



LifeWay®

Kids

Easter
Devotional Guide

The Triumphal Entry

Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem. As He came to the Mount of Olives outside of a town called Bethany, He gave a very special task to two of His disciples. Jesus told them to go into the village and find a young donkey that had never been ridden. The disciples were to untie the donkey and bring it back to Jesus. He told the men that if anyone asked what they are doing, they should say that the Lord needs it.

The disciples did what Jesus told them and found the donkey. While they were untying the donkey, the donkey's owners asked what they were doing. The disciples answered as Jesus had told them and said that the Lord needed it.

Then the disciples laid their robes on the donkey for Jesus to sit on. As Jesus rode along the road, many people spread out their robes on the road in front of Him. Other people spread leafy branches cut from trees. They were honoring Jesus the same way they would honor a king. They joyfully praised God. They shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd were upset by what was happening. They told Jesus to tell His followers to stop shouting. Jesus replied, "Even if they stopped shouting, the stones would cry out!" — **Based on Luke 19:28-40; Mark 11:1-10**

THE POINT: PEOPLE CAN PRAISE JESUS.

Praise to our King!

Read Zechariah 9:9. Long before Jesus came to earth, God gave His people a message. Their King would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. The words the prophet Zechariah wrote really happened. The people honored Jesus the same way they would honor a king.

This week, we will see that the scene changed quickly. Instead of shouting praise for Jesus, the people shouted for Him to be hurt. But this was all part of God's plan to save His people from sin. Now, as God's people, we can praise Jesus knowing He is our King who gave His own life to rescue us from our sin!

Father, what a joy that we can praise Jesus as our King! He is a good King who loved us enough to take the punishment we deserve for our sin. May we give Him the praise He alone deserves! Amen.

DAY 2:
APRIL 10, 2017

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL
LEARNING: JESUS

Jesus Washed the Disciples' Feet

It was just before the Passover meal. Jesus knew that it was almost time for Him to leave this world and be reunited with God, His Father. Jesus loved His disciples and wanted to show them how much He loved them. Jesus knew that Judas Iscariot was going to betray Him. He got up from the table and tied a towel around His waist. He poured water into a bowl and began to wash His disciples' feet and then dry them with the towel wrapped around His waist. Simon Peter didn't want Jesus to wash his feet.

Jesus said that if He didn't wash his feet, Peter would have to part with Him. Peter asked that his hands and head also be washed! Jesus told Peter that someone who has bathed doesn't need to wash anything except his feet. Jesus knew who would betray Him and told Peter that he was clean, but not all of the disciples were clean.

When He finished, He asked the disciples if they knew what He had done for them. He told them that He washed their feet to serve them, now they should go and follow His example of serving others. — **Based on John 13:1-17**

THE POINT: JESUS WANTS PEOPLE TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE.

Living by Example

I love puzzles! When you dump all of the pieces on the table, the first thing you do is look at the front of the box to see what the puzzle will look like. The Bible does that for us. If we look at how Jesus lived here on earth, we can follow His example to know how to best follow Him.

Jesus showed us how to serve the people around us. Jesus washed His disciples' feet and taught us how to serve others in love. As followers of Christ, we are to live by His example.

Dear God, thank You for giving us the example of Jesus. Help me remember the way Jesus served others. Amen.

The Last Supper

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In those days, the Jewish people gathered for feasts such as the Festival of Unleavened Bread and the Passover. People gathered together to remember how God had rescued His people out of Egypt.

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, Jesus told the disciples to go into the city and tell a certain man that Jesus wanted to celebrate Passover at his house with the disciples.

When evening came, Jesus was sitting at the table with the disciples. Jesus said that one of the disciples would betray Him. He was talking about Judas Iscariot.

While they were eating, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, and broke it. He gave it to His disciples and said, "Take this and eat it; this is My body."

In the same way, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to His disciples. Then He said, "Drink from it, all of you." He told the disciples that His blood would be shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus would be arrested and sentenced to be crucified. Jesus had done nothing wrong, but He died so that the Old Testament Scripture might be fulfilled. — **Based on Matthew 26:17-30**

THE POINT: JESUS CAME TO BE THE SAVIOR.

Remember!

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How does your family remember important things like soccer practice or piano lessons or birthday parties? Do you have a calendar posted on the refrigerator? Do you use sticky notes? Do you set notifications on your computer? It is important to remember important things.

Even though the disciples didn't know what was about to happen, Jesus did. He didn't want them to ever forget. Jesus wants us to remember that He took our punishment, died for our sins, and rose back to life to prove He has power over sin and death! When your church conducts the Lord's Supper (or you might call it Communion) it is a very special time to remember how much Jesus loves us and that He came to be the Savior. Now that's something to remember and celebrate!

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Help us to always remember that He loved us enough to die for our sins so we can be forgiven. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Jesus Prayed in the Garden

Jesus and His disciples celebrated the special feast called the Passover.

After the Passover feast, the disciples went out to a garden with Jesus. Jesus said that each of them would leave Him. Peter promised that he would never leave, but Jesus said, “Before you hear the rooster crow, you will deny me three times!”

Jesus prayed in the garden, but His disciples kept falling asleep. Soon, Judas arrived with soldiers who arrested Jesus! Jesus was taken to unfair trials. He was beaten and mocked. — **Based on Matthew 26:34-51**

THE POINT: PEOPLE CAN TALK TO GOD.

In the Garden

I love to work in my yard. In spring, I get excited when it is time to plant flowers. Have you ever planted flowers in your yard? They start out small, and then as the season moves into summer, they start blooming and become beautiful. When I’m in my yard, I enjoy talking to God.

Jesus went to a garden and prayed to His Father in Heaven. Jesus knew that prayer was important. Even though He knew He was about to be put to death, He still took time to talk to God. Take time to talk to God today. You can tell Him anything.

Dear God, thank You for loving me. Thank You for giving me a way that I can talk to You. You love me, and You sent Jesus to die on the cross for my sins. Thank You, God. Amen.

Peter Denied Jesus

Two disciples followed Jesus as the soldiers took Him to the high priest. One disciple knew the high priest and went inside. He spoke to a servant who allowed Peter inside the courtyard. The servant girl asked if Peter was one of Jesus' disciples. Peter lied. He said, "No, I'm not."

Peter joined the other people standing around a fire. They asked him, "Aren't you one of this man's disciples?" and Peter lied again, saying, "I am not!"

One man who had seen Peter in the garden when Jesus was arrested asked, "Didn't I see you in the garden with Jesus?" As soon as Peter again denied knowing Jesus, the rooster crowed.

Later, after Jesus had been crucified and raised from the dead, Jesus met with Peter. Jesus showed Peter that He still loved him. — **Based on John 18:15-18, 25-27; 21:15-17**

THE POINT: JESUS LOVES PEOPLE EVEN WHEN THEY MAKE MISTAKES.

"Not Me!"

Did you ever take something that wasn't yours? "Not me!" Did you ever do something your parents told you not to do? "Not me!" Have you ever disobeyed God? "Not me!" Have you ever told a lie? "Not me! I mean... well..."

Everyone has done something wrong. Peter was a disciple and even he did wrong. But Jesus forgave Peter. Who should be glad Jesus loved Peter even after he did wrong? "You and me!" Who else does Jesus love even after we do wrong? "You and me!"

Dear God, sometimes I do wrong things and think wrong things. Thank You for forgiving me and for loving me even when I make mistakes. Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 14, 2017

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING: SALVATION

Jesus' Trial and Death

While Jesus and the disciples were praying in the garden, Judas arrived with an armed crowd, who arrested Jesus. They took Jesus to Caiaphas, the high priest, and to Pilate, the Roman governor. The crowd wanted Jesus to be crucified.

Pilate's soldiers mocked Jesus by putting a robe on Him, a crown made of thorns on His head, and a reed in His hand. They spit on Him, beat Him, and led Him to Golgotha, where they crucified Him.

It became dark as night in the middle of the day. Jesus cried out to God, "Why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus cried out again; then He died.— **Based on Matthew 26:47-50; 27:1-45**

THE POINT: JESUS KNEW HE WOULD SUFFER IN ORDER TO BE OUR SAVIOR.

He Gets It

Being teased or bullied is no fun at all. Maybe you have been teased before. In the Bible, the word that is used to describe teasing is "mock." The Bible says that Jesus was mocked. Jesus was teased and bullied.

Jesus went through that and much worse when He died. A friend betrayed Him, and Jesus was arrested. He was beaten and mocked. Then He died on a cross alone. But, even though He knew what was coming, Jesus chose to go through all that. Why? He did it because He loves us so much, He wanted to save us. We never have to feel alone or unloved. His death shows us He loves us more than anyone can!

Dear God, thank You for loving us so much You sent Jesus. Thank You that He understands our pain and, even though He knew what was coming, He chose to die for us. Amen.

DAY 7:
APRIL 15, 2017

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL
LEARNING: JESUS

Jesus' Burial

Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Joseph took the body and placed it in a new tomb. He rolled a large rock in front. The chief priests asked Pilate to put guards at the tomb.— **Based on Matthew 27:57-66**

THE POINT: NO MATTER HOW HARD THINGS MAY BE, GOD WILL NEVER FAIL YOU.

God Will Never Fail Me

Sometimes I think about my grandmother and I get sad. I loved my grandmother, but she died several years ago. We had so much fun together. She loved me, and I loved her. Jesus' friends loved Him, and He loved them.

Jesus' friends were sad. They missed Jesus and were concerned they would never see Him again, even though He told them He would rise again. They didn't understand His death was necessary.

Jesus did rise again. He didn't leave His friends in their sadness. He didn't fail them. God loves you, and He will never fail you.

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to die for our sins. Thank You that Jesus arose and is alive. Thank You no matter how sad I am or how hard things are, You will never fail me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Jesus Is Alive!

After the Sabbath, early in the morning, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and another Mary went to view the tomb where Jesus had been buried.

Suddenly, a strong earthquake shook because an angel came down from heaven. The angel rolled back the heavy stone from the entrance of the tomb. The angel, who looked like lightning and was wearing a robe of purest white, sat on the stone. The guards standing at the tomb were so afraid they were like dead men and could not even move!

The angel told the women not to be afraid. He knew they were looking for Jesus. The angel told them the best news ever. He said that Jesus was alive just as He had promised. The angel told the women to go quickly to the disciples to tell them the good news. "Tell them Jesus has been raised from the dead!"

The women left quickly and joyfully. They ran to tell the disciples the good news that Jesus was alive.

Suddenly, Jesus met the women and said, "Good morning!" The women ran to Him, took hold of His feet, and worshiped Him!

Then Jesus told them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee. They will see Me there!" — **Based on Matthew 28:1-10**

THE POINT: JESUS HAS POWER OVER DEATH AND HE IS THE SAVIOR!

The Mighty Reunion

Has someone you loved ever moved away? Did you feel upset or even confused when that happened? Now imagine you made plans for a reunion. You'd probably feel excited and maybe even a little nervous until the happy day you were able to reunite.

That's how Jesus' followers probably felt, too. They knew Jesus would die, but they also knew He promised to live again.

When Mary Magdalene and the other Mary returned to Jesus' tomb, they witnessed Jesus' incredible power. The women's sadness turned into joy when they saw the risen Savior. This is joyful news for us, too! We can put all our hope and trust in our mighty God!

Dear Jesus, thank You for so powerfully defeating death. You are a mighty savior! Because of Your resurrection, we can receive the joy of new life in You, and we can look forward to the day when we will get to see You face to face. In Jesus' name, amen.

Levels of Biblical Learning : Jesus

YOUNGER PRESCHOOLERS	MIDDLE PRESCHOOLERS	OLDER PRESCHOOLERS	YOUNGER KIDS	MIDDLE KIDS	PRETEENS
Jesus was born.	God sent Jesus to earth.	God sent Jesus to earth as a real person.	God sent Jesus to earth in human form.	Jesus was born of a virgin.	Jesus was born of a virgin.
God chose a family for Jesus.	Angels told Mary and Joseph that Jesus would be born.	People in the Old Testament told that Jesus would be born.	Prophets in the Old Testament told that Jesus would be the Savior. Jesus is the Messiah who fulfilled Old Testament prophecies.	God planned for Jesus to be the Savior from the beginning of time.	God planned for Jesus to be the Savior from the beginning of time and sent Jesus to earth at the perfect time.
Jesus grew like me.	Jesus grew like me and had a family.	Jesus grew, learned, and had friends.	Jesus understands what it is like to be human.	Jesus is fully God and fully man.	Jesus is God in human form.
Jesus learned about God.	Jesus learned about God by reading the Scriptures.	Jesus prayed to God.	Jesus worshiped God.	Jesus taught that worship is focused on God.	Jesus taught that worship is for God's glory.
Jesus told people about God.	Jesus taught people what God is like.	Jesus taught people what God is like.	Jesus taught through His life what God is like.	Jesus taught about faith, trust, and obedience to God.	Jesus taught that He is the only way to God.
Jesus helped people because He loved them.	Jesus healed sick people.	Jesus performed miracles.	Jesus restored life.	Jesus performed miracles through the power of God.	Jesus performed miracles because He is God's Son.
Jesus loves me.	Jesus loves people.	People who love Jesus want to obey Him.	People who love Jesus want to obey Him.	People can obey Jesus as a response to His love.	Jesus transformed people through His love.
Jesus loves me.	Jesus loves people.	Jesus died on the cross and is alive.	Jesus died on the cross and God raised Him from the dead.	Jesus died to pay the penalty for sin.	Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection were a necessary part of God's plan for the forgiveness of sin.
Jesus is God's Son.	Jesus is God's Son.	Jesus is God's one and only Son.	Jesus was sent to be my Savior.	Jesus is the Messiah and Savior.	God sent Jesus to fulfill His promise of redemption.
Jesus did everything God told Him to do.	Jesus always obeyed God.	Jesus was tempted to sin but did not.	Jesus was human and resisted temptation.	Jesus was human and resisted temptation.	Jesus is holy and perfect.
Jesus is alive.	Jesus is with God.	Jesus is in heaven with God.	Jesus ascended to heaven but promised He would return one day.	Jesus ascended to heaven but promised He would return one day.	Jesus sits at God's right hand and intercedes for us as our advocate, mediator, and high priest. When Jesus returns, all things will be made new.
			Jesus was with God at creation.	Jesus is eternal.	Jesus has always existed and will always be with God.

..... Levels of Biblical Learning : Salvation

YOUNGER PRESCHOOLERS	MIDDLE PRESCHOOLERS	OLDER PRESCHOOLERS	YOUNGER KIDS	MIDDLE KIDS	PRETEENS
God loves us.	God sent Jesus because He loves us.	God sent Jesus to help people because He loves them.	God provided a way for people to become Christians because He loves them.	God provided a plan for salvation because He loves me.	God had a plan for salvation before the beginning of time.
God cares about us.	God sent Jesus because He cares about us.	God sent His only Son, Jesus, because He cares about us.	God sent His only Son, Jesus, to be the one and only Savior of the world.	Salvation is the gift of eternal life in heaven with God. Through salvation, God adopts us as His children.	Jesus willingly died to provide salvation. Jesus' death and resurrection make salvation possible.
	People sometimes make wrong choices.	People sometimes choose to disobey God.	Sin is choosing my way instead of God's way.	The punishment for sin is separation from God.	The punishment for sin is eternal death and hell.
			Jesus took the punishment for people's sins.	Jesus died to pay the penalty for my sins.	People cannot save themselves. Jesus died to pay the penalty for my sins, redeeming and rescuing me from sin and death.
			God will forgive me if I ask Him.	God's salvation is a gift that every person needs and can receive.	God's salvation is eternal. Nothing can separate Christians from God's love.
			People who trust Jesus as their Savior and Lord are Christians.	When the Holy Spirit convicts me of my sin, I can trust Jesus as my personal Savior.	A growing relationship with Jesus is important and necessary. A Christian experiences joy when he recognizes God is at work in his life and in the lives of others.



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