

CHILDREN AND FAMILY

Holy Week Walk-Through



Sunday, March 24

In the days leading up to Easter, we commemorate Holy Week. The true story of Easter ends in joy! But the days leading up to Jesus' resurrection were filled with deep sadness and confusion. We invite you, our FPC families, to put on your imagination caps as you go through this devotional together. Each day you'll experience a different part of Holy Week and hear how those closest to Jesus might have felt. You will answer *with* them, "Who is this Jesus" (hint: hold the words up to a mirror!) Our prayer is that this guide will open hearts and give way to conversations around your home. As always, we are cheering you on!

FPC Children & Family Ministry Team

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WANT MORE?

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📷 [fpchouston_kids](https://www.instagram.com/fpchouston_kids)

Monday, March 25

Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem

JOHN 12:12–16A

The next day the large crowd that had come for the feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. So they took branches from palm trees and went out to meet him. They shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel! Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it. This is just as it is written in Scripture. It says, “City of Zion, do not be afraid. See, your king is coming. He is sitting on a donkey’s colt.” At first, Jesus’ disciples did not understand all this.

POINT OF VIEW: JOHN, FRIEND OF JESUS

“We are getting ready to celebrate Passover—the day we remember that the Lord set us free from Egypt. This is my favorite celebration! I’m glad we can eat with Jesus this year. Jesus. He sure is a strange man. He is my rabbi, my teacher, but what he teaches is so...different. He eats with sinners; he shows mercy. Mercy! Even to the most disgusting tax collectors! But whatever He’s doing seems to be working for Him. Today we came to Jerusalem for our annual Passover feast. He had barely gotten to the city gates when we were bombarded with a crowd of people—all wanting to see Jesus! Jesus must have known this was going to happen because he had me and another go get him a donkey. He rode into that city like the man in charge! People praised Him, waved branches...it was like a parade! I’ve given up everything to follow this man, yet I still don’t understand Him. Who is this Jesus?”

Jesus is King.



Tuesday, March 26

Jesus Celebrates the Passover Dinner with His Friends

LUKE 22:14–23, 26B–27

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles took their places at the table. He said to them, “I have really looked forward to eating this Passover meal with you. I wanted to do this before I suffer. I tell you, I will not eat the Passover meal again until it is celebrated in God’s kingdom.”

After Jesus took the cup, he gave thanks. He said, “Take this cup and share it among yourselves. I tell you, I will not drink wine with you again until God’s kingdom comes.”

Then Jesus took bread. He gave thanks and broke it. He handed it to them and said, “This is my body. It is given for you. Every time you eat it, do this in memory of me.”

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup. He said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. It is poured out for you. But someone here is going to hand me over to my enemies. His hand is with mine on the table. The Son of Man will go to his death, just as God has already decided. But how terrible it will be for the one who hands him over!” The apostles began to ask one another about this. They wondered which one of them would do it.

Jesus said, “The one who rules should be like the one who serves. Who is more important? Is it the one at the table, or the one who serves? Isn’t it the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

POINT OF VIEW: PHILIP, FRIEND OF JESUS

“We had just sat down for our traditional Passover meal. I don’t know how a feast happened so quickly after we arrived in Jerusalem. I heard Jesus tell one of us to “go prepare a feast for us”. A feast! For all 13 of us! On such short notice! But, like everything else with Jesus, it happened just like he said it would.

We ate the lamb and tasted the bitter herbs like we do every year...but today Jesus started saying some strange things. He called the wine His blood and the bread His body. Then he said that one of us would betray Him! No way! I don’t know what he was talking about, but I know that it won’t be me. I’ve been following this man for years. I’ve learned from Him, traveled with Him, served with Him! I trust Him, I do...but I sure didn’t understand what He was talking about tonight. Who is this Jesus?”

Jesus is a friend





Wednesday, March 27

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

LUKE 13:5-9, 12-14

He got up from the meal and took off his outer clothes. He wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a large bowl. Then he began to wash his disciples' feet. He dried them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter. "Lord," Peter said to him, "are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You don't realize now what I am doing. But later you will understand."

"No," said Peter. "You will never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you can't share life with me."

"Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet! Wash my hands and my head too!"

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

"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord.' You are right. That is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another's feet.

POINT OF VIEW: ANDREW, FRIEND OF JESUS

"Dinner was just winding down. I was stuffed! That's when Jesus did the most peculiar thing. Honestly, I've never seen anything like it. He got up from the table and started washing our feet! This morning, He rode into the city in a parade—we were all cheering for Him, calling Him the King of Israel! But what King would lower himself to wash feet?! I was embarrassed when He came to me. The dirt from our travels was caked onto my feet; blood from the sore spots where the sandals rubbed my heel was dripping down. Truly disgusting. And yet my rabbi, my teacher, the man whom I call 'Lord', was touching and cleaning my feet! He said that I didn't realize what He was doing, and He was right. Who is this Jesus?"

Jesus is a
servant leader.



Thursday, March 28

Jesus is Arrested

MATTHEW 26:47–56

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas arrived. He was one of the 12 disciples. A large crowd was with him. They were carrying swords and clubs. The chief priests and the elders of the people had sent them. Judas, who was going to hand Jesus over, had arranged a signal with them. “The one I kiss is the man,” he said. “Arrest him.” So Judas went to Jesus at once. He said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed him. Jesus replied, “Friend, do what you came to do.”

Then the men stepped forward. They grabbed Jesus and arrested him. At that moment, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword. He pulled it out and struck the slave of the high priest with it. He cut off the slave’s ear. “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him. “All who use the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I can’t ask my Father for help? He would send an army of more than 70,000 angels right away. But then how would the Scriptures come true? They say it must happen in this way.”

At that time Jesus spoke to the crowd. “Am I leading a band of armed men against you?” he asked. “Do you have to come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courtyard teaching. And you didn’t arrest me. But all this has happened so that the words of the prophets would come true.” Then all the disciples left him and ran away.

POINT OF VIEW: THOMAS, FRIEND OF JESUS

“I...I don’t even know what to say or where to start. I’m currently staying in the upper room of a friend—I don’t want to be seen or heard. I’m not sure what to do next. After dinner, we went with Jesus to the garden. He began to pray and asked that I stay up with Him. I tried, really I did. But I was so full from dinner and it was getting late. We’ve been traveling so much. I dozed off—it couldn’t have been more than a few minutes, but it didn’t take long for me to be fast asleep.

I was so confused when I woke up to the sounds of feet and swords. It was a group of men who came to fight? And...was that our friend Judas? Next thing I know, Jesus was being held down and arrested! Then Peter cut off a man’s ear! Then Jesus touched the man and *healed* his ear! What is going on?? Is Jesus in trouble? I’ve been with him all week—never out of my sight for more than a minute—I’ve seen Him do nothing wrong! Still, he’s on His way to see Herod...or maybe Pilate. Either way, I don’t want to be involved. I love my friend Jesus, but I’m afraid. He seems to be perfect—I can’t see anything He’s ever done wrong. So why was He arrested? Who is this Jesus?”

Jesus is innocent

Friday, March 29

Jesus is Crucified

MARK 15:33–34, 37–39

At noon, darkness covered the whole land. It lasted three hours. At three o'clock in the afternoon, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" This means "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?"

With a loud cry, Jesus took his last breath. The temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. A Roman commander was standing there in front of Jesus. He saw how Jesus died. Then he said, "This man was surely the Son of God!"

POINT OF VIEW: MATTHEW, FRIEND OF JESUS

"I...I am in shock. I don't understand what happened today. My teacher, my friend...the Man I thought was my Savior. He's dead. How could this happen? I thought he was here to save us—to show Rome how wrong they are! Last night we all sat and had our Passover meal. And we *did* all say that Jesus was acting strange. As we went through the story of when the Hebrews were saved by the lamb's blood, he said that we were to remember Him and *His* blood that would be poured for us. What did that mean? I didn't know then, and I certainly don't know now. I'm angry. What are we supposed to do now? How could He leave us? Who is this Jesus?"

Jesus is the
sacrificial lamb.



Saturday, March 30

Jesus is Buried

JOHN 19:38-42

Later Joseph asked Pilate for Jesus' body. Joseph was from the town of Arimathea. He was a follower of Jesus. But he followed Jesus secretly because he was afraid of the Jewish leaders. After Pilate gave him permission, Joseph came and took the body away. Nicodemus went with Joseph. He was the man who had earlier visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought some mixed spices that weighed about 75 pounds. The two men took Jesus' body. They wrapped it in strips of linen cloth, along with the spices. That was the way the Jews buried people. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden. A new tomb was there. No one had ever been put in it before. That day was the Jewish Preparation Day, and the tomb was nearby. So they placed Jesus there.

POINT OF VIEW: LUKE, FRIEND OF JESUS

"Four years. Four years of my life. Four years I've been following my teacher. I've watched Him do the impossible. I saw Him heal a blind man...I saw Lazarus come out of the grave at His command! I thought Jesus could do anything! But yesterday I watched Him die. He was tortured. He was in pain. Could He not stop them? Could He not fight? I've seen Him do the impossible; why didn't he perform a miracle yesterday?? He could have made everyone stop with the snap of his fingers! At least...I thought He could. Maybe not. Maybe He was a fake. It's done now, though. I watched Him get wrapped in burial clothes—He is in a sealed tomb. I don't know what to think. I'm afraid, I miss my friend, I'm embarrassed. I'm in disbelief. Who was this Jesus?"

Jesus is
still at work.



Sunday, March 31

Jesus Rises from the Grave!

MATTHEW 28:1-10

The Sabbath day was now over. It was dawn on the first day of the week. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a powerful earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel went to the tomb. He rolled back the stone and sat on it. His body shone like lightning. His clothes were as white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here! He has risen, just as he said he would! Come and see the place where he was lying. Go quickly!"

Tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead. He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." So the women hurried away from the tomb. They were afraid, but they were filled with joy. They ran to tell the disciples.

Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings!" he said. They came to him, took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee. There they will see me."



POINT OF VIEW: MARY MAGDALENE, FRIEND OF JESUS

"It's unheard of, it's impossible, it's a miracle!! I went to where they buried Jesus today and He was...gone! The tomb was empty! At first, I was devastated. Was this a cruel joke? Were the Romans making fun of us? Did they move our Rabbi?"

But then...and, I'm sorry, I know this is going to sound absolutely crazy. Just as I was seeing the empty tomb and trying to figure out what happened, the brightest light I've ever seen overwhelmed me! A man...a man? It couldn't have been a man, he was different. His clothes were all white and the light was, well it was like when I see lightning in a storm. It came from him and radiated out of him. I'm sorry, I know this just sounds crazy. But it gets crazier. The man...person...angel? Whatever he was, spoke to me! He told me not to be afraid, yeah right—I was overwhelmed with his presence! Then he said, "I know you are looking for Jesus. He is not here! He has risen!" Mary and I looked at each other then both started running back to the disciples—we had to tell them!

We had just gotten back to the path when another man was standing in front of us. He said, "Mary" just the way Jesus had called me so many times. It was Him, it was Him!! How? What? I can hardly believe it. He told me to go and tell the others and that's exactly what I'm going to do. I'm in shock! Who is this man? Who is this Jesus? Truly, He must be the Son of God!

Write it Down!

When you figure out what the last sentence says, write it down.

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY





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