



# FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

## YEAR 1

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# WELCOME TO *Generations of Grace*



This curriculum has been designed to deepen your own study of God's word so that you might be able to properly understand and accurately teach each lesson. It's our prayer that this curriculum would be a blessing to your ministry and home as God uses it to encourage your family.



## Share the Lesson

- **Five-Day Devotionals** – Guides the family through the Generations of Grace lesson, a cross-reference passage, and a passage about Christ to lead the family through the whole counsel of God.
- **Generations of Grace Passages** – Reinforces the lesson that your child learned in Sunday School.
- **Cross-Reference Passage** – Points to another passage that reinforces the central truth of each week's lesson.
- **Christ-Centered Passage** – Connects each week's lesson to Jesus Christ and to the gospel.
- **Explain** – Communicates the truth of each day to the parent's heart and mind to prepare them to lead their child through the passage.
- **Ask** – Foster greater interaction between parent and children whether they're 3 years old or 11 years old.
- **Discuss** – Enable the conversation about the truth to progress to a deeper level.

## Additional Resources

Use these additional resources to help support your lessons and to knit together the church and the home, ensuring that what is taught on Sunday matches what is learned throughout the week.

- **Coloring Book**
- **Craft Book**
- **Activity Book**
- **Student Journal**
- **Teacher Book**

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## SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

# EASTER WEEK 1

## Jesus enters Jerusalem as King

Matthew 21:1–23:39



## DAY 1

Jesus is the promised King • Matthew 21:1–11

### READ

Matthew 21:1–11

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Matthew 21:1–11

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on a young donkey, He fulfilled the prophecy that the nation's king would come riding on the foal of a donkey (Zech 9:9). Riding on a colt was a sign of peace. Jesus came as a meek King, gentle and patient with His people. He came not to destroy Israel's enemies but to forgive sins. Jesus' coming also fulfilled the prophecy that the time between Artaxerxes' decree to rebuild the temple and the coming of the Messiah would be 483 years (Dan 9:25; cf. Neh 2:6). Jesus arrived in Jerusalem at the exact time God had promised centuries before. The people realized that Jesus was the promised King, because they praised Jesus as the "Son of David" (Matt 21:9), which is what the Messiah is called (Ps 118:26). Many of these people were visitors from Galilee who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. They had seen the numerous miracles that Jesus had performed in this region. These miracles confirmed that Jesus is the King promised by the prophets long ago.

### ASK

1. What did the people say to Jesus when He entered Jerusalem on a colt?  
*"Hosanna to the Son of David."*
2. When the people said this, what did it show about who they thought Jesus was?  
*They believed that Jesus was the promised King of Israel.*
3. When Jesus rode on the donkey's colt, what Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled?  
*Jesus fulfilled Zechariah 9:9.*

### DISCUSS

1. Discuss what it looks like for you to submit your life to Jesus as your King.
2. It is common even for mature Christians to doubt at times. Discuss how the fulfilled prophecies help you replace doubt with confidence.

## DAY 2

Jesus is the rightful King • Matthew 21:12–22:46

### READ

Matthew 21:12–22:46

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Matthew 21:12–22:46

The next day Jesus entered the temple (Matt 21:12). There He displayed His authority by throwing out those who were defiling His house (21:12–13). Then, when the blind, the lame, and the children came to Him (21:14–15), He asserted His right to receive worship by quoting Psalm 8:2. The priests and elders tried to refute His authority by trapping Him. But Jesus turned the trap back against them, implying that His authority came from the same place as John's—from God (21:23–22:14). With three parables Jesus then exposed their lack of submission to God's authority (21:28–22:14). Next, He avoided the Pharisees' trap while revealing that they did not submit themselves to God as ones who bear God's image (22:15–22). He then refuted the Sadducees and showed their lack of submission to Scripture (22:23–33). Finally, He answered the lawyer and proved His mastery of God's law (22:34–39). No one could refute His authority; instead, Jesus proved it, quoting Psalm 110:1 to show that the Messiah reigns with divine authority (21:41–42).

### ASK

1. What did Jesus do when He got to Jerusalem?  
*Jesus demonstrated His unique authority by rebuking the religious leaders for making the Lord's house a robber's den instead of a house of prayer.*
2. Where did Jesus' unique authority come from?  
*Jesus' authority came from God the Father.*
3. What did Jesus teach the chief priests and elders by using parables?  
*He taught them that they were being disobedient to God. They were rejecting God's authority.*

### DISCUSS

1. Identify who someone is really rejecting if they reject Christ (1 John 2:23).
2. Examine your life to see if there is any area you are withholding from the authority of Christ.

## DAY 3

Jesus is the rejected King • Matthew 23:1–39

### READ

Matthew 23:1–39

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Matthew 23:1–39

Jesus warned the crowds about the hypocrisy of the religious leaders (Matt 23:1–7). A **hypocrite** is someone who pretends to be something they are not. They care more about man's opinion than God's estimation (23:5). But true religion is to serve, demonstrating love and helping others (23:8–12). Jesus said the traditions of the scribes and Pharisees only led people astray (23:13–39). He said the religious leaders were like

“white washed tombs” (23:27). They looked good on the outside but were full of death on the inside. Even at that moment they were plotting Jesus' death in their hearts. They rejected Him because He was not the King they were expecting. They would rather kill Him than submit to His rule (23:30, 35). Because they rejected God, He rejected them. It would not be until Jesus' second coming—after much suffering—that Israel would believe in their Messiah, be saved, restored, and receive the kingdom promises (23:38–39). The last public sermon of Christ was a sobering message of condemnation against those who reject Him.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. What did Jesus say that the leaders of the Jewish people were doing wrong?  
*The leaders were being hypocrites.*
2. What is a hypocrite?  
*They do good things in front of the people, but their thoughts are wicked and not pleasing to God.*
3. How did Jesus respond to the Jewish people's rejection of Him?  
*Jesus condemned them and warned of great trouble to come (Matt 24).*
4. Did Jesus reject the Jewish people forever?  
*No. After much suffering, the Jewish people will accept Christ as King at His second coming.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Discuss why you do the good things that you do. If no one ever noticed, would you still do good?
2. Read John 3:19–20 and identify why someone would hate Jesus so much that they would kill Him.

**DAY 4***Serve Christ as Lord without hypocrisy • Galatians 1:10***READ** 

Galatians 1:1–10

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Galatians 1:10**

The Jewish leaders rejected Jesus because they loved their own glory more than the glory of God. Their good works were just hypocrisy, trying to look good to men but rejecting God's authority. The apostle Paul committed this same sin before submitting to Christ. He thought he was serving God, but really he cared only for his own self-righteousness. Now, in Galatians 1:10, Paul shows that it is not possible to seek man's favor and God's favor at the same time. Someone who is still trying to please men is not really a servant of Christ at all. This is why hypocrisy is so deadly: the hypocrite has not accepted Christ as his King. Submitting to Christ as King means obeying Christ's commands (1 John 3:24). It means letting go of our old desires and letting the love of Christ control us (2 Cor 5:14). It means that who we used to be dies, and Christ's life lives in us (Gal 2:20). But the hypocrite is someone who still lives to glorify himself.

**ASK** 

1. Who does a hypocrite try to please?  
*A hypocrite only cares about looking good to other people.*
2. Can a hypocrite appear to be a very religious person?  
*Yes. Paul was a hypocrite even when he was carefully following the Jewish traditions.*
3. What is wrong with a person who is trying to please men?  
*Someone who tries to please men cannot also be striving to please God.*
4. How does the kingship of Christ challenge hypocrites?  
*As King, Christ demands obedience to His commands. Christ demands we live for His glory instead of trying to get glory from other people.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Identify any things you do in order to please other people instead of God.
2. Explain why you cannot seek both your own glory and the glory of God (Matt 6:24).



# DAY 5

Jesus is the chief cornerstone • Psalm 118:22–26

## READ

Psalm 118

## EXPLAIN

### The truth of Psalm 118:22–26

Psalm 118 begins with a call to worship (118:1–4). After that, Israel's leader recalls the danger that God rescued Him from (118:5–21). He ends by seeking and gaining entrance through the gate of righteousness (118:19–21). When he enters, the people around burst into praise (118:22–27), marveling at what has just happened. Jesus applied verses 22 and 26 to Himself (Matt 21:42; 23:39), and at His triumphal entry the people quoted verses 25–26 (Matt 21:9). Jesus was rejected by the religious leaders and even seemed rejected by God. But He became the chief cornerstone, the important stone that held the walls of the building together at the corner. Such a stone had to be flawless, without any cracks. To go from being a rejected stone to the chief cornerstone could only be the Lord's doing (118:23), and it shows that Jesus and His work of salvation are completely accepted by God. Therefore, true worshipers shout with joy (118:24). The Jewish leaders rejected Jesus, but one day all Israel will welcome its King (118:26) with great celebration (118:27).

## ASK

1. What is a chief cornerstone?  
*It is the most important stone in a building, holding the walls together at the corners to keep the building from falling down.*
2. Could a cornerstone have any flaws?  
*No. A cornerstone had to be flawless, without any cracks.*
3. How will Israel one day welcome its King?  
*With great celebration (118:27).*

## DISCUSS

1. Talk about the centrality of Jesus to the Christian faith.
2. Discuss how Jesus was the first and only man to live so perfectly that He could enter the gates of righteousness on His own merit.

## NEXT WEEK

### Judas betrays Jesus

Matthew 26:1–16; 47–56;  
27:3–10



## SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

# EASTER WEEK 2

### Judas betrays Jesus

Matthew 26:1–16; 47–56; 27:3–10



## DAY 1

*Judas secretly bargained to deliver Jesus over to death •*  
Matthew 26:1–16

### READ

Matthew 26:1–16

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Matthew 26:1–16

While the religious leaders plotted Jesus' death (Matt 26:1–5), Mary (the sister of Martha and Lazarus) anointed Jesus' head and feet with perfume costing nearly a year's wages (26:6–7; cf. John 12:1–3). This expensive gift was pure worship and showed her love for Jesus. But Judas was upset. He pretended to care for the poor (John 12:5), but he really was just a thief stealing from the money box (John 12:6). He loved money more than Jesus, so he went to the chief priests to betray Jesus for money (Matt 26:14). He agreed to just 30 pieces of silver, the price of a slave in the Old Testament and the amount prophesied by Zechariah (Exod 21:32; Zech 11:12–13). For a little money Judas turned against his teacher, leader, friend, and Savior, betraying God's own Son. Judas was a hypocrite, pretending to be something he was not. He pretended to be Jesus' disciple, follower, and friend, but he wasn't. Judas was physically close to Jesus, but spiritually his heart was far from Jesus.

### ASK

1. How much money did the Jewish leaders give Judas to betray Jesus?  
*30 pieces of silver.*
2. How are Mary and Judas opposites?  
*Mary was willing to give up something very valuable for Jesus' sake. Judas was willing to give up Jesus for something that was not very valuable. Mary loved Jesus, Judas did not.*
3. What did it mean for Judas to betray Jesus?  
*It meant that Judas was rejecting Jesus as Lord.*

### DISCUSS

1. Discuss how a person in a Christian home can be like Judas, who was near to Jesus, heard the truth, but rejected Jesus in his heart.
2. Examine your desires and actions to see if there is anything you love more than Jesus.

## DAY 2

*Judas hid his betrayal with a sign of friendship • Matthew 26:47–56*

### READ

Matthew 26:47–56

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Matthew 26:47–56

Following the Passover dinner, Jesus went to Gethsemane to pray with some of the disciples. He knew His betrayer was coming (Matt 26:45–46). Sure enough, Judas arrived, followed by a large mob armed with swords and clubs. There were probably hundreds of men, including officers of the Temple (Luke 22:52), Roman soldiers (John 18:3), representatives from the chief priests and elders (Matt 26:48), as well as the chief priests and elders themselves (Luke 22:52). Even though Jesus and his followers were peaceful, the leaders were afraid to come except with many armed men and in the middle of the night. Judas led the crowd to Jesus and kissed Him just as he had planned (Matt 26:48–49). He turned a special symbol of affection into a sign of death. The kiss was thus the symbol of Judas's betrayal—looking like love and friendship on the outside, but actually being hatred and enmity on the inside. The hidden hatred in Judas's heart was finally out in the open for all to see—he was an enemy of the King.

### ASK

1. Did Jesus know that He was being betrayed?  
*Yes. He willingly allowed it to happen in order to do the Father's will.*
2. What did Judas do as a sign of his betrayal?  
*Judas gave Jesus a kiss.*
3. How did the kiss illustrate Judas' betrayal?  
*A traitor pretends to be a friend, just as a kiss looks like a sign of love and affection. But the traitor is really an enemy, just like the kiss was actually a sign for the soldiers.*

### DISCUSS

1. Talk about how hypocrisy can be difficult to identify because the hatred and evil is concealed on the inside.
2. Identify some things that people do in order to look like they love Jesus when they really do not.

## DAY 3

*Judas hanged himself instead of repenting • Matthew 27:3–10*

### READ

Matthew 27:3–10

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Matthew 27:3–10

After his betrayal, Judas knew that what he had done was wrong (Matt 27:4). He felt sorry for his actions and threw the silver that he had received for betraying Jesus into the temple (27:3–5a). Although he felt sorry, sad because of his sin, Judas did not truly repent. He felt the sting of his own guilt, but his sadness did not lead to repentance. There is a godly sorrow that leads

to repentance, but Judas's remorse was not of this kind (cf. 2 Cor 7:10). We know this because Judas committed suicide by hanging himself on a tree (Matt 27:5). He was sorry, but he did not believe that he could be saved. He did not believe that Jesus could pay for his sins and forgive him. Because he did not believe in God's love, he did not repent. True repentance is the mark of real Christians who recognize their sin, feel godly remorse over their sin, reject their sin, and return to God after they've sinned. This repentance is a continual process in the life of every believer.

**DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

**ASK** 

1. Was Judas sorry for his sin?  
*Yes. He threw away the money and felt miserable.*
2. Did being sorry mean that Judas repented of his sin?  
*No. Judas killed himself instead of trusting in Jesus for forgiveness. Judas belonged to Satan (John 6:70–71).*
3. How often do true believers repent?  
*They repent whenever they sin. It is a lifelong process, not just something a person does once when they become a Christian.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Examine your sorrow over sin. Are you sad about your sinfulness or just about the consequences of your sin?
2. Identify the last time you repented of your sin. Do you hold onto sin instead of returning to God (Ps 32:1–5)?

**DAY 4***Repentance is more than just feeling sorry • 2 Corinthians 7:8–11***READ** 

2 Corinthians 7:1–13

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of 2 Corinthians 7:8–11**

Paul had heard news of false teachers and immorality in the Corinthian church, so he wrote them a severe letter of rebuke (a letter that came between 1 and 2 Corinthians). He then received news from Titus that although this severe letter caused grief, it also led to repentance. So now in 2 Corinthians Paul expresses his joy at their repentance. Sorrow is a good thing, not in itself, but when it leads to repentance (2 Cor 7:8–9). We know when sorrow leads to repentance by the results: earnestness, indignation, fear, longing, zeal, punishment of evil, and fleeing from the evil thing (7:11). This godly sorrow is free from regret because it flees to God and by faith finds complete forgiveness (7:10). It does not regret the rebuke or the punishment, because these painful consequences led to renewed friendship with God. But the other kind of sorrow, the kind Judas had, is only regret. They wish they hadn't sinned, but they do not desire God's glory, return to God for forgiveness, or submit in obedience. Such sorrow leads to death.

**ASK** 

1. How did Paul's severe letter make the Corinthians feel?  
*It made them sad.*
2. Why was Paul happy that the letter made them sad?  
*He was happy because their sadness led them to true repentance.*
3. What did their repentance look like?  
*They earnestly dealt with the sin. They fled from their sin and returned to God.*
4. What does worldly sorrow look like?  
*It is just regret.*
5. What is the result of worldly sorrow?  
*Death.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Think about the last time you repented of sin. Did you hate your sin and make things right? Or were you just sorry you got caught?
2. When you repent, do you find freedom in God's forgiveness, or do you keep carrying your guilt?

## DAY 5

Jesus rejects pretend believers • Matthew 7:13–27

### READ

Matthew 7:13–27

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Matthew 7:13–27

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for putting on a show of righteousness when in reality their hearts were far from God. He concluded by teaching that who a person really is will become clear eventually. Just as good trees produce good fruit and bad trees produce bad fruit, so a good heart produces good works and a bad heart produces sinful works (Matt 7:16–18). A hypocrite might disguise himself very well, like a wolf dressing up like a sheep (7:15). But in the end, God knows who is true and who is rotten, and He will destroy the hypocrite (7:19). Some may even claim to serve Jesus as Lord (7:21). They may even have done amazing things in Jesus' name (7:22). But if they do not obey God, they do not belong to Christ, and He will reject them (7:23). People like Judas, who betray Jesus in their hearts, are ultimately rejecting the only Lord and Savior. Therefore, true believers are those who submit to Jesus as Lord by obeying Him (7:24–27).

### ASK

1. What does Jesus compare hypocrites to?  
*He compares them to wolves dressing up like sheep.*
2. Can hypocrites hide who they really are on the inside?  
*No. What is in their hearts will come out in their words and actions. In the end, Jesus knows who is His and who is not.*
3. Since Jesus is Lord, what must a person do to be saved?  
*He must submit to Jesus as Lord. This means agreeing to live out His commands.*
4. How does this help show what repentance requires?  
*Repentance requires turning away from sin and submitting once again to Jesus in obedience.*

### DISCUSS

1. Discuss how some people claim to serve God without actually belonging to Him as one of His redeemed children.
2. Give examples of how you honor Jesus as Lord of your life.

## NEXT WEEK

### Jesus endures the cross

Matthew 26:57–27:2;  
27:11–66



## SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

# EASTER WEEK 3

### Jesus endures the cross

Matthew 26:57–27:2; 27:11–66



## DAY 1

Jesus was rejected as the King • Matthew 26:57–27:2, 11–26

### READ

Matthew 26:57–27:2, 11–26

### EXPLAIN

**The truth of Matthew 26:57–27:2, 11–26**

Jesus was tried at night before the Jewish council (Matt 26:57–68). Even though the false witnesses could not agree in their accusations (26:59–61; John 2:19; Mark 14:59), the Sanhedrin accepted the testimony in violation of the Mosaic Law (Deut 17:6; Lev 5:1). The council met again at daybreak to give the official verdict, because criminal trials were illegal at night (27:1). At this morning meeting, Jesus claimed to be the Son of Man, the Messiah (Luke 22:69; Dan 7:13–14). Then, when the leaders asked Him if He was the “Son of God,” Jesus said yes (Luke 22:70). This gave the council the evidence they needed to kill Him (Luke 22:70–71). That Friday morning they brought Jesus to the Governor, Pilate, to get his approval (Matt 27:11; John 18:31), since only Rome could give the death penalty. Jesus was silent before Pilate (Matt 27:13–14), fulfilling Scripture (Isaiah 53:7). Pilate knew His innocence and tried to set Him free, but the people demanded that Jesus be crucified (Matt 27:15–23), and Pilate did what they asked (27:24–26).

### ASK

1. Did Jesus make a defense during the trials?  
*No. Jesus was silent as a sheep before its shearers.*
2. Who did Jesus claim to be?  
*He claimed to be the Son of Man and the Son of God. This meant He claimed to be the Messiah and God.*
3. Did the people want Pilate to release Barabbas or Jesus?  
*Barabbas.*
4. Why did Pilate agree to crucify Jesus?  
*Pilate crucified Jesus because he was afraid of upsetting the people and starting a riot.*

### DISCUSS

1. Discuss why Jesus didn't defend Himself (1 Pet 2:23).
2. Pilate asked, “What shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” (Matt 27:22). What are you doing with Jesus the Messiah?

## DAY 2

Jesus was mocked as a criminal • Matthew 27:27–44

### READ

Matthew 27:27–44

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Matthew 27:27–44

Before crucifixion, Jesus was scourged with a whip containing sharp metal or bone. Scourging was so severe that it sometimes killed the victim. Then Jesus was taken to Pilate's residence in Jerusalem (Matt 27:27). There the soldiers mocked Jesus. They stripped Him, put a purple cloak on Him, put a crown of thorns on His head, and a reed in His hand. They laughed at Him, spit on Him, and beat Him (Isa 50:6). At about 9:00 a.m. that Friday, Jesus was led to Golgotha, the "Place of a Skull" (Matt 27:33). He refused to drink wine mixed with myrrh (Mark 15:23), because the myrrh would have dulled his senses and clouded His thinking (Ps. 69:21). Then He was crucified (Matt 27:35). Crucifixion was torture. It often took several days for people to die, most often by suffocation. Nails went through the wrists and heels. As Christ hung from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the two criminals insulted Him, the Israelites mocked Him, and the religious leaders challenged Jesus to prove His deity by coming down off the cross (27:39–44).

### ASK

1. In what ways did the soldiers make Jesus suffer?  
*They scourged Him with a whip, mocked Him by placing a crown of thorns on His head, spit at Him, and beat Him.*
2. How was Jesus killed?  
*He was crucified on the cross.*
3. When people saw Jesus on the cross, what did they do?  
*They insulted Him, mocked Him, and challenged His authority.*
4. Why did Jesus refuse to drink the wine with myrrh, even though He was thirsty?  
*He wanted to be aware of the sacrifice He was making.*

### DISCUSS

1. Discuss why Jesus was wounded and condemned (Isa 53:4–5).
2. Examine your own attitude towards Jesus' sacrificial death for sinners: Is your response like the soldiers, the criminals, the Israelites, or the religious leaders? Talk about how you should respond.

## DAY 3

Jesus was killed as the Son of God • Matthew 27:45–66

### READ

Matthew 27:45–66

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Matthew 27:45–66

Nature testified to the deity of Christ and His saving power. Between noon and 3:00 p.m. there was darkness everywhere (Matt 27:45). This was a supernatural sign of wrath (Isa 5:30). Jesus felt God pouring out wrath on Him as the sin-bearer, so at 3:00 p.m. He called out quoting Psalm 22:1, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matt 27:46). Jesus then cried out in a loud voice

and voluntarily gave up His spirit (27:50). Besides the darkness, there were other signs. The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, showing that God's presence was now open to all people through Christ's death (27:51a; Heb 10:19–22). An earthquake split the rocks apart (Matt 27:51b). Dead believers rose from their graves and appeared in Jerusalem, proving Christ's life-giving power (27:52–53). Some refused to believe, but the centurion rightly saw that Jesus is the Son of God and that His sacrifice for sin was acceptable to God (27:54–66).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. What were the signs that accompanied Jesus' death?  
*There was supernatural darkness, the veil of the temple was torn in two, a great earthquake occurred, and saints came back to life.*
2. Who ultimately was responsible for Jesus' death?  
*God was. He was pleased to pour out His wrath on Jesus in order to glorify Jesus and save sinners (Isa 53:10).*
3. What were the four responses to Jesus death?  
*The centurion believed in Him (27:54); (2) the women and disciples loved Him (55-61); (3) the religious leaders hated Him (27:62-64); and (4) the governor disregarded Him (27:58, 65-66).*
4. Why did Jesus die on the cross?  
*So we could have forgiveness of sins.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Was Jesus killed against His will (John 10:18)?
2. Which response to Jesus' death best characterizes you (27:54-66)?

**DAY 4***Believers follow Christ's example in suffering • 1 Peter 2:21***READ** 

1 Peter 2:19-25.

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of 1 Peter 2:19-25**

Living as a Christian often attracts unjust treatment from others. When we are suffering, we are to look to Jesus as our role model (1 Pet 2:21). Like Jesus, we should not provoke suffering by doing wrong things. If we suffer for our own evil, we deserve it and bring no glory to God (2:20). But if we, like Jesus, suffer for doing what pleases God, then Jesus shows us how to respond. Jesus did not respond with sin (2:22); He did not become angry or self-centered. He didn't even threaten his enemies, even though they were wrong and He was right (2:23). Instead, Jesus realized that His suffering was bigger than His enemies. His suffering was from God, for God's glory, and for the good of others (2:23-24). What is hard to endure as an insult from others is easier to endure as a wise gift from God. So like Jesus, we should look past those who do bad things to us. We should see God's hand at work, and trust Him as our Shepherd and Guardian (2:25).

**ASK** 

1. Who is our role model when we are suffering unjustly?  
*Jesus is our role model, because He didn't deserve to suffer.*
2. Did Jesus get angry at His enemies when they were making Him suffer?  
*No. Jesus didn't sin at all in response to His suffering.*
3. How can we follow Jesus' example?  
*When we suffer unjustly, we should remember that God is controlling the suffering. He is our Shepherd and Guardian.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. How do you respond when someone says something mean to you or takes something from you unfairly?
2. How much did Jesus suffer (Ps 22:14)? How does your suffering compare to His?



## DAY 5

Jesus suffered and died to save sinners • Isaiah 53:4–6

### READ

Isaiah 53:4–6

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Isaiah 53:4–6

Even though Jesus did not deserve to suffer or die, He was willing to think of others more than Himself. Most importantly, He was willing to do what His Father desired more than what He felt like doing (Isa 53:10). But He had another motive in His suffering: love for sinners. In love He endured all the consequences of human sin. He bore human sadness for us when He suffered and was tempted as a human (53:4). He suffered death not for His own sins, since He was perfect (1 Pet 2:22), but for our sins (53:5). He took the punishment that we deserved from God so that we could have peace with the Father (53:5; Rom 5:1). He was broken so that we could be healed (53:5), healed of our sins now and one day healed of every physical illness as well (Matt 8:16–17). He carried away all our sins on Himself, so that we could return to God clothed with Christ's righteousness (Isa 53:6; 2 Cor 5:21). Jesus went to the cross as the greatest act of love for sinners (John 15:13).

### ASK

1. What was the purpose of Jesus' death?  
*Jesus died to glorify God by saving sinners as proof of God's love.*
2. Did Jesus suffer sorrow that He deserved?  
*No. The sorrow He endured was the sorrow earned by sinful humans.*
3. What did the Israelites think He suffered for?  
*They thought He suffered for His own sin (53:4).*
4. What benefits can sinners receive from Jesus' death?  
*Because of Jesus' death, those who believe will not have to pay for sins, endure God's punishment, and one day will be healed of every physical illness. They will be able to return to their God.*

### DISCUSS

1. How can you receive the benefit of Jesus' death for sins (Rom 10:9)?
2. If you believe in Jesus, do you ever have to doubt that God will do good for you (Rom 8:32)?

## NEXT WEEK

### Jesus rises from the dead

Matthew 28:1–20



## SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

# EASTER WEEK 4

## Jesus rises from the dead

Matthew 28:1–20



### DAY 1

*An angel announced that the King was alive • Matthew 28:1–8*

#### READ

Matthew 28:1–8

#### EXPLAIN

##### The truth of Matthew 28:1–8

Early Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (mother of James the Less) went to the tomb bringing spices for Jesus' burial (Matt 28:1). As they approached the tomb, there was a great earthquake. The angel moved the stone from the tomb and sat on top of it, allowing the women to enter (28:2, 6). The guards watching over the tomb shook with fear and became like dead men (28:4). The angel told the women not to be afraid. He knew why the women were at the tomb, and told them that Jesus had risen from the dead (28:5–6), just like He had said He would (12:40; 26:61). The angel then told the women to go and tell the disciples what had happened (28:7). Upon hearing this news, the women hurried back to the disciples (28:8). They were full of fear and joy because of the news that they had heard. The resurrection of Christ should fill believers with awe and joy because it declares that Jesus is "the Son of God in power" (Rom 1:4) and it provides them with a living hope (1 Pet 1:3).

#### ASK

1. When did the women return to Jesus' tomb?  
*On Sunday morning they came to the tomb because the Sabbath had now passed, and they were allowed to go to the tomb.*
2. What happened when the two Marys came to see Jesus' body?  
*There was a great earthquake and an angel appeared and rolled away the stone door.*
3. What did the angel tell the women?  
*He told them that Jesus was not in the tomb. He had risen.*

#### DISCUSS

1. Discuss why the stone was removed from the entrance of the tomb.
2. Discuss why the resurrection is a source of awe and joy for believers (Rom 1:4).

## DAY 2

King Jesus appeared to the women and received their worship •  
Matthew 28:9–10

### READ

Matthew 28:9–10

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Matthew 28:9–10

As the women hurried to tell the disciples the good news, Jesus appeared to them on the way. The women recognized Him and worshiped Him at His feet (Matt 28:9). **Worship** means to display one's love and commitment by actively giving praise, honor, and adoration. In that moment they understood the reality of their Savior's resurrection, and they could do nothing else. They did what every person will eventually do—bowed low and worshiped the King. Jesus again repeated the angel's message that they were to tell the disciples to leave for Galilee and that He would see them there (28:10). The resurrection is not only amazing on a physical level, but is also evidence of other important truths. It is evidence that God's Word is true. It also shows that Jesus is truly the Son of God, and that He controls both life and death. The resurrection is evidence that salvation has been accomplished, God having accepted Jesus' sacrifice as sin bearer. And finally, it is evidence of a future resurrection for believers (1 Cor 15:23). The only response that we can offer, like the women, is worship.

### ASK

1. What happened as the women hurried to tell the disciples the good news?  
*Jesus appeared to them on the way.*
2. What did the women do when they saw Jesus?  
*The women recognized Him and worshiped Him at His feet (Matt 28:9).*
3. What did Jesus say to the women?  
*He repeated the angel's message that they were to tell the disciples to leave for Galilee and that He would see them there (28:10).*

### DISCUSS

1. Read Phil 2:9–11 and identify who is called to worship Jesus.
2. Discuss why we can be confident that God will one day raise believers from the dead (1 Cor 15:23).

## DAY 3

The Jewish leaders denied the truth of the resurrection •  
Matthew 28:11–15

### READ

Matthew 28:11–15

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Matthew 28:11–15

As the women hurried to tell the disciples of Jesus' resurrection, some of the soldiers hurried to tell the chief priests what had happened (Matt 28:11). The chief priests commanded them to say that it was the disciples who came and stole the body during the night (28:12–13). These soldiers were stationed at the tomb under Pilate's order and could have been killed if news

of their failure were to reach Pilate's ears. The soldiers went out and did as they were instructed, spreading the lie that Jesus' body had been stolen (28:15). Although the religious leaders knew that Christ said He would rise on the third day (27:63), and even though they had heard the firsthand accounts of the unbiased soldiers, they refused to accept Jesus' resurrection. No miracle, not even Jesus' resurrection, could bring these religious leaders to worship Jesus Christ. Today we do not see the miracles of Jesus' earthly ministry, but we read the truth contained in His word. The Word calls us to submit to Christ and to worship Him as our King.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. What did the religious leaders tell the soldiers' to say?  
*They commanded them to say that it was the disciples who came and stole the body during the night (28:12–13).*
2. Did the soldiers obey?  
*Yes. The soldiers went out and did as they were instructed. The message that Jesus' body was stolen was told throughout the land among the Jews.*
3. Could any miracle bring the religious leaders to worship Jesus Christ?  
*No. Although the religious leaders knew that Christ said He would rise on the third day (27:63), and even though they had heard the firsthand accounts of the unbiased soldiers, they refused to accept Jesus' resurrection.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Discuss why the religious leaders commanded the soldiers to lie about Jesus' body.
2. Read 2 Pet 1:16–19 and identify which is more authoritative: Scripture or experience.

**DAY 4**

*King Jesus commanded His disciples to tell the nations about Him • Matthew 28:16–20*

**READ** 

Matthew 28:16–20

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Matthew 28:16–20**

After hearing the news of Jesus' resurrection, the disciples followed Jesus' instructions and proceeded to Galilee (Matt 28:16). Yet even after seeing Jesus, some were still doubtful (28:17). Jesus' main command was to make disciples. A **disciple** of Jesus is a loyal follower and learner of Christ. He gave three specifics for making disciples: (1) going; (2) baptizing; and (3) teaching. The first requirement meant the disciples needed to go. Having gone, Jesus commanded them to baptize and to teach. Baptism does not save, but is an outward act of identification with Jesus. It is a public testimony that one belongs to Jesus' kingdom. The third requirement for making disciples is teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded. The job of evangelism does not end with conversion. The disciples of Jesus were to be taught to obey Jesus from the heart. Jesus ended the Great Commission with one last encouragement. The disciples had nothing to fear, for Jesus, the omnipotent Savior, would always be with them, strengthening them to accomplish this command. This promise of power is for the believer until Jesus returns.

**ASK** 

1. What did Jesus command the disciples to do?  
*He commanded them to make disciples by going, baptizing, and teaching.*
2. What did Jesus promise the disciples?  
*Jesus promised that He would always be with them.*
3. Whose name were the disciples suppose to baptize in?  
*In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Son and the Spirit are co-equal with the Father in authority.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Identify ways you are actively carrying out Jesus' command to make disciples.
2. Discuss why we don't have to be afraid as we obey Jesus' command to evangelize the world.

# DAY 5

The resurrection is central to the good news we must share •  
Romans 1:1–6

## READ

Romans 1:1–7

## EXPLAIN

### The truth of Romans 1:1–6

All believers have received the commission to share the gospel. The gospel, the good news, is that Christ became a man, born as a descendant of David (Rom 1:3) in order that He might bear the sins of men, the guilt of men, the punishment of men, and that He might feel the wrath of God for men. He became our substitute on the cross (2 Cor 5:21). But the good news does not end with Jesus' sacrificial death. He conquered the grave, demonstrating His divinity by destroying death (Rom 1:4). Through the resurrection we live spiritually (Rom 6:5–11) and will one day also live eternally in heaven (1 Cor 15:20–28). The good news is that you can believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, that He paid the price for your sin, that Jesus is the God-man, and then confess Him as your Lord and Savior, and be saved. In Jesus we receive grace and are must tell the world about Jesus.

## ASK

1. What does the word “gospel” mean?  
*It means good news.*
2. What is the good news about Jesus?  
*Jesus became a man, born as a descendant of David, in order that He might bear the sins of men, the guilt of men, the punishment of men, and that He might feel the wrath of God for men.*
3. What should our response to the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection be?  
*We should believe, repent, and share the good news.*

## DISCUSS

1. Discuss why the resurrection is central to the gospel message.
2. Describe the time when someone first shared the gospel with you.

