



20 *Easter* 28

A central floral arrangement features several green lily buds and one fully bloomed light blue lily. A white four-pointed starburst is positioned above the word 'Easter'. The word 'Easter' is written in a large, elegant white cursive font. The numbers '20' and '28' are placed on either side of the word. A small white circle with a black cross inside is located in the upper right corner.

AT MCLEAN
BIBLE CHURCH

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 5



A FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

**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. Compare the two passages, note any similarities and/or differences.

As Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem he stopped before entering the city and sent two of His disciples ahead of Him. He told them, “go, find the colt tied there (specifically the one no one has ever ridden), and bring it to Me.” You may have read this story multiple times, but did you ever stop to think what the disciples thought of Jesus’ request?

When Jesus told His disciples to go find the colt, He also told them what to say if someone asked them their intentions - “Say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” (Luke 19:31). What does the Lord “want” from you? What has He equipped you to say if someone questions your actions? What has He asked you to do in obedience to Him?

As we continue to read the passage, we see why Jesus told them to get the colt. Look at Zechariah 9:9. Jesus’ use of the donkey fulfills the prophecy we see in Zechariah which then allowed His people to recognize that He was their long awaited King. We see their response to Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem in Mark 11:9-10. They praised God saying “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

They knew that Jesus came to save. During this week we will learn more about the character of Jesus: on this day we remember that He is gentle, sovereign, and deserving of our praise.

ASK

Recognizing that Jesus is our Lord and King, how can you praise Him today?

PRAY

Glorify the Lord and all his goodness, pray that the Lord will prepare you to do what He asks you to do.

**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.

During Jesus’ time people wore sandals and shared the unpaved, dusty, dirty streets with various kinds of animals. During meals, they would lie back on the floor putting their feet close to their food. Traditionally, a servant would wash everyone’s feet to ensure their meals stayed clean, 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 turning to God, chose to wash His disciples feet. Read Matthew 20:28, Even Jesus came to serve! In this moment Jesus sets the example for His disciples of how they must act and love others.

Read John 13:6-11. Jesus reminds Peter that being “clean” or cleansed of our sins does not come from the washing of our body, but through our belief in God. Jesus also shares that He knew Judas would ultimately betray Him YET He still chose to wash His feet. How would you respond if you were Peter? What if you were Judas?

As we continue reading the final verses of our passage, John 13:12-17, Jesus shows us how we should respond to His example. He says “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.” Thinking about how this verse applies to your life, do you think that Jesus wants you to grab some soap and water and start scrubbing your friend’s feet? While He may one day ask you to do just that, what Jesus is really telling us is that we need to serve those around us! He tells us that when we do so we “will be blessed.” Today we remember that Jesus is gracious and servant hearted.

ASK

When you think of what it might look like to “wash another’s feet”, what are some ways that you can serve those around you? Who might God be calling you to serve and when can you follow through?

PRAY

Dear Lord, thank you so much for showing us by example what it looks like to serve others. We pray that you would help us to follow your example and be looking for opportunities to serve the people around us. We pray this in Jesus’ name, 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 26:17-30. As you read this passage, compare what you discussed yesterday in John 13 to today's reading. What new details are given?

In Matthew 26:17-30, we encounter a powerful moment when Jesus shares the Last Supper with His Disciples. They gathered for what they thought would be a normal Passover meal, a traditional celebration commemorating the day that God “passed over” and spared the Israelites. As they sat together and ate, Jesus revealed that one of His disciples would betray Him. The disciples began to ask, “Is it I, Lord?” Jesus knew before ever meeting Judas that he would be the one to betray Him. Still, the Lord welcomed Him to this meal and desired to save Him.

Knowing what was to happen in the coming days, Jesus broke bread and passed it to the disciples explaining that it represents His body that would soon be broken for them. He stated “take, eat; this is my body.” Similarly, He took the cup of wine and passed it to His disciples explaining that it represents His blood that would soon be shed for them. He told his disciples to “drink of it.”

This act marked a sacred meal called the Lord's Supper, which is often referred to as Communion. The Lord's Supper is a symbol of Christ's sacrifice and His ultimate authority and power.

We continue to practice the Lord's Supper today as a reminder to have a heart posture of gratefulness towards the one who saved us.

Today we remember that Jesus is sacrificial and all powerful.

ASK

When was the last time that you celebrated someone while eating food? Why do you think it is good to remember what Jesus did for us? What do you think we should celebrate what Jesus did for us?

PRAY

Lord, thank you for giving us a way to remember your sacrifice on the Cross. Allow us to understand your grace and your glory. We love you Lord, allow us to show this love by walking in obedience and giving glory to your name. Amen.

**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

Read Matthew 26:36-51. As a family discuss the different emotions you see Jesus experiencing.

In the beginning of the Bible in Genesis 2, we see the picture of a perfect garden. This garden, the Garden of Eden, was where life first started through Adam and Eve. In this time there was nothing to be troubled by; it was the picture of peace, rest and friendship with the Best Friend they could ever hope for- their Creator God. Ultimately, the imperfection (sin) of Adam and Eve brought disaster to the garden. They chose to ignore God's direct instructions and ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. In this moment they had a choice and chose to listen to God's creation and NOT God. This choice brought death, suffering, and a temporary separation from God.

Jesus' story in Matthew 26 picks up in a new garden, the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus left the Last Supper with three of His disciples and went to this garden to pray. Understanding the weight of the burden he was about to carry, Jesus took time to pray and seek strength. Time to rest, time to lay in His Father's presence, and time to grieve the separation He was about to endure. As Jesus dwelled with the Lord he was empowered to rest in His will no matter how agonizing it would be. In THIS

garden Jesus would begin to undo the disaster of the first garden. Jesus would make the right choice to listen to the Creator over the voices of creation. Through enduring the punishment that was meant for us he would bring perfect justice and restore our relationship with God. God tells us that He will bring those who trust Him and listen to His voice, back to the Heavenly Garden to rest in His kind and wonderful presence!

Today we remember that Jesus is perfect and understands our suffering.

ASK

Are you feeling anxious? What is making you feel that way? How does the Lord relieve our anxieties?

PRAY

Lord, we look to Jesus' example and see that relief from anxiety comes for Your presence and submission to Your will. Help us to remember that You are worthy of trusting. We have the choice to rest in Your good will for us. Please- even when it's hard- remind us that choosing Your will is best and that all is well with You.
Amen

**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

Read John 18:15-17, 18:25-27, 21:16-17. Ask your children if anything from the story surprised them?

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 to never deny or leave Him. During the Last Supper Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him three times before the rooster crowed and we see that play out today in John 18.

When Jesus was arrested, Peter, afraid and nervous, followed Him to the courtyard of the High Priest. Peter's faith was tested as he waited to see what would happen to Jesus. As Peter lingered outside, two different servants asked if he was Jesus' disciple. Both times he said "no." The second servant insisted that he saw Peter with Jesus in the Garden. Again, Peter denied knowing Jesus. After this third denial, a rooster crowed just as Jesus predicted. When he heard the rooster, Peter realized his mistake and ran away, feeling ashamed.

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. The Lord continues to choose us over and over again just as He chose Peter.

Today we remember that Jesus is forgiving and extends grace to all.

ASK

Have you ever made a bad decision during a moment in which you felt afraid or overwhelmed? When you think about how Jesus loves and forgives you anyway, how does that make you feel?

PRAY

Dear Lord, help me to recognize that fear in my life does not come from you. Thank you for dying on the Cross so that my sins can be completely forgiven. Help me remember that I can come to you, even after I make a bad decision. Please help me to be 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

Read Matthew 26:47-50, 54-57, Matthew 27:1,2,11,46,50. Discuss as a family what moments stood out to you in this story.

In the final hours of Jesus' earthly life, Judas betrays Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Judas greets Jesus in the garden with a kiss, a sign of deceit. Jesus, although aware of the deceit and betrayal of Judas, responds with, "Friend, do what you have come to do." (Matthew 26:50) Jesus knew that in order for the Scriptures to be fulfilled, through His death He became the sacrifice for our sins and fulfilled the Scriptures. In Matthew 27, "All the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death." He was sent to Pilate where he was though declared innocent, He was mocked, beaten, and crucified. It was custom for one prisoner to be released to the people, Pilate asked the people if they wanted to release Jesus or Barabbas. The people cried out for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be crucified. The Roman soldiers put a crown of thorns on Jesus and mocked Him saying "Hail, King of the Jews!" Jesus was taken to the top of the hill and nailed to the cross. He hung there for hours, mocked, and in indescribable pain. In the final moments of Jesus life here on earth, He declared powerful words that impact us everyday, "It is finished".

This may seem like a terrible, heart wrenching story, and though hard to fathom, His sacrifice on the cross bore the punishment for our sins making it the ultimate expression of love. Jesus laid down His life for the salvation of all people in order to give new life to anyone who would accept His sacrifice.

Today we remember that Jesus is loving and is our true redeemer.

ASK

What does Jesus' death on the cross mean to you? How does this affect your everyday life?

PRAY

Lord, we come before You with hearts of gratitude and awe. Hearing of the trial and death of Jesus, we are reminded of the ultimate sacrifice given on the cross. In this sacrifice, we see your love for us. Thank you for fulfilling the prophecies and coming to earth to save us and make a way for us to have a relationship with you. We love you Lord, 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

Read Matthew 27:57-66. As a family, talk about what “hope” is and how you see it in these verses.

The curtain of the temple had torn, the earth shook, and the rocks were split. Jesus had yielded up his spirit, yet his body remained on the cross. Sunset was approaching and with it came Sabbath rest. God said, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

A disciple and prominent member of the Sanhedrin, Joseph from Arimathea, asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. After preparing his body, Joseph buried Jesus in his own tomb. A giant stone was rolled over the entrance to the tomb. Some women sat opposite the tomb where he was laid. They loved Jesus and had a plan to return after the Sabbath, early on a Sunday morning, to anoint Jesus’ body with spices.

Jesus had said that he would rise on the third day. Remembering this, the religious leaders approached Pilate saying that his body could be stolen by the disciples. Pilate told them to make it as secure as they could with a guard and the Roman seal placed across the stone. No human would dare break the seal and defy the authority of the Roman Empire. The disciples, the women who ministered to Jesus, and the secret Jewish and Roman followers

of Jesus all knew that he was the Son of God. Yet, he died, and his body was sealed in a tomb. They were focused on the events playing out before them. Praise God his wonders surpass our visible circumstances. When Jesus declared, “It is finished,” he ushered in the beginning of a new covenant, the promise of life everlasting. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Today we remember that Jesus is the author of life and that our hope is found in Him.

ASK

How do you think the women felt when they saw the giant stone rolled in front of Jesus' tomb? How will you place your hope in God's promises this week?

PRAY

Almighty God, we praise you for being our faithful provider. We know our help comes from you alone. Help us Lord to trust in you and your Word rather than the world and what our eyes see. Our hope is in you and your promises. In Jesus' name we pray. 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

Read Matthew 28:1-10. Think about the different responses to Jesus' appearance, discuss how you think you might have responded. After the Sabbath had passed, Mary Magdalene along with another woman named Mary set out to visit the place where Jesus had been buried. They arrived and suddenly a giant earthquake erupted as an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and rolled back the stone from the entry of Jesus' tomb. The Roman soldiers that had been guarding the tomb were so scared they couldn't move.

Although the angel was mighty and powerful, he comforted the women saying "do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified." Mary Magdalene had seen Jesus be put to death so you can imagine how surprised she was when the angel said "He is not here, for He has risen." This was the BEST news ever! The angel showed the woman the empty space where Jesus' body once laid and they immediately ran to tell the disciples that Jesus was alive just as He had promised!

On their way to share this news with the disciples they were met by none other than Jesus Himself! Immediately they fell to His feet and began worshipping Him. The Lord told them "do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee and there they will see me." The women did what Jesus said, His disciples met with Jesus for 40 days until He eventually ascended into heaven to sit

at the right hand of God. Thankfully the story doesn't end there! God came to dwell with us in a new way through the Holy Spirit. His Spirit dwells in those who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. When we come to faith in Christ Jesus gives us the same mission He gave Mary and Mary Magdalene "go and tell." We must go and tell all people the Good News that Jesus is alive and that He wants to save us!

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—nothing can compare to the real meaning of Easter: Jesus Christ our Savior, is alive! Today we remember just that.

ASK

What is the best news you've ever received? How is the news that Jesus is alive even greater than that news?

PRAY

God, thank you for the way you love your people throughout every generation! We know that what Jesus did for us was not easy, but we are eternally grateful that you loved us enough to send Your Son to save us from our sins. Help us remember the importance of Jesus' sacrifice not only on Easter but every day of our lives! May we always walk with you. Amen!

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Easter



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