

# Easter.

## A Family Devotional



MCLEAN BIBLE CHURCH

***HAPPY  
EASTER  
FROM  
KID'S  
QUEST!***

Easter is a natural time for families to celebrate and discuss what Christ has accomplished for us on the cross. We've designed this little booklet to encourage you to set aside time each day as a family to walk through the events of Holy Week. We hope these short devotions, discussion questions, and guided prayers will lead to many gospel-centered conversations and a deeper understanding of our hope in Jesus.

## ***WHAT IS HOLY WEEK?***

Some would call Holy Week the most important week in all of history. Holy Week is the week before Easter, a period which includes the religious holidays of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. This is an opportunity to walk through the events of Jesus' final week leading to his crucifixion and death, but that's not the end of the story. Following along in our Holy Week devotion will allow families to experience the miracle of Jesus' resurrection.

# ***HOW TO USE THE DEVOTIONS***

The week leading up to Easter is a wonderfully natural opportunity to disciple the little hearts in your home. We hope you will use this guide and commit to a daily rhythm for the week (at the dinner table, at bedtime, set an iPhone reminder for a specific time of day, etc.) There is not a right or wrong way to use these devotions. You could read one each day during Holy Week. You could also combine some of the stories and read a few of them on the same day. Maybe you're only able to read one or two of them together as a family and that's okay! We want to help you take steps toward incorporating time around God's word as a family.

As the parent, read the Bible passage and devotion ahead of time to prepare. Think about how you can help connect the Word of God to the heart of your child/children. Consider balancing the gravity of the week with the maturity level of your child based on your discernment and the Spirit's leading. If you have older students or teens in your home, invite them to help lead a portion of the worship time. Most importantly - Relax. Enjoy it. Have fun. You are playing a role in your child's life, but God is the main actor. Love them, laugh with them, pray with them, and point them to a God who is all about His glory and their great joy. And know that as you are being intentional

to disciple the hearts of your children, we are praying for you and here to help however we can.

We've provided ESV Scripture references for each story, but feel free to read the stories from a children's story Bible or other translation if that works best for your family.

We invite you to use the three simple steps as a framework for your time together.

**READ:** Open God's word together and read the suggested passage from the Bible or from a children's story Bible. Some days the passages are longer than others. Help keep younger children engaged by having them help tell the story. You can invite pre-readers to make up motions to do each time they hear a specific word or name in the story. For older children or teens, give them a section of the story to read aloud or have them read the lines of a character as you narrate the story.

**ASK:** Use the questions to reflect on the story. We've provided you with simple questions that work well with all ages. There are no right or wrong answers, but simply serve as a tool to get children and students thinking about God and the stories we've read.

**PRAY:** Close your time with prayer using the provided suggestions or your own words and ideas.

# ***THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY***

# DAY 1

## LUKE 19:28-40

*And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" And they said, "The Lord has need of it." And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."*

## MARK 11:1-10

*Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"*

## **DEVOTION**

Read Luke 19:28-40 and Mark 11:1-10. Take turns letting each family member read a verse.

As Jesus traveled to Jerusalem, he came to the Mount of Olives outside Bethany. He sent two of his disciples ahead with directions to go into the village, find a donkey that no one had ever ridden, untie it, and bring it to him. He told the disciples if anyone asked why they were untying the donkey, to say to them, "The Lord needs it."

The disciples followed Jesus' directions, and when they made it to town, they found the donkey. They began to untie the donkey when its owner said, "Why are you untying the colt?" The disciples answered the owner the way Jesus had told them and said the Lord needed it.

The disciples laid their robes on the donkey and brought it to Jesus to ride. People spread their robes along the road for Jesus, and others spread palm branches cut from the fields. The crowd praised God with a loud voice for all the miracles they'd seen. "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

The word hosanna means save now. The people welcomed Jesus as their promised King. They hoped he would save them from the Romans. Some religious leaders asked Jesus to tell his disciples to



be quiet. Jesus answered, "If they do not praise me, the rocks will cry out."

## **ASK**

When the people welcomed Jesus as their promised King, do you think he was the kind of King they expected? Why or why not?

## **PRAY**

Dear Jesus, thank you for becoming our King and establishing your forever kingdom. Please help us to praise you today and always.  
Amen.

***JESUS  
WASHED  
THE  
DISCIPLES'  
FEET***

# DAY 2

## JOHN 13:1-17

*Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."*

*When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."*

## **DEVOTION**

Read John 13:1-5 out loud. As you read, have your kids raise their hands when they hear the phrase “Jesus knew.” Ask your kids to describe the scene. Remind them that Jesus knew Judas would betray Him in a few hours, but Jesus washed his feet, too.

At this time, people wore sandals and shared the unpaved, dusty, dirty streets with various kinds of animals. During the meals, they would lie back on the floor next to a pair of feet! Traditionally, a servant would wash everyone’s feet before they began eating, but it appears no servant was present. Jesus, knowing the time had come for Him to leave the world, knowing the Father had put all things under His power, knowing He had come from God and was returning to God, He washed each of His disciples’ feet. Look up Matthew 20:28.

Read John 13:6-11. What did Peter ask, and how did Jesus respond?

Peter wanted to be cleansed by Jesus. Jesus reminded him that he was already “clean” because Peter believed Jesus was God. Look up Titus 3:5. Once we accept Jesus as Lord, we are clean and only need to have our “feet washed” as we confess our sins. (1 John 1:8,9)

Read John 13:12-17. What does Jesus challenge His disciples to do?

Jesus, knowing He was God and was about to return to His Kingdom, loved each of His disciples and served them in the most humbling way. He asks us to do this and tells us we'll be blessed if we do.

## **ASK**

What did you learn about Jesus? Have you been “washed” by Jesus? How can you be more like Him by serving your family?

## **PRAY**

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your example of serving. Please help us, as a family, to love and serve one another, even when it's hard. Amen.

# ***THE LAST SUPPER***

# DAY 3

## MATTHEW 26:17-30

*Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.*

*When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."*

*Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying,*

*"Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the[b] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."*

*And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

## **DEVOTION**

Read Matthew 26:17-19. As you read this passage, compare what you discussed yesterday in John 13 to today's reading. What new details are given?

In Matthew 26:21-24, Jesus reveals He knows the betrayer. Jesus tells them, "Before it happens so that when it does happen, you will believe that I am He..." (John 13:19,20).

Judas most likely was seated to the left of Jesus in the place of honor and would have received the first portion of the meal. Jesus gave Judas many opportunities to acknowledge who he was, but Judas ultimately rejected the Savior.

Read Matthew 26:26-30. Exodus tells us about the first Passover when the Israelites lived in Egypt. While captive in Egypt, they had to pick a year-old, spotless Lamb. After the Lamb lived with the family for two weeks, it would be killed, and the blood would be placed on the sides and top of the door. When the Lord came through the camp, He would see the blood and Pass Over the house, and the family would be saved from death. (Exodus 12:3, 5-14, 21-28). This Passover was to be celebrated every year.

The entire Old Testament sets up the need for a Messiah, for a perfect Savior who can remove our sins. Jesus is the perfect Passover Lamb, whose blood on the cross takes away the sins of the world. (John 1:29)



## **ASK**

Why was the Passover special to the Israelites? Why did Jesus say the bread was His body, and the cup was His blood? What does communion mean to a Christian? Why is it important for us today?

## **PRAY**

Lord, help us to appreciate communion and what it means. Thank you for being the Lamb who willingly gave up your life on the cross for our sins.

***JESUS  
PRAYED  
IN THE  
GARDEN***

# **DAY 4**

## **MATTHEW 26:36-51**

*Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."*

*While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him." And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.*

## **DEVOTION**

Soon after the Last Supper, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Jesus took the time to pray for an event that was going to happen very soon, his crucifixion. Jesus was entirely God, and he was also fully man. As a man, he experienced the same emotions that we experience today. The Bible tells us that as Jesus went to pray, the feelings he felt were anguish and distress.

When was the last time you had a tough day? I'm sure you don't need a reminder that tough days are usually not a fun experience! Even though Jesus was feeling distressed about what was going to happen to him, he prayed a very God-honoring prayer. He said to the Father, "Not as I will, but as you will."

After he prayed, he returned to his disciples, whom he had asked to also be praying, but he found them asleep! Jesus left a second time to go pray, and when he returned, he found those same disciples sleeping.

After going to pray for a third time, Jesus returned to see a crowd of men who were carrying swords and clubs. With those men was one of the twelve disciples, Judas. The betrayal of Jesus was complete, and the men Judas brought with him arrested Jesus.

Jesus could have stopped all this because he knew what would happen. However, Jesus submitted to the will of the Father, even

though that meant he would die. Sometimes, it's difficult to follow what God desires for us, but like Jesus, we can put God's desires above our own.

## **ASK**

Do you want more of what God wants for your life or more of what you want in your life? How can we submit all our desires to the Lord and trust him with the results?

## **PRAY**

God, we thank you that Jesus shows us how to always submit to your will above ours. Help us, Lord, to desire what you want for our life above all else. Lord, help us trust you with the results, in Jesus' name.

***PETER  
DENIED  
JESUS***

# DAY 5

## JOHN 18:15-18

*Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.*

## JOHN 18:25-27

*Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.*

## JOHN 21:15-17

*When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."*

## **DEVOTION**

The disciple Peter (also called Simon Peter) was one of Jesus' closest friends and followers. Leading up to today's scripture, Peter faithfully followed Jesus and promised never to deny or leave Him. During the Last Supper, Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him 3 times before the rooster crowed, and we see that play out today in John 18. After Jesus had been arrested by the Jewish leaders, Peter followed them to the courtyard of the High Priest. Peter's faith was tested as he waited to see what would happen to Jesus. Three times, Peter was asked if he was a follower of Jesus, and three times, Peter said no. Seeing what had happened to Jesus, Peter was afraid to stand up for his faith and he allowed his fear to lead him to sin. When the rooster crowed, Peter quickly realized his mistake and left crying. Peter's sin was heavy, but Jesus did not leave Peter to struggle. After Jesus died and rose again, he appeared to Peter and ate a meal with him. After the meal, Jesus turned to Peter and asked Him, "Do you love me?" Just as Peter had denied Jesus three times, Jesus asked Peter this question three times, and each time, Peter responded, "Yes, you know that I love you." In asking these questions, Jesus showed Peter that he could now stand firm with Him where he was once weak. Jesus forgave Peter for denying him and restored their relationship.



## **ASK**

Has there ever been a time when you've acted like Peter and needed forgiveness? How does it feel knowing that Jesus forgives you?

## **PRAY**

Dear Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. Thank you for forgiving us even when we sin over and over again. Please help us to look, act, and think more like you. Amen.

***JESUS'  
TRIAL  
AND  
DEATH***

# DAY 6

## **MATTHEW 26:47-50**

*While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him." And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him.*

## **MATTHEW 26:54-57**

*But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.*

*Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered.*

## **MATTHEW 27:1-2, 11**

*When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.*

*Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so."*

## **MATTHEW 27:46, 50**

*And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

*And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.*

## **DEVOTION**

As the Jewish leaders grew in their hatred for Jesus, they needed help to identify and arrest him. Just as Jesus had predicted, one of His disciples named Judas betrayed Him and helped the Jewish leaders find him. Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane when a crowd came in with Judas to identify Jesus. Immediately, they began to arrest Jesus even though He had done nothing wrong. Although Jesus had the strength and ability to fight back, He chose not to because he knew this was part of God's plan. Jesus was taken from the Garden to stand before the religious leaders who would eventually vote to kill Him. Before this could happen, Jesus' death needed to be voted on by the government leaders. Jesus was tied up and taken before the governor. The governor agreed that Jesus would be killed and decided he would die by crucifixion. This meant that Jesus was going to be nailed to a cross and hung there until He died. In preparation, the government soldiers made a crown out of thorns and pushed it into Jesus' head. They mocked Him, spit on Him, and hit Him many times. Already weak from the way he'd been treated, Jesus was then forced to walk up the hill where His cross would be placed. When He reached the top, Jesus' hands and feet were nailed to the cross and then raised up. Jesus hung on the cross in excruciating pain for hours. Many people watched, mocking Jesus and doubting that He was the Son of God. Even the criminals that were being crucified beside Him mocked Him as He struggled to breathe. After nine hours of suffering, Jesus cried out to the Lord and took His final breath. As the individuals who called for Jesus' death thought they had finally

won, Jesus' more excellent victory had just begun! Jesus knew that in His death, all sin- past, present, and future- died with Him, a truth that He would reveal to all in the coming days.

## **ASK**

What does Jesus' death on the cross mean to you? How does Jesus dying on the cross make you feel loved?

## **PRAY**

Jesus, thank you for loving us more than we can understand. It's hard to hear the story of your suffering, but we are thankful that it reminds us that you have the ultimate victory! Please help us to constantly remember that our sins died on the cross with you and that in you, we have freedom and forgiveness. Amen

# ***JESUS'*** ***BURIAL***

# DAY 7

## MATTHEW 27:57-28:10

*When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.*

*The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.*

*Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene*

*and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."*

## ***DEVOTION***

After the death of Jesus, a disciple named Joseph from Arimathea asked Pilate for his body. After wrapping Jesus' body in a linen cloth, Joseph had Jesus buried in his own tomb. A giant stone was rolled over the entrance to the tomb as Mary Magdalene and the other Mary watched. What do you think the ladies thought and felt when they saw Jesus buried in a tomb sealed by a giant stone?

The next day, religious leaders got together because they were concerned that one of Jesus' followers would try to steal his body. They remembered that Jesus said on the third day, he would rise. They decided to send soldiers to guard the tomb so it would be impossible for anyone to take his body away. Why do you think the religious leaders thought their plan to protect the tomb would work?

If we aren't careful, we can live our lives based only on what we can physically see. For the disciples, it looked like Jesus, the one they put their hope in, was gone. This and many other great stories in the Bible challenge us to live by faith and not by only what we can see.



## **ASK**

What are the differences between living by faith and living by sight?  
How can we encourage each other to live by faith this week?

## **PRAY**

God, help us to trust you even when our outward circumstances might try to tell us something different. Help to strengthen our faith each day so that we can live according to your Word, in Jesus' name, Amen.

***JESUS***  
***IS***  
***ALIVE***

# DAY 8

## MATTHEW 28:1-10

*Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he[a] lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."*

## **DEVOTION**

Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene (who saw Jesus be put to death) and another woman named Mary went to the place where Jesus had been buried. Suddenly, a strong earthquake shook the ground, and an angel came from heaven. The angel moved the heavy, enormous rock that was put at the entrance of Jesus' tomb. The angel was wearing a white robe and sat down on the stone. The men guarding the tomb saw all this and were so scared they couldn't move!

The angel told the women not to be afraid that he knew they had come to the tomb to look for Jesus. Then he told them the best news ever, which was a huge surprise to both women. He said that Jesus was alive, just as he had promised. The angel told the women to quickly run to the disciples and tell them that Jesus had been raised from the dead. The women were so happy and full of joy. They immediately ran to tell the disciples that Jesus was alive. Suddenly, Jesus met the woman and said, "Greetings!" The women ran to Jesus and worshiped him. Jesus told them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there."

Jesus did die on the cross, but he was brought back to life, and he is alive today. That is what we celebrate on Easter. Although egg hunts, chocolate bunnies, and colorful baskets can be fun and playful, nothing can compare to the real meaning of Easter: Jesus Christ, our Savior, is alive!

## **ASK**

Do you like surprises? What's the best surprise you've ever received? How do you think Mary Magdalene felt when she was surprised by Jesus?

## **PRAY**

God, thank you so much for sending your son to save us from sin by dying on the cross and rising again. In your name, we pray, Amen.

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# Easter.

*[mcleanbible.org/easter](http://mcleanbible.org/easter)*