angel?

Why is Jesus coming back to life good news for everyone who believes? Read Romans 10:9 out loud together.

Have you ever placed your faith in Jesus and asked Him to forgive you? Parents, if you have made the choice to follow Jesus, share your faith story with your kids.

