

Celebrate Easter Devotions

By Meredith Curtis

MEREDITH CURTIS

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Table of Contents

Palm Sunday Eve: Jesus Anointed at Bethany	7
Scripture	7
For Discussion	8
Driving it Home	8
Prayer Focus	8
Worship	8
Family Fun	9
Palm Sunday: The Triumphal Entry!	9
For Discussion	11
Bible Prophecy Fulfilled	11
Driving it Home	12
Prayer Focus	12
Worship	12
Family Fun	12
Holy Monday: Cleansing the Temple	13
For Discussion	14
Bible Prophecy Fulfilled	14
Driving it Home	14
Prayer Focus	14
Worship	14
Family Fun	14
Holy Tuesday: The Plot to Kill Jesus	15
For Discussion	16
Bible Prophecy Fulfilled	16
Driving it Home	16
Prayer Focus	16
Worship	16
Family Fun	16
Holy Wednesday: The Passover Feast/Last Supper	18
For Discussion	23
Driving it Home	23
Prayer Focus	23
Worship	23
Family Fun	24
Maundy Thursday: In the Garden of Gethsemane/Jesus Betrayed/Jesus Arrested	26
For Discussion	32
Bible Prophecy Fulfilled	32
Driving it Home	33

MEREDITH CURTIS

Prayer Focus 33
Worship 33
Family Fun 33
Good Friday: Jesus’ Trial, Torture & Death/Peter’s Denial & Judas’ Suicide 34
 For Discussion 44
 Bible Prophecy Fulfilled 44
 Driving it Home 45
 Prayer Focus 45
 Worship 45
 Family Fun 45
Easter Eve: Supernatural Events as Jesus Dies/Christ’s Burial 47
 For Discussion 50
 Bible Prophecy Fulfilled 50
 Driving it Home 50
 Prayer Focus 50
 Worship 50
 Family Fun 50
Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! 51
 For Discussion 53
 Bible Prophecy Fulfilled 53
 Driving it Home 53
 Prayer Focus 54
 Worship 54
 Family Fun 54
Easter Monday: Jesus Appears to His Disciples! 55
 For Discussion 56
 Driving it Home 56
 Prayer Focus 56
 Worship 56
 Family Fun 57
Easter Tuesday: The Road to Emmaus! 57
 For Discussion 58
 Driving it Home 58
 Prayer Focus 58
 Worship 58
 Family Fun 58
Easter Wednesday: Jesus Reinstates Peter! 59
 For Discussion 60
 Bible Prophecy Fulfilled 60
 Driving it Home 60
 Prayer Focus 60
 Worship 60

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

Family Fun	61
Easter Thursday: The Great Commission I.....	61
For Discussion	61
Driving it Home	62
Prayer Focus	62
Worship	62
Family Fun	62
Easter Friday: The Great Commission II.....	63
For Discussion	63
Bible Prophecy Fulfilled	64
Driving it Home	64
Worship	64
Family Fun	64
Easter Saturday: The Ascension!.....	65
For Discussion	65
Bible Prophecy Fulfilled	65
Driving it Home	66
Prayer Focus	66
Worship	66
Family Fun	66
Sunday After Easter: The Power of the Resurrection!.....	67
For Discussion	70
Driving it Home	70
Prayer Focus	70
Worship	70
Family Fun	70
Ladies' Bible Study Workbooks!.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Homeschooling Books	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Unit Studies!.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Celebrate! Series	Error! Bookmark not defined.
God's Girls Workbooks!.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

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Palm Sunday Eve: Jesus Anointed at Bethany

Scripture

Matthew 26:6-13 (New International Version)

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*6*While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, *7*a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

*8*When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. *9*"This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor."

*10*Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. *11*The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. *12*When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. *13*I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

Mark 14:3-9 (New International Version)

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*3*While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

*4*Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? *5*It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.

6"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. *7*The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. *8*She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. *9*I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

John 12:1-9 (New International Version)

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1Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5"Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages," 6He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

7"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. 8You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

9Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.

For Discussion

What did Mary do to honor Jesus at this dinner?

Why did Jesus consider it a "beautiful thing?"

Why did Judas pretend to care about the poor? What would he have done with the sale of the perfume?

What is the place of extravagance in worship?

How can we be extravagant in our personal and corporate worship?

Driving it Home

Gather perfumed lotions from the corners of the house. Every family member gets a luxurious foot rub. What is special about receiving a foot rub? What is awkward about giving one, especially to someone you don't know very well?

Or look at pictures of extravagance in worship: cathedrals, art work, banners, dances, and ceremonies created to honor Jesus

Prayer Focus

Thank God for every blessing you can think of. (Enter His gate with thanksgiving!)

Thank God for WHO He is (Savior, Redeemer, Provider, Everlasting Father)

Worship

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

How Great Thou Art (words ©1885 Carl Gustav Boberg, music Swedish Folk Song)

Revelation Song (© 2008 Jennie Lee Riddle),

Family Fun

Decorate the house for Easter! Talk about the different Easter symbols.

Palm Sunday: The Triumphal Entry!

Matthew 21:1-11 (New International Version)

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1As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

4This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

*5"Say to the Daughter of Zion,
'See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'* "

6The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. 7They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. 8A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest!"

10When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

11The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Mark 11:1-11 (New International Version)

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1As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, 2saying to them, "Go to the

village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 3If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.' "

4They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, 5some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" 6They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. 7When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. 8Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. 9Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

10"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"

"Hosanna in the highest!"

11Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

Luke 19:28-44 (New International Version)

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28After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 30"Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.' "

32Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. 33As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

34They replied, "The Lord needs it."

35They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it.

36As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

37When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

38"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

39Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

40"I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

41As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. 43The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. 44They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

John 12:12-19 (New International Version)

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12The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!" 14Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written,

15"Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

16At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.

17Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. 18Many people, because they had heard that he had given this miraculous sign, went out to meet him. 19So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

For Discussion

What does Jesus ride into Jerusalem?

Why do you think riding a donkey is so important?

How do the crowds worship Jesus? What do they say? What do they do?

What does it mean to "come in the Name of the Lord?"

Hosanna is a cry of praise and adoration that literally means "Help!" or "Please save!" Why are the people crying out, "Hosanna!"?

Bible Prophecy Fulfilled

- Triumphal Entry
Psalm 8:2 / Matthew 21:15-16
Zechariah 9:9a/ Matthew 21:8-10
Zechariah 9:9b / John 12:12-13
Zechariah 9:9f / Matthew 21:6-9

Driving it Home

Enjoy a family parade around the house or neighborhood. You might want to invite another family to join you.

Or dress up and act out the triumphal entry as a family. We loved using towels as head coverings!

Prayer Focus

Pray for help! In what area of your lives do you need God's help? Turn your cries of help into worship!

Worship

All Glory, Laud, & Honor (© 820 Theodulph of Orleans)
Hosanna (© 2008 Brooke Fraser/Hillsong),

Family Fun

Watch a movie about the life of Jesus Christ such as *The Gospel of John*, *The Greatest Story ever Told*, *Jesus of Nazareth*, or *The Miracle Maker*

Holy Monday: Cleansing the Temple

Matthew 21:12-17 (New International Version)

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12 Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. *13* "It is written," he said to them, " 'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers.' "

14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. *15* But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.

16 "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, " 'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise'?"

17 And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

Mark 11:15-19 (New International Version)

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15 On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, *16* and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. *17* And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written:

" 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.' "

18 The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

19 When evening came, they went out of the city.

Luke 19:45-48 (New International Version)

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*45*Then he entered the temple area and began driving out those who were selling. *46*"It is written," he said to them, " 'My house will be a house of prayer'; but you have made it 'a den of robbers.'"

*47*Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. *48*Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

For Discussion

Why was Jesus angry?

Why were the chief priests, teachers of the law and other Jewish leaders angry?

Who had righteous anger?

What things exist in the church of the twenty-first century that grieve the heart of God?

Bible Prophecy Fulfilled

- Cleansing of the Temple
Psalm 69:9 / Matthew 21:12-17

Driving it Home

Pull out the refrigerator, stove, washing machine and dryer. Clean behind them together as a family. Why is there so much dirt and muck back there? How is this cleaning project similar to what Jesus had to do?

Prayer Focus

Pray for purity in your personal life, family, local church, and entire church in the world.

Worship

A Mighty Fortress is our God (©1529 Martin Luther)

Agnus Dei (©1990 Michael W. Smith)

Family Fun

Color Easter Eggs together and decorate.

Holy Tuesday: The Plot to Kill Jesus

Matthew 26:3-5 (New International Version)

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3Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, 4and they plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him. 5"But not during the Feast," they said, "or there may be a riot among the people."

Mark 14:1-2 & 10-11 (New International Version)

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1Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill him. 2"But not during the Feast," they said, "or the people may riot."

10Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. 11They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

Luke 22:1-2 (New International Version)

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1Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, 2and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people.

John 11:45-57 (New International Version)

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45Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. 46But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. 47Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.

"What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many miraculous signs. 48If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."

*49*Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! *50*You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish."

*51*He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, *52*and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. *53*So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

*54*Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the Jews. Instead he withdrew to a region near the desert, to a village called Ephraim, where he stayed with his disciples.

*55*When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover.

*56*They kept looking for Jesus, and as they stood in the temple area they asked one another, "What do you think? Isn't he coming to the Feast at all?" *57*But the chief priests and Pharisees had given orders that if anyone found out where Jesus was, he should report it so that they might arrest him.

For Discussion

What plot were the Jewish leaders hatching?
What problem did they have with their plot?
How did Judas help the plot?

Bible Prophecy Fulfilled

- Betrayed by a Friend
Psalm 41:9 / John 13:18, 21

Driving it Home

Make a "plot" of some kind as a family. It might be to trick another family into joining you for dinner. Or send someone on a treasure hunt with several clues that are hard to find.

Prayer Focus

Pray against the schemes of satan in our world today: evolution, sexual immorality, atheism, and liberal theology.

Worship

Fairest Lord Jesus (words Munster Gesangbuch, music Schlesische Volkslieder)
No Sweeter Name (©2009 Kari Jobe)

Family Fun

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

Enjoy the Treasure Hunt or having another family over for dinner.

Holy Wednesday: The Passover Feast/Last Supper

Exodus 12:1-36 (New International Version)

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1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 2 "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. 3 Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. 4 If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. 5 The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. 6 Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. 7 Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. 8 That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. 9 Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire—head, legs and inner parts. 10 Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. 11 This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.

12 "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

14 "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance. 15 For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. 16 On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat—that is all you may do.

17 "Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. 18 In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. 19 For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And whoever eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

the community of Israel, whether he is an alien or native-born. 20 Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread."

21 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. 22 Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning. 23 When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

24 "Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. 25 When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. 26 And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' 27 then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.' " Then the people bowed down and worshiped. 28 The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron.

29 At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. 30 Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

31 During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested. 32 Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me."

33 The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!" 34 So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. 35 The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. 36 The LORD had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.

Matthew 26:17-29 (New International Version)

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17 On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

18 He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my

disciples at your house.' " 19So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

20When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. 21And while they were eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me."

22They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely not I, Lord?"

23Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

25Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you."

26While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

27Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

Mark 14:12-31 (New International Version)

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12On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

13So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. 14Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' 15He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

16The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

17When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. 18While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."

19They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely not I?"

20"It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. 21The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

22While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

23 Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it.

24 "This is my blood of the ^[a] covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. *25* "I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God."

26 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.
Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

27 "You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written:

"I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered. ^[b] *28* But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

29 Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not."

30 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice ^[c] you yourself will disown me three times."

31 But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same.

John 13 (New International Version)

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1 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. ^[a]

2 The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. *3* Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; *4* so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. *5* After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

10 Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." *11* For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.

13"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. *14*Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. *15*I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. *16*I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. *17*Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Jesus Predicts His Betrayal

18"I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the scripture: 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.' ^[b]

19"I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He. *20*I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

*21*After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me."

*22*His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. *23*One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. *24*Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."

*25*Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

*26*Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. *27*As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

"What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him, *28*but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. *29*Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor. *30*As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

*31*When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. *32*If God is glorified in him,^[c] God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

33"My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

34"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. *35*By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

*36*Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?"

Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

*37*Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."

*38*Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (New International Version)

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*23*For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, *24*and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." *25*In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

For Discussion

Who celebrated the Passover together?

What preparations were made?

Jesus did the job that the lowest servant would do by washing their feet. Then He gave a new commandment to love one another as He loves us. How are these 2 things related?

How can you wash feet?

How is communion a memorial to the Lord?

How does communion help us to remember Jesus' Death & Resurrection?

Driving it Home

Read about the Passover Feast and how it is fulfilled by Jesus. See the section in Celebrate Easter that explains the Passover and celebrate a Christian Seder Meal.

Celebrate Communion: Bread representing the Body and Wine representing the Blood of Jesus.

Get feet really dirty by playing outside; then wash one another's feet. Yuck!

Prayer Focus

Pray for a greater heart to serve others.

Worship

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (© 5th Century)

Jesus Messiah (©2008 Daniel Carson, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves)

Passion (©2004 Meredith Curtis)

How Beautiful (© 1990 Twila Paris)

Let Us Break Bread Together (traditional spiritual)

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (© 5th Century)

Family Fun

Make Holy Week Eggs. You will need 12 empty plastic eggs. Number them 1-12. Inside each egg will go a Bible verse and an object to represent part of the precious Easter story. The eggs can be stored in a strawberry basket with a pipe cleaner handle.

Egg 1: 2 Dimes Matthew 26:14-15, "Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, 'What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?' So they counted out for him thirty silver coins."

Egg 2: Communion Cup Matthew 26:39, "Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.'"

Egg 3: Twine with Knots or Small Piece of Rope Matthew 27:1-2, "Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor."

Egg 4: Soap Matthew 27:24, "When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. 'I am innocent of this man's blood,' he said. 'It is your responsibility!'"

Egg 5: Twigs or Grapevine Matthew 27:28-30, "They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. 'Hail, king of the Jews!' they said."

Egg 6: Nails Acts 2:23, "This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross."

Egg 7: Dice Matthew 27:35, "When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots."

Egg 8: Piece of "ponge" Matthew 27:46-48, "About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?'—which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of those standing there heard this, they said, 'He's calling Elijah.' Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink."

Egg 9: Piece of White Material Matthew 27:58-60, "Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock."

Egg 10: Spices John 19:40, "Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs."

Egg 11: A Stone Matthew 27:65-66, "'Take a guard,' Pilate answered. 'Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.' So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard."

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

Egg 12: Empty! Matthew 28:6, "He is not here; He has Risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay."

Maundy Thursday: In the Garden of Gethsemane/ Jesus Betrayed/ Jesus Arrested

Matthew 26:36-56 (New International Version)

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*36*Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." *37*He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

*38*Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

*39*Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

*40*Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. *41*"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

*42*He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

*43*When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. *44*So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

*45*Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. *46*Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Jesus Arrested

*47*While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. *48*Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." *49*Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

*50*Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for."^[d]

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. *51*With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

52"Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. *53*Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? *54*But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

*55*At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple

courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. 56But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Mark 14:26-52 (New International Version)

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*26When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.
Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial*

27" You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written:

" I will strike the shepherd,

and the sheep will be scattered. ^[a] 28But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

29Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not."

30" I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice ^[b] you yourself will disown me three times."

31But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same.

Gethsemane

32They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. 34" My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

35Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. 36" Abba, ^[c] Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

37Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? 38Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

39Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. 40When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

41Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Jesus Arrested

43Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

44Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." 45Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. 46The men seized Jesus and arrested him.

*47*Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

48"Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? *49*Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." *50*Then everyone deserted him and fled.

*51*A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, *52*he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

Luke 22:39-54 (New International Version)

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*39*Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. *40*On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." *41*He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, *42*"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." *43*An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. *44*And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.^[a]

*45*When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. *46*"Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

Jesus Arrested

*47*While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, *48*but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

*49*When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" *50*And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

*51*But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

*52*Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? *53*Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns."

Peter Disowns Jesus

*54*Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance.

John 15-18:14 (New International Version)

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John 15

1"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. *2*He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. *3*You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. *4*Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. *6*If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. *7*If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. *8*This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. *10*If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. *11*I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. *12*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. *13*Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. *14*You are my friends if you do what I command. *15*I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. *16*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. *17*This is my command: Love each other.

18"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. *19*If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. *20*Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.'^[b] If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. *21*They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. *22*If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. *23*He who hates me hates my Father as well. *24*If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. *25*But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'^[c]

26"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. *27*And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

John 16

1"All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. *2*They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. *3*They will do such things because they have not

known the Father or me. **4**I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you.

5"Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' **6**Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. **7**But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. **8**When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt^{ed} in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: **9**in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; **10**in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; **11**and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

12"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. **13**But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. **14**He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. **15**All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

16"In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

17Some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father?'" **18**They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."

19Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'? **20**I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. **21**A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. **22**So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

23In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. **24**Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

25"Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. **26**In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. **27**No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. **28**I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

29Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. **30**Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

31"You believe at last!"^e Jesus answered. *32*"But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

33"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 17

*1*After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. *2*For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. *3*Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. *4*I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. *5*And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

6"I have revealed you"^f to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. *7*Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. *8*For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. *9*I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. *10*All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. *11*I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. *12*While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. *13*"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. *14*I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. *15*My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. *16*They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. *17*Sanctify"^g them by the truth; your word is truth. *18*As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. *19*For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Jesus Prays for All Believers

20"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, *21*that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. *22*I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: *23*I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. *24*"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. *25*"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. *26*I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in

order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

John 18

1When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove, and he and his disciples went into it.

2Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. 3So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

4Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

5"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)

6When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

7Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?"

And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

8"I told you that I am he," Jesus answered. "If you are looking for me, then let these men go." 9This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."^[b]

10Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

11Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

Jesus Taken to Annas

12Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him 13and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. 14Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people.

For Discussion

Why was it so hard for the disciples to stay awake?

How did the John, James, and Peter fail Jesus as a friend?

Why was Judas betrayal of Jesus with a kiss so significant?

Have you ever been betrayed? How did it feel?

How did Jesus behave through this entire ordeal?

What did Jesus focus on through his prayer, betrayal, and arrest?

Bible Prophecy Fulfilled

- Messiah Betrayed

Psalm 41:9 / Mark 14:17-18

Zechariah 11:12-13a / Matthew 26:14-15

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

- Messiah Abandoned
Psalm 22:11 / Mark 14:50
Psalm 69:20b / Mark 14:33-41

Driving it Home

Try to stay up and pray as late as you can. Who stayed awake the longest?

Prayer Focus

Pray for God to bless the people who have hurt you in the past.

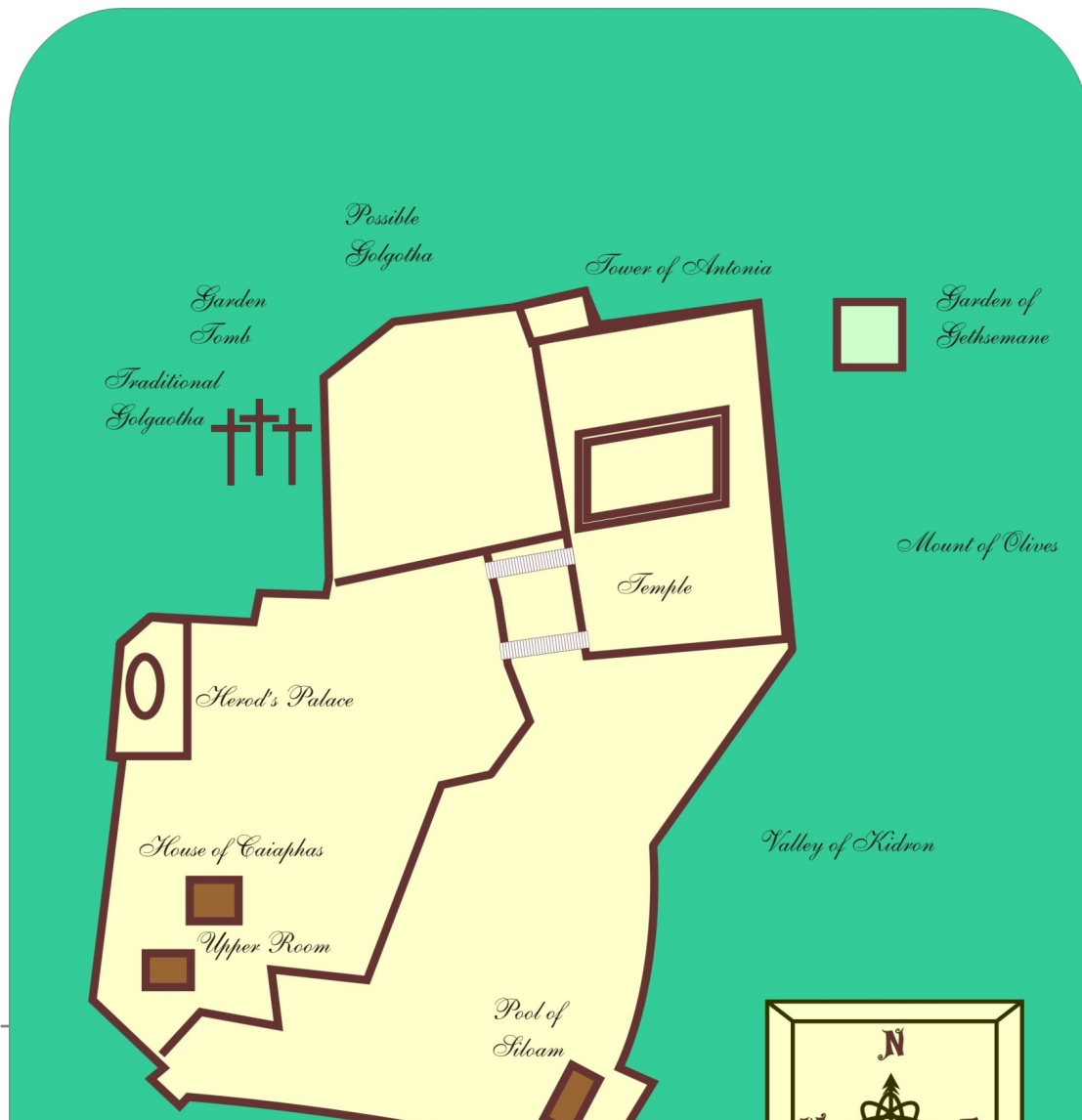
Worship

In the Garden (©1912 C. Austin Miles)

Who is Like Our God (© John Cooper)

Family Fun

Fill out a map of Jerusalem showing where Jesus spent the last week of His life.



Good Friday: Jesus' Trial, Torture & Death/Peter's Denial & Judas' Suicide

Matthew 26:57-27:50 (New International Version)

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57 Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. *58* But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

59 The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. *60* But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.

Finally two came forward *61* and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.' "

62 Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" *63* But Jesus remained silent.

The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ,^[a] the Son of God."

64 "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

65 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. *66* What do you think?"

"He is worthy of death," they answered.

67 Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him *68* and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?"

Peter Disowns Jesus

69 Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.

70 But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

71 Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

72 He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

73 After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away."

74 Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

Immediately a rooster crowed. 75Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Matthew 27

Judas Hangs Himself

1Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. 2They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

3When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. 4"I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood."

"What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility."

5So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

6The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." 7So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. 8That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 9Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel, 10and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."^[b]

Jesus Before Pilate

11Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

12When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. 13Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" 14But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

15Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. 16At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. 17So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" 18For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

19While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

20But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

21"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.

"Barabbas," they answered.

22"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "Crucify him!"

23"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

*24*When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

*25*All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

*26*Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

*27*Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. *28*They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, *29*and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. *30*They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. *31*After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

*32*As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. *33*They came to a place called Golgotha (which means *The Place of the Skull*). *34*There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. *35*When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots.^[c] *36*And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. *37*Above his head they placed the written charge against him: *THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS*. *38*Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. *39*Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads *40*and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"

*41*In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. *42*"He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. *43*He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.' " *44*In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

The Death of Jesus

*45*From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land.

*46*About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi,^[d] lama sabachthani?"—which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"^[e]

*47*When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

*48*Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. *49*The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

*50*And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

Mark 14:53-15:37 (New International Version)

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53 They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together. *54* Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

55 The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. *56* Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

57 Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: *58* "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.' " *59* Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

60 Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" *61* But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ,^[a] the Son of the Blessed One?"

62 "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

63 The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. *64* "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

They all condemned him as worthy of death. *65* Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him.

66 While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. *67* When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

"You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said.

68 But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway.^[b]

69 When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them." *70* Again he denied it.

After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean."

71 He began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about."

72 Immediately the rooster crowed the second time.^[c] Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice^[d] you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.

Mark 15

*1*Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

2"Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate.

"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

*3*The chief priests accused him of many things. *4*So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of."

*5*But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

*6*Now it was the custom at the Feast to release a prisoner whom the people requested. *7*A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. *8*The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

9"Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, *10*knowing it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. *11*But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

12"What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them.

13"Crucify him!" they shouted.

14"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

*15*Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

*16*The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. *17*They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. *18*And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" *19*Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. *20*And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

*21*A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. *22*They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). *23*Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. *24*And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

*25*It was the third hour when they crucified him. *26*The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS. *27*They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.^[e] *29*Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, *30*come down from the cross and save yourself!"

*31*In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself!

*32*Let this Christ,^[f] this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

33At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.

34And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"—which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"^[g]

35When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

36One man ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

37With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

Luke 22:54-23:46 (New International Version)

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54Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. 55But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them.

56A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."

57But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.

58A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them."

"Man, I am not!" Peter replied.

59About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."

60Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. 61The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." 62And he went outside and wept bitterly.

The Guards Mock Jesus

63The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. 64They blindfolded him and demanded, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" 65And they said many other insulting things to him.

Jesus Before Pilate and Herod

66At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. 67"If you are the Christ,^[a]" they said, "tell us."

Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, 68and if I asked you, you would not answer. 69But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God."

70They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?"

He replied, "You are right in saying I am."

71Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips."

Luke 23

1Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. 2And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ,^[b] a king."

3So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

4Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man."

5But they insisted, "He stirs up the people all over Judea^[c] by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here."

6On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. 7When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

8When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. 9He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. 10The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. 11Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. 12That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

13Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, 14and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. 15Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. 16Therefore, I will punish him and then release him."^[d]

18With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" 19(Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

20Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. 21But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

22For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him."

23But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. 24So Pilate decided to grant their demand. 25He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

26As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

27A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. 28Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. 29For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' 30Then

" 'they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!"

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

and to the hills, "Cover us!" ^[e] 31For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

32Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed.

33When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. 34Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." ^[f] And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

35The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."

36The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar

37and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

38There was a written notice above him, which read: /sc THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

40But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? 41We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

42Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ^[g]

43Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Jesus' Death

44It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, 45for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

John 18:12-19:30 (New International Version)

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12Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him 13and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. 14Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people.

Peter's First Denial

15Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, 16but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

17"You are not one of his disciples, are you?" the girl at the door asked Peter. He replied, "I am not."

*18*It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

The High Priest Questions Jesus

*19*Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

20"I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. *21*Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said."

*22*When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded.

23"If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" *24*Then Annas sent him, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.^[a]

Peter's Second and Third Denials

*25*As Simon Peter stood warming himself, he was asked, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?"

He denied it, saying, "I am not."

*26*One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?" *27*Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

Jesus Before Pilate

*28*Then the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. *29*So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

30"If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

*31*Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

"But we have no right to execute anyone," the Jews objected. *32*This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.

*33*Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

34"Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

35"Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

*36*Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

37"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

38"What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. *39*But it is your custom for me to

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?"

40They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in a rebellion.

John 19

1Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. 2The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe 3and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they struck him in the face.

4Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." 5When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

6As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!"

But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him."

7The Jews insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."

8When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, 9and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. 10"Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

11Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

12From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."

13When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha).

14It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour.

"Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.

15But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!"

"Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked.

"We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

16Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

The Crucifixion

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. 17Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). 18Here they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

19Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: /sc JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. 20Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. 21The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate,

"Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

22 Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

23 When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

24 "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it."

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said,

"They divided my garments among them

and cast lots for my clothing."^[b] So this is what the soldiers did.

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," 27 and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

28 Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. 30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

For Discussion

Summarize the entire story....there is a ton of reading today.

Name all the things that Jesus endured as part of the punishment you deserve.

What does His betrayal, arrest, beating, mocking, agony, and death show us about the holiness of God?

Bible Prophecy Fulfilled

- The Messiah Rejected

Isaiah 6:9-10a / John 12:37-40

Isaiah 49:4a / Luke 19:41-42

Isaiah 53:3b / Matthew 27:21-23

Isaiah 49:4b / John 5:43

Psalms 69:8a / John 1:11

Zechariah 11:12-13b / Matthew 26:14-15

- Messiah Judged

Psalms 109:2 / John 18:29-30

Isaiah 53:8b / John 18:13-22

Isaiah 53:7b / Matthew 27:12-14

Isaiah 53:9b / Mark 15:3

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

- Place of Crucifixion
Genesis 22:14 / Luke 23:33
Isaiah 53:12c / Luke 23:32
- Events during Crucifixion
Psalm 22:16c / Matthew 27:38
Psalm 109:4 / Luke 23:34
Psalm 69:20-21a / Matthew 27:34
Psalm 22:18a / John 19:23-24
Psalm 22:18b / John 19:23-24
- Mocked by People
Psalm 22:17b / Luke 23:35
Psalm 22:7 / Matthew 27:39
Psalm 109:25 / Mark 15:29-30
Psalm 22:8 / Matthew 27:41-43
- On the Cross
Psalm 22:14b / Matthew 27:35
Psalm 22:1a / Matthew 27:46
Psalm 22:1b / Mark 15:34
Psalm 22:15a / John 19:28
- Messiah's Death
Zechariah 13:7b / Matthew 27:35
Psalm 22:17a / John 19:32-33
Zechariah 12:10a / John 19:34-37
Psalm 22:14a / John 19:34

Driving it Home

Have your devotion time at 3 pm, the time that the Bible says Jesus was died. Everybody writes down their sins on pieces of paper. Papers are nailed to a wooden cross.

Prayer Focus

Pray for forgiveness for the sins in your life. Thank the Lord for dying for your sins.

Worship

O Sacred Head Now Wounded (© 1153 Bernard of Clairvaux)
Were You There? (Traditional Spiritual)
The Old Rugged Cross (© 19th Century George Bernard)
Fall Down and Worship (© 2006 Meredith Curtis)
Here I am To Worship (© 1999 Tim Hughes)
Via Delarosa (© Billy Sprague & Niles Borop)

Family Fun

MEREDITH CURTIS

Attend a “Station’s of the Cross” service at a nearby church or create your own (see *Stations of the Cross at Home* chapter).

Make and eat hot cross buns. The cross atop the bun symbolizes the cross of Jesus. Legend tells us that a monk during the twelfth century decorated the top of the monastery’s buns with crosses to celebrate Good Friday. (See recipe section).

Roman Catholics have traditionally abstained from meat on Fridays during Lent, resulting in fish being a traditional Good Friday menu choice.

Easter Eve: Supernatural Events as Jesus Dies/Christ's Burial

Matthew 27:45, 51-66 (New International Version)

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*45*From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land
*51*At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to
bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. *52*The tombs broke open and the
bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. *53*They came out
of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and
appeared to many people.

*54*When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the
earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed,
"Surely he was the Son^{of} of God!"

*55*Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus
from Galilee to care for his needs. *56*Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary
the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

The Burial of Jesus

*57*As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named
Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. *58*Going to Pilate, he asked
for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. *59*Joseph took the
body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, *60*and placed it in his own new tomb
that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to
the tomb and went away. *61*Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting
there opposite the tomb.

The Guard at the Tomb

*62*The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the
Pharisees went to Pilate. *63*"Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was
still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' *64*So give the
order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his
disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been
raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

65"Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know
how." *66*So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone
and posting the guard.

Mark 15:33, 38-47 (New International Version)

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*33*At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.

*38*The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. *39*And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and^[a] saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son^[b] of God!"

*40*Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.

*41*In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

The Burial of Jesus

*42*It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, *43*Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. *44*Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead.

Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. *45*When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. *46*So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. *47*Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

Footnotes:

Luke 23:44-56 (New International Version)

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*44*It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, *45*for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. *46*Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

*47*The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." *48*When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. *49*But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Jesus' Burial

*50*Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, *51*who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. *52*Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. *53*Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. *54*It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

*55*The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. *56*Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

John 19:25-42 (New International Version)

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*25*Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. *26*When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," *27*and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

*28*Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." *29*A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. *30*When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

*31*Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. *32*The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. *33*But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. *34*Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. *35*The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. *36*These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken,"^[a] *37*and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."^[b]

*38*Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. *39*He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.^[c] *40*Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. *41*At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. *42*Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

For Discussion

Describe Jesus' death?

Who was with Him?

Why do you think Joseph buried Jesus' body?

What would you have thought about everything if you were a bystander?

Bible Prophecy Fulfilled

Buried in a Rich Man's Grave

Isaiah 53:9/Matthew 27:57-60

Isaiah 53:9/Mark 15:42-46

Isaiah 53:9/Luke 23:50-53

Isaiah 53:9/John 19:38-42

Driving it Home

Here are the Seven "Last Words" or Phrases of Jesus

1. "Father, forgive them" (Luke 23:34)
2. "This day you will be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43)
3. "Woman, behold your son" (John 19:26-27)
4. "My God, My God, why have You forsake Me?" (Mark 15:34)
5. "I thirst" (John 19:28)
6. "It is finished" (John 19:30)
7. "Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit" (Luke 23: 46)

Each person write down their last seven phrases and share them with one another. What would you want to communicate and take care of before you die?

Prayer Focus

Pray for things that need to be put to death—goals, dreams, and strongholds that don't honor the Lord.

Worship

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (©1707 Isaac Watts)

This is Our God (© 2008 Reuben Morgan)

Above All (© 2002 Lenny LeBlanc, Paul Baloche)

How Deep the Father's Love for Us (© 1995 Stuart Townsend),

Lead Me to the Cross (© 2007 Brooke Fraiser)

You are my King, Amazing Love (© 1997 Billy Foote)

There is a Redeemer (© 1982 Melody Green)

Family Fun

Make preparations for tomorrow's Resurrection Service & Feast

Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Matthew 28:1-15 (New International Version)

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1After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3His appearance was like lightening, and his clothes were white as snow. 4The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

8So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

11While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. 12When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, 13telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' 14If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." 15So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

Mark 16:1-8 (New International Version)

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1When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. 2Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the

tomb 3and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

4But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. 5As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

6"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. 7But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.' " 8Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Luke 24:1-12 (New International Version)

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1On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " 8Then they remembered his words.

9When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. 10It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. 11But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. 12Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

John 20:1-18 (New International Version)

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1Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. 2So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

3So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5He bent over and

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. 8Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

10Then the disciples went back to their homes, 11but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

13They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." 14At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

16Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

17Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' "

18Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

For Discussion

Who saw the risen Lord first?

Why did Jesus appear to them first?

Why did John and Peter run to the tomb?

How did Jesus show His disciples that He had risen from the dead?

Bible Prophecy Fulfilled

- Resurrection of the Messiah
Psalm 16:8-10b / Acts 13:35-37
Psalm 16:8-10a / Matthew 28:6
Isaiah 53:10c / Mark 16:16
- Victory Over Death
Isaiah 25:8 / Hebrews 2:14
Isaiah 25:8 / John 19:30

Driving it Home

Hand everybody an empty egg. Have them go outside and find something to put into the egg that represents new life. You might find a flower or a budding twig. A small rock might represent the rock that was rolled away. This is fun when everyone shares what they chose and why.

Prayer Focus

Thank the Lord for conquering death and rising from the dead! Thank the Lord for His Resurrection Power in your life!

Worship

Christ the Lord is Risen Today (©1731 Charles Wesley)

Christ is Risen (©2009 Matt Maher & Mia Fieldes)

My Redeemer Lives (©1998 Reuben Morgan)

Because He Lives (©1974 Bill & Gloria Gaither), *Alive Again* (© 2009 Matt Maher)

For All He's Done (©2004 Reuben Morgan),

In Christ Alone (© 2002 Stuart Townsend)

Jesus is Alive (© 1991 Ron Kenoly)

On the Third Day (©2006 Matt Maher & Marc Byrd)

Welcome Happy Morning (© 6th Century Venantius Fortunatus, translated 19th century John Ellerton)

Come Ye Faithful Raise the Strain (words ©8th Century John of Damascene, music ©1872 Arthur Seymour Sullivan)

Jesus Christ is Risen Today (14th Century Bohemian Latin carol)

The Easter Song (©1974 Annie Herring)

Family Fun

Have a family feast with all kinds of yummy food.

Act out the Resurrection of Jesus. Have the children dress up in bathrobes and towels.

Easter Monday: Jesus Appears to His Disciples!

Mark 16:9-14 (New International Version)

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9When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. 10She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. 11When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

12Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. 13These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.

Luke 24:36-44 (New International Version)

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36While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

37They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

40When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" 42They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43and he took it and ate it in their presence.

44He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

John 20:19-31 (New International Version)

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19On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

24 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

30 Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may^{believe} believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

For Discussion

Why didn't Jesus call FOX News or CNN to make a very splashy, public display of His Resurrection?

Name all the people Jesus appeared to.

What did Jesus say and do?

How do you think His disciples felt when they saw Him again.

Driving it Home

Discuss a friend or family member that has already died. Imagine that they came back to life. What would you want to ask them? What would you do with them? Remember that people who had died came to life when Jesus died. It was an exciting time to be alive!

Prayer Focus

Pray for Christian friends to experience the Resurrection Power of Jesus Christ.

Worship

Rock of Ages (©1763 Rev. Augustus Montague Toplady)

Worship Belongs to Jesus Alone (©2005 Meredith Curtis)

God of Ages (©2007 Ben Fielding/Hillsong)

You Lifted Me Out (©2008 Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman, Louie Giglio, Jesse Reeves, & Matt Gilder)

Family Fun

Make Resurrection Cookies

Easter Tuesday: The Road to Emmaus!

Luke 24:13-35 (New International Version)

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*13*Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. *14*They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. *15*As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; *16*but they were kept from recognizing him.

*17*He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. *18*One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

19"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. *20*The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; *21*but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. *22*In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning *23*but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. *24*Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

*25*He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! *26*Did not the Christ^[b] have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" *27*And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

*28*As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. *29*But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

*30*When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. *31*Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. *32*They asked each other,

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

*33*They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together *34*and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." *35*Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

For Discussion

Who was traveling on the Road to Emmaus?

Why didn't Jesus reveal Himself right Away?

How do you think the disciples felt after Jesus had left them?

Has God ever revealed things to you and you just didn't get it for awhile? Share some of those things with one another.

Driving it Home

Take a walk with one another and show each other something using Scripture only, not your opinion or experience.

Prayer Focus

Pray for college students to understand the truth and be able to discern error in the classroom.

Worship

Crown Him with Many Crowns (words ©1852 Matthew Bridges & ©1874

Godfrey Thring, music ©1868 George Elvey

Mighty to Save (©2006 Ben Fielding & Reuben Morgan/Hillsong)

Family Fun

Do something with all the colored hard-boiled eggs from last week. Make egg salad or invent a new dish.

Easter Wednesday: Jesus Reinstates Peter!

John 21 (New International Version)

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*1*Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias.^[a] It happened this way: *2*Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. *3*"I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

*4*Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

*5*He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

*6*He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

*7*Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. *8*The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.^[b] *9*When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

*10*Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."

*11*Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. *12*Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. *13*Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. *14*This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

*15*When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

*16*Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. *18* I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you

will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." 19Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

20Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") 21When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"

22Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." 23Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?"

24This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

25Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

For Discussion

How would you feel if you were Peter, after denying Jesus?
How does Jesus treat Peter?
How does He restore him to ministry?

Bible Prophecy Fulfilled

Peter Turn Away/Come Back & Strengthen Brothers
Luke 22:31-34/John 21:15-21

Driving it Home

Act out 3 parts of this song together: Jesus predicts Peter's denial, Peter denies Jesus, and Jesus reinstates Peter).

Prayer Focus

Pray for broken relationships.

Worship

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (words ©1907 Henry van Dyke, music © Beethoven)

Here in My Life (©2007 Mia Fieldes)

Family Fun

Jesus made breakfast for his disciples—sounds like grilling to me. Why don't you grill something yummy for dinner?

Easter Thursday: The Great Commission I

Matthew 28:16-20 (New International Version)

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*16*Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. *17*When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. *18*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. *19*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^a the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, *20*and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Mark 16:14-20 (New International Version)

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*14*Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

*15*He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. *16*Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. *17*And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; *18*they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

*19*After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. *20*Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

For Discussion

What is the "Great Commission?"

Who has the needed authority to get this job done? Is He with us?

How long will it take for the "Great Commission" to be accomplished?

What three things are involved in making disciples?

Driving it Home

Take a piece of paper and write "Make Disciples" on it. Turn it over and fold it in thirds, making three columns.

At the top of one column write, "Go!," at the top of another column write "Baptize," and at the top of the third column write "Teach everything."

List ways your family can fulfill these three different aspects of making disciples. When you are finished, cut out pictures for the other side of the paper that represent making disciples.

Prayer Focus

Pray for friends and family who don't know Jesus yet.

Worship

The Church's One Foundation (words ©1866 Samuel John Stone, music © Samuel Sabastian Wesley, grandson of Charles Wesley)

City on a Hill (© John Hall & Matthew West)

She is Beautiful (© 2000 Meredith Curtis)

Family Fun

Have an International Sandwich Buffet followed by an International Make-Your-Own Sundae Feast. See Recipe section!

Invite a family over and greet your guests in a foreign language!

French: *Salut (SA-loo)*

Australian: *G'Day*

Hindi: *Nameste (NAM-es-day)*

Swahili: *Habari (hah-bar-ee)*

Chinese: *Ni hao (knee-how)*

Spanish: *Hola (OH-la)*

Thai: *Sawasdee (saw-wah-dee)*

German: *Guten tag (GOO-ten-tag)*

Japanese: *Konnichi (cone-Nee-chee)*

Easter Friday: The Great Commission II

Luke 24:45-50 (New International Version)

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*45*Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. *46*He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, *47*and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. *48*You are witnesses of these things. *49*I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

*50*When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.

Acts 1:1-11 (New International Version)

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*1*In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach *2*until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. *3*After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. *4*On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. *5*For John baptized with^[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

*6*So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

*7*He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. *8*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

For Discussion

Give the order of the places that the disciples are to spread the Good News to starting with where they are in Jerusalem.
Locate these places on a map.
How far are they going to have to travel?

Bible Prophecy Fulfilled

Many Nations will Be Blessed
Genesis 12:1-3/Acts 1:8
Bring Salvation to the Gentiles
Isaiah 11:10/Matthew 15:32
Isaiah 42:1/Matthew 15:21
Isaiah 49:6/Acts 1:8

Driving it Home

Take out a map of your city, state, country, and the world. Talk about how your family would have to fulfill the Great Commission from your city. What kind of people are “Samaritans” in your city?

Prayer Focus:

Pray for missionaries

Worship

Blessed Assurance (©1873 Fanny Crosby)
Heaven Came Down (©1961 John W. Peterson)
Tell the World (©2007 Jonathon Douglass, Joel Houston, & Marty Sampson)
You're My First Love, Jesus (©2000 Meredith Curtis)

Family Fun

Make Gospel Tracts to print and pass out. You can make them funny or serious, but be sure to include the Gospel.

Easter Saturday: The Ascension!

Mark 16:19-20 (New International Version)

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*19*After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. *20*Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

Luke 24:51-53 (New International Version)

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*51*While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. *52*Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. *53*And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Acts 1:9-11 (New International Version)

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*9*After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

*10*They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. *11*"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

For Discussion

How did Jesus go back to Heaven? Isn't that cool?!
What do you think the disciples were thinking as they watched Jesus leave earth?

Bible Prophecy Fulfilled

- Ascension of the Messiah
Psalm 68:18a / Luke 24:51
Daniel 7:13-14a / Acts 1:9-11

Driving it Home

Buy or make a traditional diamond shaped kite. The sticks behind the diamond can symbolize the cross. Fly the kite together and talk about how Jesus ascending into Heaven through the clouds.

Prayer Focus

Pray for the end of your life: your health, walk with the Lord, and relationships.

Worship

Crown Him with Many Crowns (©1852 Matthew Bridges & added verses © 1874 Godfrey Thring)

Holy, Holy, Holy (words ©1826 Reginald Heber, music ©1861 John Dykes)

Almost Touch the Morning (©2005 Meredith Curtis)

The Best is Yet to Come (©2007 Meredith Curtis)

Family Fun

Take down the Easter decorations and tidy up the house!

Sunday After Easter: The Power of the Resurrection!

1 Corinthians 15:12-28 (New International Version)

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12But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

20But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 24Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27For he "has put everything under his feet."^[a] Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. 28When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

1 Corinthians 15:35-58 (New International Version)

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35But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" 36How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. 39All flesh is not

the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. 40There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. 41The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

42So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"^[a]; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. 46The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. 47The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. 48As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 49And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we^[b] bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

50I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."^[c]

55"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"^[d] 56The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Ephesians 1:15-22 (New International Version)

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15For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit^[a] of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19and his incomparably

great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,

Philippians 3 (New International Version)

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1Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

2Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. 3For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— 4though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

7But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Pressing on Toward the Goal

12Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

15All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. 16Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

17Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. 18For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. 20But our citizenship is in

heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

For Discussion

What kind of power raised Jesus from the dead?

Driving it Home

Try reading the Bible with only 1 lamp on....first use a 25 watt colored light bulb. Then switch to a regular 100 watt light bulb. Power makes a difference.

Prayer Focus

Pray for all the areas in your life where you need Jesus' Resurrection Power.

Worship

Heaven Came Down (©1961 John W. Peterson)

O God, Our Help in Ages Past (©Isaac Watts)

Family Fun

Make candles together.

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

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CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

Powerline Productions



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Raising World Changers!**

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Celebrate! Series

God created us to enjoy Him and celebrate the good things He has done for us! These celebrations are “holy days” or holidays! They are special days set apart to remember God, who He is, and what He has done for us!

Though the world tries to secularize holy days to keep our eyes off of Jesus, we can celebrate with our families in a way that draws us all closer to God! We don't have to walk in the ways of the world, but can transform each and every holiday so that it is pleasing and honoring to God!

How, What, and Why to Celebrate!

God, Himself, instituted holy days and celebrations in the Old Testament to His people as they moved out of slavery into the Promised Land. Here is a list of the celebrations of the Jewish people.

- Shabbat/Sabbath (seventh day of each week—day of rest)
- Purim (Adar—Esther saved her people!)
- Passover/Pesach (Nisan for one day—Passover in Exodus)
- Feast of Unleavened Bread/Hag HaMatzah (Nisan for seven days—eating unleavened bread, like Israelites did on the way to the Promised Land)
- Feast of First Fruits/Yom HaBikkurim (Nisan—offerings)
- Feast of Weeks/Feast of Harvest/Pentecost/Shavucit (Sivan—Thankful for Harvest, offerings)
- Feast of Trumpets/Rosh Hashanah (Tishri—blowing trumpets, offerings)
- Day of Atonement/Yom Kippur (Tishri—fasting, repentance)

Feast of Tabernacles/Feast of Booths/Feast of Ingathering (Tishri seven days—camping!)

The early church began to celebrate its own set of holidays and feast days to remember the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Beloved Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The church also began to celebrate Christian heroes who had made an impact on other believers with their life and ministry. These are called “saints days.” Here is a list of the church year celebrations.

- Advent (December—four weeks before Christmas)
- Christmas (December 25 Birth of Jesus)
- Candlemas (January 2—Presentation of Jesus at the temple)
- Epiphany (January 5—Wise Men)
- Christmastide (Sunday after Epiphany—Jesus' baptism)
- Ash Wednesday (Beginning of Lent—reminder that we are “ashes to ashes; dust to dust”)
- Lent (40 Days before Easter –Christ fasting in the wilderness)
- Holy Week: Palm Sunday (Sunday before Easter—Jesus triumphal

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

- procession into Jerusalem)
- Holy Week: Maundy Thursday (Thursday before Easter—foot washing)
- Holy Week: Good Friday (Friday before Easter—Jesus' death on the cross)
- Easter/Resurrection Day (spring date set according to Jewish Passover—Jesus Resurrection from the dead!)
- Pentecost
- All Saints Day (November 1—celebrating the saints!)

We can celebrate holidays, birthdays, and other special occasions with our own family traditions, giving us a unique identity as a family. Family traditions provide happy memories and security for our children, but they also give us an opportunity to instill values in our children's hearts and lives. As we cast aside empty traditions and patterns of the world, we can embrace holy and joyful celebrations of God's goodness to us.

Here is a list of holidays that we celebrate in our house.

- New Year's Day
- St. Valentine's Day
- Palm Sunday
- Last Supper during Holy Week
- Good Friday
- Resurrection Day
- Mother's Day
- Father's Day
- Fourth of July
- Reformation Day or All Saints' Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas
- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Graduations
- Weddings

For each holiday, there is something to celebrate, values to instill, and traditions to try in your home. As you pray and seek God, He will show you creative ideas that will work for your family and home! Happy Celebrating!

Here are some titles in the Celebrate! Series:

Celebrate Christmas

Celebrate Easter

Celebrate Thanksgiving

Celebrate our Christian Heroes

Celebrate Christmas in Colonial America! Unit Study

Celebrate Christmas with Cookies Unit Study

MEREDITH CURTIS

Celebrate Christmas with Anne of Green Gables Unit Study

Here are two one-credit God's Girls high school courses that cover the topic:

God's Girls 105: Homemaking

God's Girls 106: Friendship, Hospitality, & Celebrations

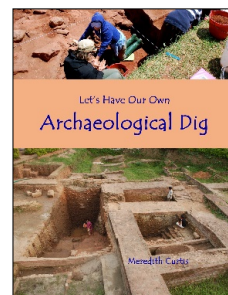
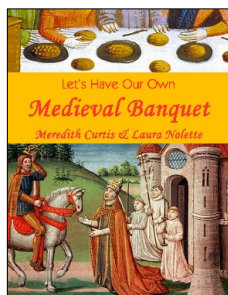
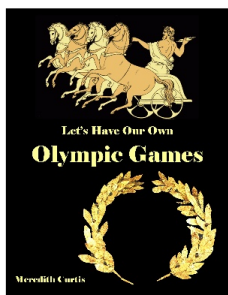
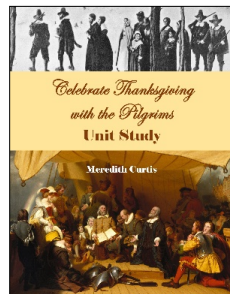
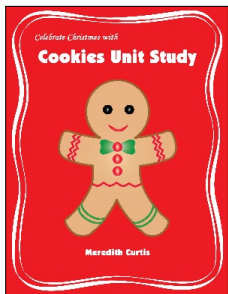
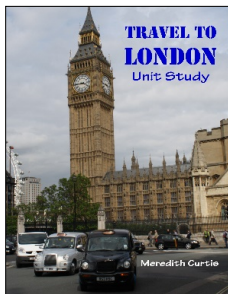
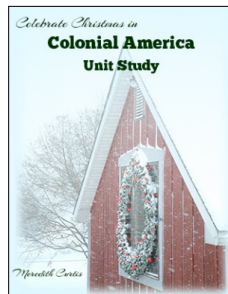
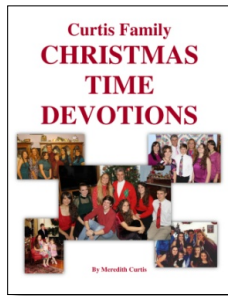
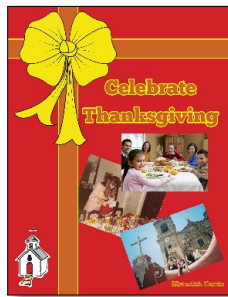
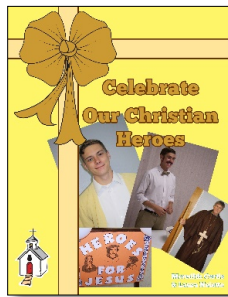
And...a Bible study workbook that covers this topic also:

Jesus, Fill my Heart and Home: Making Yourselves at Home in the Presence of God and Bringing His Presence into our Homes

God Bless you as you celebrate.

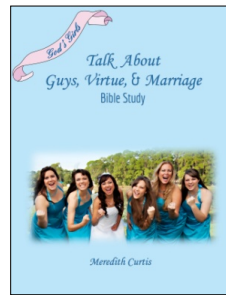
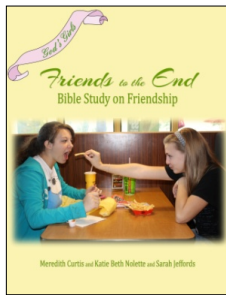
Meredith Ludwig Curtis

Books from Powerline Productions

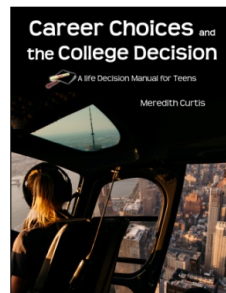
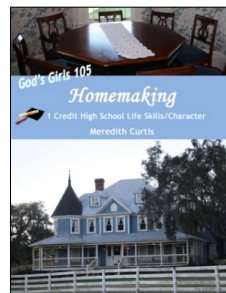
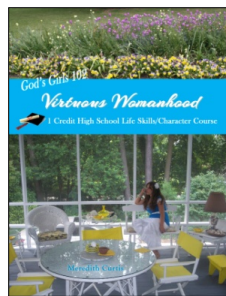


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God's Girls Bible Studies

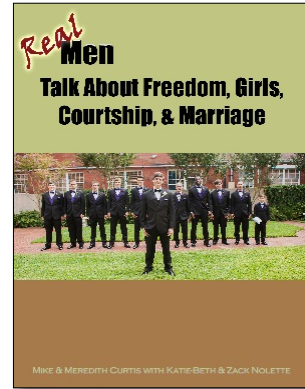
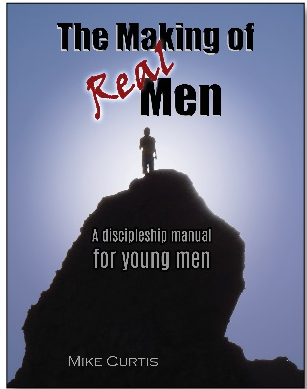


God's Girls Classes



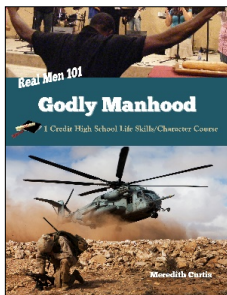
Real Men Discipleship Manuals

God calls fathers to impart life to their sons, passing the baton in the race of faith. These Bible studies were created for fathers (or mentors) to go through this material with their sons. Pastor Mike Curtis used these materials to mentor his own son and other young men in the church. These manuals cover tough issues that fathers and sons need to talk about and live out in their lives.

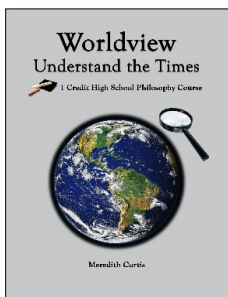
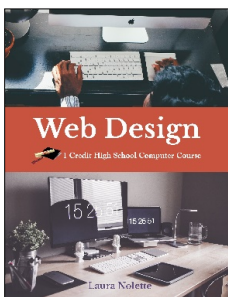
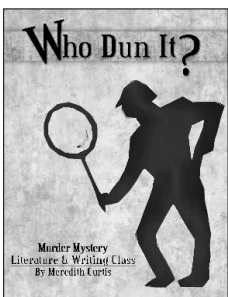
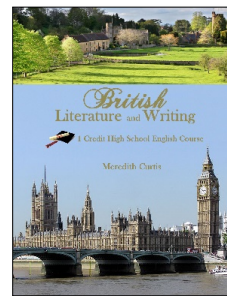
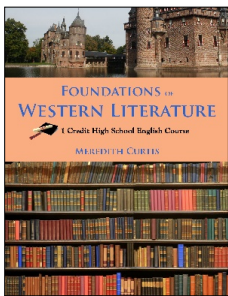
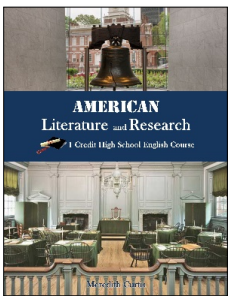
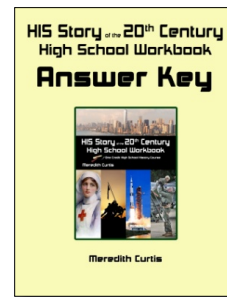
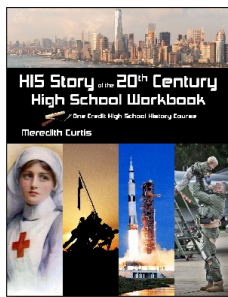
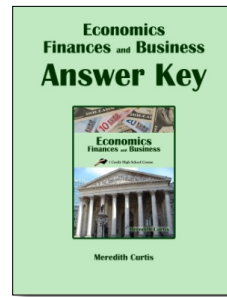
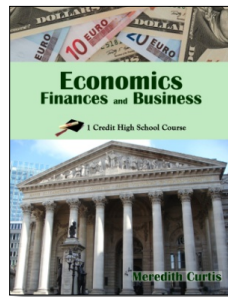
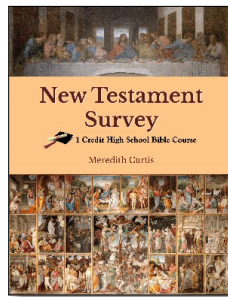
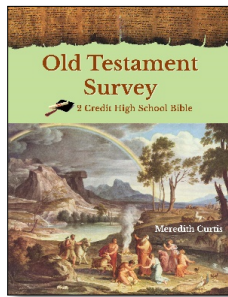


Real Men Classes

Do you want to prepare your sons to become godly husbands, fathers, church leaders, and pillars in their communities? These one-credit high school life skills classes build character and prepare young men for the future. Using living books, Scripture, and practical assignments, young men will learn to become the man God has called them to be.



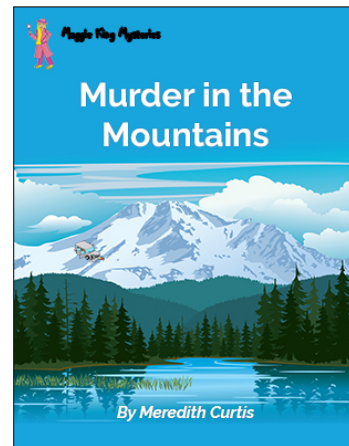
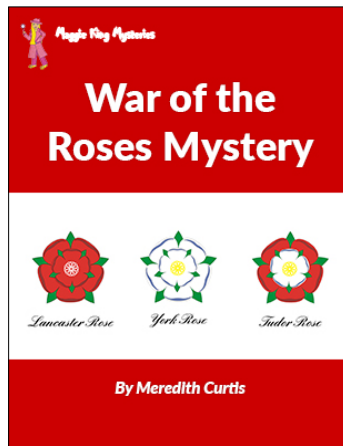
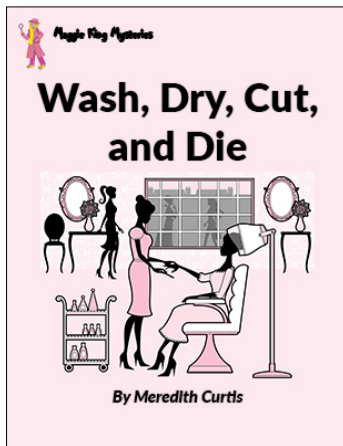
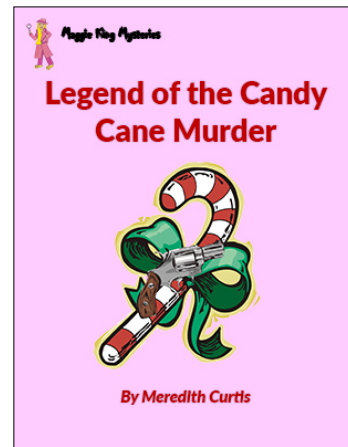
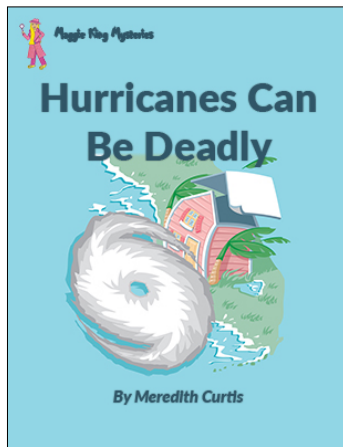
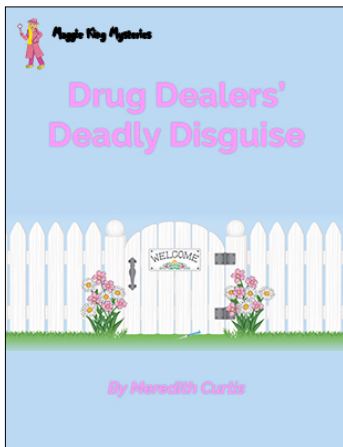
High School Classes



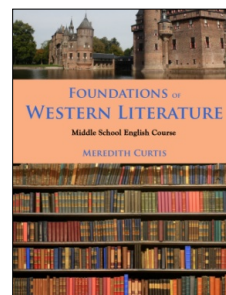
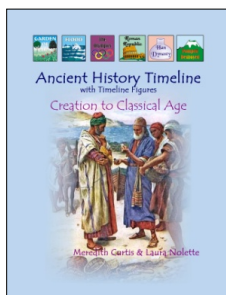
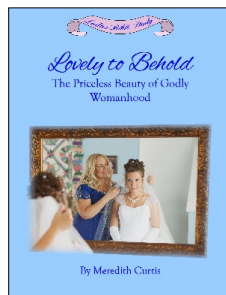
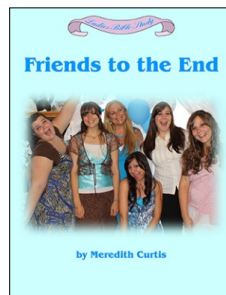
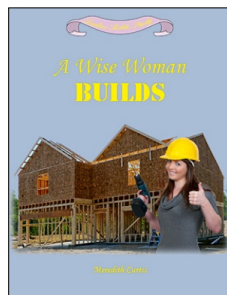
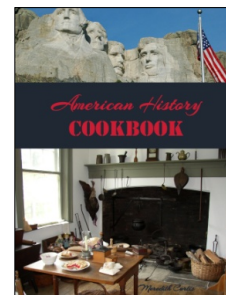
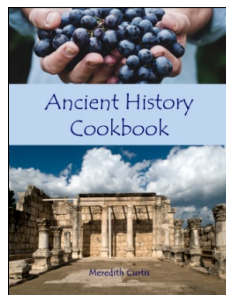
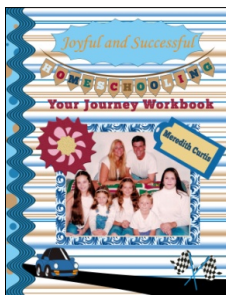
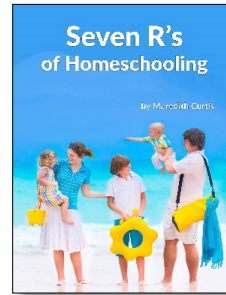
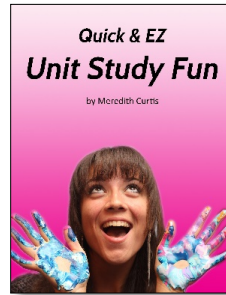
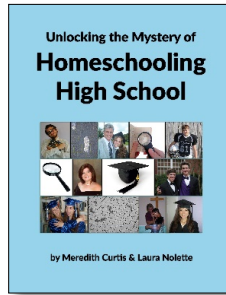
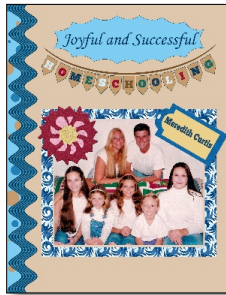


Maggie King Mysteries

If you like cozy mysteries, you will love this series! Meet Maggie King, a pastor's wife and homeschool mom who keeps stumbling across dead bodies. With her sidekicks, Sophia and Mary-Kate and her curious children, Maggie is on one adventure after another.



More Books from Powerline Productions



About the Author



Meredith Curtis, a pastor's wife and homeschooling mom of five children, leads worship, mentors ladies, and, sometimes, even cooks dinner. Her passion is to equip people to love Jesus, raise godly children, and change the world around them with the power of the Gospel. "Lives are changed in the context of relationships," Meredith often says, as well as, "Be a world changer! Raise world changers!" She enjoys speaking to small and large groups. All inquiries can be made to the author, Meredith Curtis, through email: Meredith@powerlinecc.com or contact her through her websites: powerlineprod.com/

meredithcurtis.com/
finishwellcon.com/
joyfulandsuccessfulhomeschooling.com/

Meredith is the author of several books.

Joyful and Successful Homeschooling
Seven R's of Homeschooling
Quick & EZ Unit Study Fun
Unlocking the Mysteries of Homeschooling High School (with Laura Nolette)
Celebrate Thanksgiving
Celebrate Our Christian Heroes
HIS Story of the 20th Century

Meredith is the author of several cozy mysteries: The Maggie King Mysteries series.

Drug Dealers Deadly Disguise
Hurricanes Can Be Deadly
Legend of the Candy Cane Murder
Wash, Dry, Cut, & Die
War of the Roses Mystery
Murder in the Mountains

Meredith is the author of several Bible studies.

Lovely to Behold
A Wise Woman Builds
Jesus, Fill My Heart & Home
Welcome Inn: Practicing the Art of Hospitality in Jesus' Name
Friends to the End
God's Girls Beauty Secrets (with Sarah Jeffords)
God's Girls Friends to the End (with Katie-Beth Nolette & Sarah Jeffords)
God's Girls Talk about Boys, Dating, Courtship, & Marriage

Meredith is the author of several unit studies, timelines, and cookbooks.

Travel God's World Geography
Celebrate Christmas in Colonial America
Celebrate Christmas with Cookies
Travel to London
Celebrate Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims
American History Cookbook
Ancient History Cookbook
20th Century Cookbook (with Laura Nolette)
20th Century Timeline (with Laura Nolette)
HIS Story of the 20th Century High School Workbook
HIS Story of the 20th Century Middle School Workbook
HIS Story of the 20th Century High School & Middle School Workbook Answer Keys
American History Timeline (with Laura Nolette)
Ancient History Timeline (with Laura Nolette)

Meredith is the author of several “History should be Fun!” books.

Let's Have Our Own Medieval Banquet
Let's Have Our Own Archaeological Dig
Let's Have Our Own Ancient Greek Olympic Games
Let's Have Our Own Passover Feast

Meredith is the author of several high school courses.

American Literature and Research
British Literature and Writing
Who Dun It: Murder Mystery Literature & Writing
Communication 101: Essays and Speeches
Foundations of Western Literature
Economics, Finances, and Business
Economics, Finances, and Business Answer Key
Worldview 101: Understand the Times
New Testament Survey
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Real Men 101: Godly Manhood
Real Men 102: Freedom, Courtship, Marriage, & Family
Real Men 103: Leadership
Real Men 104: Pass the Torch
God's Girls 101: Grow in Christ
God's Girls 102: Virtuous Womanhood
God's Girls 103: Courtship, Marriage, & The Christian Family
God's Girls 104: Motherhood
God's Girls 105: Homemaking
God's Girls 106: Friendship, Hospitality, & Celebrations
God's Girls 107: How-To-Homeschool

CELEBRATE EASTER DEVOTIONS

Holy Week and Resurrection Day are more than fancy new dresses and Easter baskets. Dig into the Word of God this year using our family devotions. The last week of Jesus' life is filled with adventure, joy, and sorrow. Let the story wash over you once again as you and your family read the Bible, pray, sing hymns and songs, and celebrate with a hands-on activity. They start the Saturday before Psalm Sunday and follow the last week of Jesus' life step by step. But, these devotions don't end on Easter Sunday. The following week looks at his post-Resurrection days and final ascension. Be reminded this season of the Resurrection Power of Jesus available to His people today. God bless you and Happy Easter!



Meredith Curtis, pastor's wife and homeschooling mother of five amazing children, leads worship and mentors ladies at Powerline Church. She is the author of *Joyful and Successful Homeschooling*, *Teaching Writing in High School with Classes You Can Use*, *Beauty Secrets*, *Who Dun It Murder Mystery Literature & Writing Class*, and several other books, unit studies, high school classes, & Bible study workbooks! God, in His Kindness, has given her a joyful home, good friends, and children who love the Jesus!

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