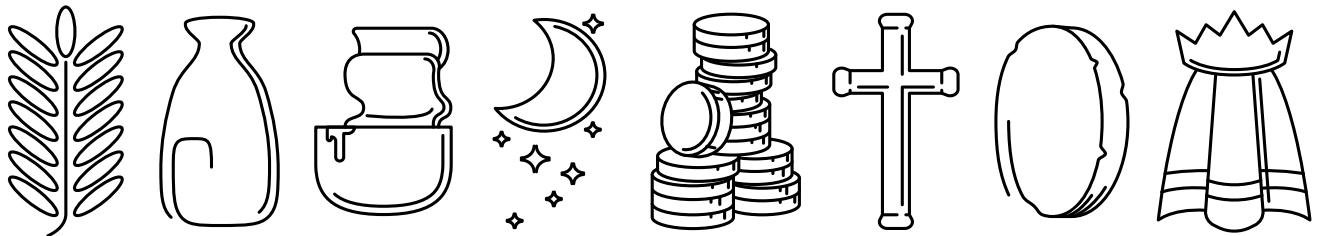


Holy Week

AN EIGHT-DAY FAMILY DEVOTIONAL



BEGINS APRIL 10, 2022
WRITTEN AND PREPARED FOR FAMILIES OF EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Holy Week

AN EIGHT-DAY FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Jesus is alive! That's the declaration that this Holy Week devotional is purposefully making. These devotionals were written for families to explore what Scripture says about the events surrounding Jesus's death and resurrection.

Each day, begin by reading the Scripture noted at the top of each devotional. Then read the devotional for that day. The intent behind the devotionals is to present a tangible portrayal of Jesus' arrival, arrest, death, burial, and resurrection. They are written in a narrative format with the aid of commentaries which are listed below. I believe that the gospels compliment each other—rather than contradict—when they include details the others do not. At times you will find a marrying of events from separate gospels. Above all, God's Word is true, wholly inspired, and to be handled with the utmost respect.

After the devotional, read and answer the questions found in the Gospel Discussion section. If you like, try the suggested Family Activity.

Each day includes a devotional for younger children as well. Some days suggest interactive stories from the Bible App for Kids for Apple and Android devices.

Greg Allen
Children's Ministry Director



Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

JOHN 6:35

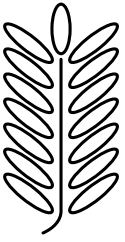
Edward Hindson and James Borland, *The Gospel of Matthew: The King is Coming* (Chatanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2006)

James McGowan, *The Gospel of Mark: Christ the Servant* (Chatanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2006)

Mal Couch, *The Gospel of Luke: Christ, the Son of Man* (Chatanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2006)

Elmer Towns, *The Gospel of John: Believe and Live* (Chatanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2002)

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HOLY WEEK DAY 1 (SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022)

Jesus Has Come

READ: LUKE 19:28-40

“Jesus is coming.”

Jerusalem was currently besieged with travelers from near and far who had come to celebrate the Passover. Every year, devout Jews from all over the world would make a pilgrimage to the great city to observe this week-long tradition of remembering God’s deliverance from Egypt. This day, the streets of Jerusalem would have been packed with men, women, and children passing by merchant stalls, religious leaders, and pens filled with animals ready to sell. The sound of all those people and animals could have been deafening.

“Jesus is coming!”

But there might have been another sound. Some streets could have resonated with whispers anticipating the arrival of a man growing in fame and infamy. Some would have heard rumors of a prophet who was traveling from town to town performing miracles and teaching about a wondrous kingdom. Others might have heard about a rogue rabbi who earned the ire of religious leaders in the regions he visited. And then there would have been a handful who desperately wanted to believe that God had fulfilled His promise to send the Messiah. This was a promise to send a king that would rule over the world for all eternity. This king would bring peace to God’s people by defeating their enemies and setting everything right.

“Jesus is coming,” shouted some on the road to Jerusalem leading from the Mount of Olives.

And indeed, Jesus came riding a young donkey. He was followed by many who had witnessed him make the blind see, the lame walk, and the sick well again. These followers laid their cloaks and garments on the road before Jesus. They cut palm leaves down from the nearby trees and waved them. All the while they sang, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest” (Matthew 21:9; Luke 19:38)! Jesus had been teaching them about the kingdom He was preparing. It was a kingdom where God would once again be with His people, and they would love Him forever.

And this kingdom all centered on the coming of Jesus, God’s very own Son.

As Jesus passed the gathering crowd, heading toward one of Jerusalem’s gates, some Pharisee leaders approached Him. They probably wore priestly scowls of authority and adjusted their heavy robes as they spoke over the noise of the crowd, “Teacher, rebuke your followers.”

The Pharisees weren’t pleased with Jesus making claims that He was God’s Son or that He had authority to forgive sins. They believed Jesus made a mockery of God’s written law and the traditional law written by man. It was their job to lead the people in spiritual matters. At least, that’s how they saw things.

Jesus paused and looked at the men. Riding on a colt meant He didn’t have to look down much to address them. He might have gestured to the parade of people singing and shouting praises.

“I tell you, if these [people] were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

Jesus had finally come to Jerusalem to fulfill a mission set by His Father. The week ahead would be a week that would shake the very foundations of Creation.

Jesus has come.



See this interactive story on **Bible App for Kids:**
“*The Donkey and the King*” for Android and Apple devices.



Gospel Discussion

READ LUKE 19:41-44.

Here Jesus wept as He neared Jerusalem. He says that the people in the city would not believe that their Messiah had come. What does He reveal will happen because of the people's unbelief?

Almost 40 years after Jesus' death and resurrection—A.D. 70—General Titus of the Roman Empire would conquer Jerusalem and destroy it. Even the great temple in Jerusalem would be completely demolished. The gospel of Luke was written sometime before A.D. 63. Luke wrote down Jesus' very public prophecy only years before the event would take place. God's judgment is a very serious matter. Jesus came to take the judgment for our sins upon Himself by dying on the cross.

Family Activity

Each person cut a large leaf shape out of construction paper. Wave your "palm leaves" while reviewing today's scripture (or watching "The Donkey and the King") and shouting "Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Talk about what it might have been like to be a part of the crowd on that first Palm Sunday. You could also tape or pin your palm leaves to a wall to remind yourselves that Jesus came to be our Savior.

For Younger Children

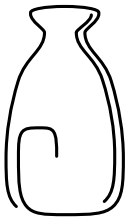
Jesus traveled a lot while He was on Earth. He healed sick people, blind people, and people who couldn't walk. He taught people to love God and to love each other. He told people that He was building a kingdom where God would always be with His people and they would love Him.

Jesus is God's only Son and was on a mission. He came to Earth to do exactly what His Father wanted Him to do.

When Jesus' mission was almost over, God wanted Jesus to go to a city called Jerusalem. This was a huge city with a lot of people. Here, God had a big plan for Jesus.

As Jesus neared the city riding on a donkey, many of His followers shouted and sang, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" They waved palm leaves around and put their cloaks on the road for Jesus' donkey to walk over. They were honoring Jesus as a king!

Jesus actually is King over all other kings. He will rule over everything forever! That means there will never be a time in the future where Jesus will stop being King! The important thing to remember is that Jesus is a King that loves you and wants you to trust in Him.



HOLY WEEK DAY 2 (MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022)

Jesus is Anointed

READ: MARK 14:3-9

A few days before Jesus made a triumphal entry into Jerusalem, he stopped by Bethany to visit some very good friends. In fact, it seemed the entire town wanted to see the man that had turned their lives upside down.

Early in Jesus' ministry, He met three siblings: Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (Luke 10:38-42). As Jesus traveled through Bethany, Martha invited Him and the disciples to stay at her home. Jesus accepted her offer and began teaching inside. Mary, Martha's sister, was one of those eagerly listening to Jesus' words. Martha, on the other hand, dutifully cooked, cleaned, and cared for her guests. So, when she saw her sister sitting at Jesus' feet, she became angry. She said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me" (Luke 10:40)!

Jesus answered compassionately, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

After that, Jesus most likely stayed the night. Perhaps this is when he met Mary and Martha's brother, Lazarus. Jesus and Lazarus became good friends. In fact, Jesus loved all three of them greatly (John 11:5).

Jesus traveled far and wide to continue His ministry. One day, He received word from Mary and Martha that Lazarus was sick. After a short delay, Jesus returned to Bethany. There He met the grief-stricken sisters who had just buried their brother in the family tomb. Lazarus was dead.

But as Jesus stood with every mourning family member and friend of the family, He commanded Lazarus to "come out!" And Lazarus did. Jesus had just demonstrated to every person there that He was in fact the Messiah, the Christ!

Now, these same people are seeing Jesus again before He heads to Jerusalem one final time. A man named Simon, whose leprosy had probably been healed by Jesus, invited everyone to His home for a celebration. Martha helped with

servicing the guests and Lazarus carried on conversations with Jesus and the disciples (John 12:2).

As Jesus was reclining at the table as Simon's guest of honor, Mary the sister of Lazarus entered the room. She moved silently to Jesus. Without a word, she lifted an alabaster jar of expensive perfume and broke it open. She poured perfume over Jesus' head. Then she moved to His feet and poured more perfume over His feet (John 12:3). Mary took her own hair and began to wipe Jesus' feet.

The entire room likely went silent. The scent of perfume hung heavily in the air. Then Judas, one of Jesus' twelve disciples, spoke up. He indignantly asked, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor" (John 12:5)? Some of the other disciples began to wonder why such an expensive commodity was wasted and not used for charity.

Jesus defended Mary. He said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me."

Mary performed a beautiful act of worship toward Jesus. She knew that He is the Messiah promised by God's Word through the prophets. She knew that He had come to be the suffering servant sent by God the Father (Isaiah 53). When she anointed Jesus with perfume that had cost a small fortune, she was proclaiming that she now serves the King of kings.

Gospel Discussion

READ MARK 14:8-9 AGAIN.

Jesus gives the reader a hint about what's about to happen. Why would He say that Mary has anointed His body "beforehand for burial?"

Jesus also says that what Mary had done would be talked about whenever the good news of the gospel was proclaimed. Today, Mary's actions about two thousand years ago are still studied, talked about, and even sung about. Her story serves as a reminder to us to place Jesus first in our hearts.

Family Activity

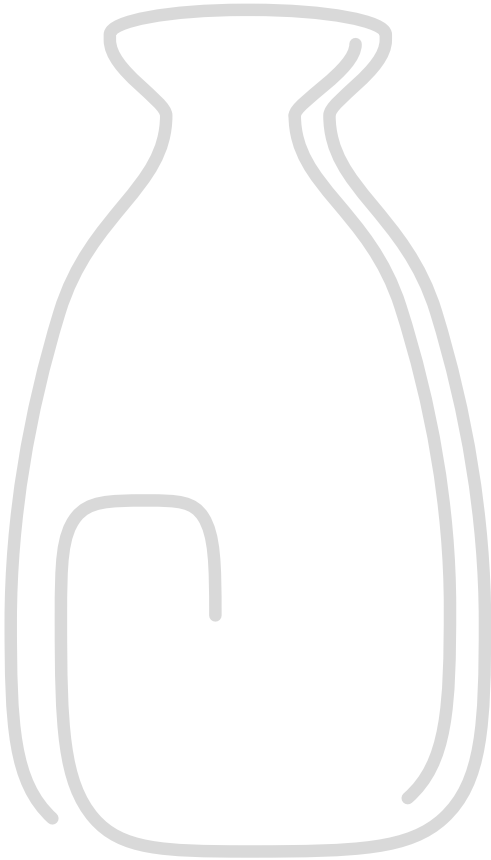
Show the alabaster jar on the left and talk about how the one in the scripture might have looked like this one. Discuss what Mary did with the expensive perfume, how the disciples reacted, and how Jesus lovingly responded. As a family, make your own alabaster jar by gluing small pieces of white tissue paper to a jar until it is completely covered. Next, lightly dampen cotton balls with either baby oil or perfume and place them in the jar. Lastly, add the lid to the jar. Open the jar a few times during Holy Week and smell the cotton balls to be reminded of the love and honor the woman showed to Jesus in preparation for His burial.

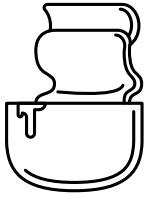
For Younger Children

Jesus made many friends while he traveled from place to place telling people about God's love. Three of those friends were sisters, Mary and Martha, and their brother, Lazarus. In the Bible, Jesus sees his three friends multiple times. The first time, Jesus was teaching inside their house. Mary sat and listened to Jesus talk about the kingdom of God. Martha, on the other hand, got angry with Mary for not helping with the cooking, cleaning, or serving the guests. Jesus told Martha that she didn't need to be so worried about all those things. In fact, He said that Mary had chosen what was best!

The second time Jesus visited, something terrible had happened. Lazarus had died. Mary and Martha were incredibly sad because they had lost their brother. Jesus comforted the sisters and took them to the tomb where Lazarus was buried. With a loud voice, Jesus commanded Lazarus to come out of the tomb. Lazarus got right up and walked out to the crowd outside! Jesus had brought Lazarus back from the dead!

The third time Jesus visited His friends involved a dinner. While Jesus was at the table with Lazarus, Mary entered the room and poured very expensive perfume on Jesus' head. Then she poured some on His feet and wiped them clean with her hair. When she did this, she was showing Jesus and everyone there that she believed Jesus is the Savior sent by God. Jesus would be the King for forever and she wanted to do something amazing to worship Him.





HOLY WEEK DAY 3 (TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022)

Jesus Commands

READ: LUKE 22:7-20; JOHN 13:1-20, V.31-35

On a Jerusalem street, two men patiently followed another man carrying a large jar of water. They had been sent on a mission by their Rabbi and their only idea of where to go lay with this stranger. This task was no more peculiar than other requests given by their Teacher. Once, He had told His disciples to pass out food to over five thousand hungry people, but the only meal they had at hand consisted of five loaves of bread and two fish (Matthew 14:13-21). However, a miracle happened that day. Before night fell, every single belly was full and there were twelve baskets of left overs. Their Rabbi was a man who had command over the weather and authority to heal the sick and lame. So, when He selected two of His disciples for the task of preparing a place for the Passover feast, they obeyed.

They found the man carrying a jar of water just as the Teacher had said. He seemed completely unbothered by two strangers asking to follow him to his destination. He led them to a house along the street and entered. The two men followed and were greeted by the house's master. One of the Rabbi's men said, "The Teacher says to you, 'Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'"

The master of the house smiled and beckoned the two men to follow him. He led them up to the upper floor of the house and into a large room. It was a sight of luxury for two men who had been traveling the roads of Judea, Samaria, Galilee, and beyond for the last few years. It was fully furnished just as the Teacher had said it would be. The two men set themselves to the task of preparing the Passover meal.

Evening came and Jesus, the Teacher, climbed the stairs to the upper room. As He entered, He saw the work of His two disciples. A feast was laid out on the table with places set for Jesus and all twelve students. Jesus sat and invited His disciples to join Him.

Jesus spoke over His disciples then saying, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." The disciples gave Jesus their full attention at those words. Jesus took a cup of wine and a loaf of bread and gave thanks to

God. He gave a bit of both to the disciples. He explained that the bread represented His body given freely just as He would do in short while. The wine represented His blood being poured out as a new covenant. What Jesus said didn't make immediate sense to the disciples at that moment, but they would understand soon enough.

After the meal, Jesus rose from the table. He took off His outermost robe and tied a towel around His waist. The disciples watched this peculiar display but said nothing. Jesus then filled a basin with water and knelt before one of the twelve. He took the disciple's feet and began to wash them in the basin. After they were cleaned, he dried them with the towel he was wearing.

He repeated the process until He had washed the feet of all twelve disciples. They were confused. Their Teacher, the Messiah, the prophesied King from the line of David who would set all things right in the world had just preformed the act of a servant.

Jesus took off the towel and put His outer robe back on. He looked at the twelve men staring at Him and said, "Do you understand what I have done to you?"

The disciples looked around at each other and then back to Jesus.

"You call me Teacher and Lord," Jesus continued, "and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."

That evening, in the upper room of a house on a street in Jerusalem, the Son of God Who stepped down from Heaven became a servant to those whom He loved. His disciples knew something terrible might be happening soon. Was Jesus truly going away? They had only begun to suspect that He was preparing them to continue the mission without Him. And this mission would require serving each other just as Jesus had served them.



See this interactive story on **Bible App for Kids:**
"A Goodbye Meal" for Android and Apple devices.



Gospel Discussion

READ JOHN 13:6-11 AGAIN.

Peter gives protest at the thought of Jesus washing his feet. Jesus replied that if Peter is not washed by Jesus, then Peter would have no share of Him. Peter changes His tune immediately and exclaims that Jesus should wash every part of him. What does this exchange tell us about salvation and Who it comes from?

Family Activity

Wash the feet of your family members. Lay a large towel on the floor with a bowl of warm water on top of the towel. Gather your family and read today's scripture. Then take turns washing each other's feet and praying for each other.

For Younger Children

Jesus traveled to a city called Jerusalem with His twelve disciples. Once there, He told two disciples how to find a place where they could eat a large dinner that evening. The two disciples went and began preparing the feast. When the time had come, Jesus made His way to the house He had told His disciples about. They all sat down and began to eat.

During the meal, Jesus told His disciples that He would soon be going away to a place they could not follow. They would want to go with Jesus, but they had to remain behind and continue the mission Jesus had started.

After the meal, Jesus got up from the table and wrapped a towel around His waist. He filled a large bowl with water and began washing each disciple's feet. The disciples were confused and amazed. They did not think that their Teacher and Lord should be doing something servants do.

Jesus explained to them that just as He had just served each of them, they should also serve each other.

Jesus showed us that if we are to carry on His mission of teaching people about God and His love, then we need to serve others like Jesus did.



HOLY WEEK DAY 4 (WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022)

Jesus Prays

READ: MARK 14:26-42

The disciples had only been with Jesus for a handful of years. But they had learned that their Rabbi liked to visit the olive gardens each year after the Passover meal (Luke 22:39). The sky was already dark and stars shone down on the small party as they traveled to the Mount of Olives outside of Jerusalem. As they walked, Jesus shared some somber words with His disciples. He said, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee” (Matthew 26:31-32).

This was both a warning and a comfort, yet the disciples gave no indication they fully understood what their Teacher was trying to communicate. In fact, Peter asserted while motioning to the other disciples, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.”

Jesus turned a sad face towards Peter and said, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.”

Peter was incredulous! He could never deny Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, the King of Israel. “If I must die with You,” he said, “I will not deny You!” The other men, all friends and followers of Jesus, stated their agreement.

Once they had arrived at the garden, Jesus instructed eight of the disciples to sit near the entrance while He, Peter, James, and John went further in. As Jesus and His three closest friends walked deeper into the olive grove, Jesus began to show signs of distress. He told the three men how heavily burdened He felt. It was a sorrow so deep that Jesus said that He could have died right there. He asked Peter, James, and John to stay behind and keep watch.

A little further on, Jesus collapsed onto the ground. The weight of His situation was overwhelming. He knew the Father’s plans. They were plans that were established before the creation of the world. Because of man’s sinfulness, a price had to be paid in full. It was a price so high that Jesus prayed fervently, “Father, remove this cup from me.”

The price was Jesus. He is the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Lambs were sacrifices for sins. Jesus would become a sacrifice too. Some would look upon Jesus praying and say He was afraid of dying or that this was Jesus’ moment of weakness. But those might forget who Jesus is and what His sacrifice would do to Him. Jesus was grieved because He was about to be separated from His Father. The disobedience of mankind had separated them from God, and Jesus was about to take all of that onto Himself. God the Son was about to have the sins of all of humanity laid upon His shoulders. He would become the target of God’s wrath, anger, and judgment even though none of that sin had come from Himself (2 Corinthians 5:21). The price for sin had to be paid and Jesus knew He would soon pay it.

But Jesus ended His prayer by saying, “Yet not what I will, but what You will.” Jesus came to do the will of the Father (John 5:30). This was His burden to carry.

After checking on the disciples and reminding them to pray so they did not fall into temptation, Jesus returned to praying. Because of His distress, an angel came to comfort Him (Luke 22:43). He prayed so earnestly and with such emotion that He began to sweat drops of blood (22:44).

After some time, Jesus returned to Peter, James, and John. They had fallen asleep for a second time. Jesus woke them and brought them to their feet. They didn’t fully understand what their Rabbi had just been through. They couldn’t conceive of the anguish Jesus had just experienced. They also did not know that they were about to be thrust into a series of events that would change everything.

Jesus chose to follow His Father’s will. And these men that had followed Him and believed in Him would soon vanish from His side. They would not stand with Him. But He would die for them.



See this interactive story on **Bible App for Kids:**
“*In the Garden*” for Android and Apple devices.



Gospel Discussion

READ HEBREWS 5:7-10.

God heard Jesus as He was praying in the garden. But God's will did not change. Jesus was obedient unto death. Because of that, God made Him perfect in resurrection and He became a source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. How are you learning to obey Jesus? Does obeying Jesus also mean obeying God's Word?

Family Activity

Go as a family to a local nursery, park, or to your own personal garden. Read today's scripture and then take a few moments to pray there as a family. Pray that you will be obedient in what God has planned for you. Also pray for someone that your family could share the good news of Jesus with.

For Younger Children

On the night that Jesus had a great feast with the disciples, they left the city after they had finished eating. They walked to a nearby grove called the Mount of Olives. There Jesus told His disciples to wait and pray while He walked by Himself.

After Jesus had gone a little further, He fell to the ground and started praying. Jesus knew what was going to happen very soon. He knew that He would be killed. But He also knew that it was all God's plan.

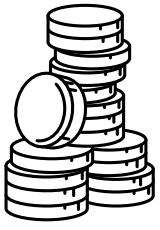
Jesus was both sad and anxious. He wasn't afraid to die, but He had never been separated from God the Father before. Since Jesus was dying for all the sins of everyone in the world, He would become separated from God just as people are separated from God when they sin.

Because Jesus was in distress, an angel came and comforted Him.

After a while Jesus returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He woke them and told them to pray.

Jesus returned to praying by Himself again. Each time Jesus prayed He ended by telling God that He would do what God wanted Him to do.

When Jesus had finished praying, He saw that the disciples were again sleeping. He got them to their feet. Jesus knew a very scary event was about to happen and He wanted the disciples awake and alert.



HOLY WEEK DAY 5 (THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022)

Jesus is Betrayed

READ: MATTHEW 26:14-16, V.20-25, V.47-56

Something didn't add up for Judas. He had traveled with Jesus as one of His disciples and witnessed Him do miraculous things. He had heard Jesus teach thousands of people eager to learn more about Jesus' "kingdom of God." But something held Judas back from fully believing Jesus was who He said He was. A Messiah who spoke of His own death and of servanthood wasn't the messiah Judas had in mind.

Before the Passover feast, Judas slipped away from his companions. He knew that the chief priests were unhappy with Jesus and His claims of being the Messiah. Perhaps he could find some compensation for the last three years of his life by giving Jesus over to the Jewish leaders. Little did Judas know, the chief priests were ecstatic that one of Jesus' own were helping them move their own plans along earlier than expected.

They offered Judas 30 pieces of silver, about a month's worth of wages. That was a lot of money compared to the meager coin purse Judas had been managing—and stealing from—for Jesus and the disciples. Judas accepted the payment and then began to devise the perfect time to get Jesus away from the crowds and into a pair of shackles.

At the Passover feast, Judas was nervous. He sat at the same table with Jesus and the other eleven disciples. Jesus said one of the disciples would betray Him! They all looked at each other. Judas wanted to shrink away. They began to ask Jesus who would betray Him. When Judas asked, "Is it I?" Jesus replied, "You have said so."

Without a word, Judas rose and left (John 13:29). The other disciples missed Jesus' words and thought Jesus had sent him to get more food for the feast. Judas' heart was racing. Jesus had known what he had done. Jesus *knew* what he planned to do. Judas left the house and found himself breathing heavily in the night air. The time had come. He was going to betray Jesus.

Judas knew where Jesus would be after He and the disciples finished the Passover feast. Each year they traveled to Jerusalem with Jesus, they ate the Passover meal and then

made their way to the Mount of Olives (Luke 22:39). All Judas had to do was tell the chief priests where Jesus would be. They could do the rest!

Hours later in the Garden of Gethsemane at the Mount of Olives, Judas stood with a crowd of priests, temple guards, and common people. The priests wanted to make sure they arrested the correct man, so Judas was to point out which of the men was Jesus. Judas stood facing Jesus and the other eleven disciples. Standing among the olive trees, they didn't look threatening. They just looked like eleven men with Rabbi. Jesus had no anger in His eyes when He met Judas' gaze. Perhaps only sorrow and sadness.

Judas collected himself and performed his final role. He crossed the space between the crowd and Jesus' group. He walked right up to Jesus, said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Jesus on the cheek.

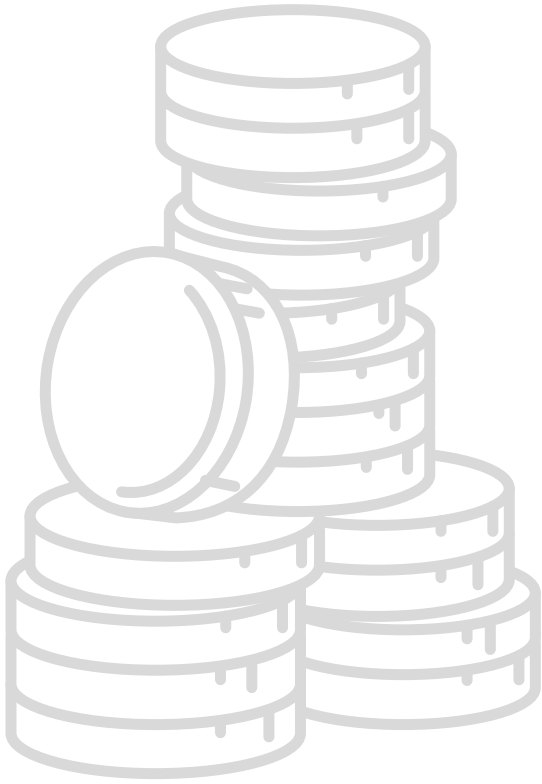
Jesus acknowledged Judas and said, "Friend, do what you came to do."

At the sign of the kiss, the guards approached Jesus and seized Him.

Suddenly Peter's sword was out of its sheath and blurred in the air. A high priest's servant clutched at the side of his head where his ear used to be only a few seconds ago.

Jesus quickly took control of the situation. He told Peter to put his sword away and He touched the servant's head and healed him (Luke 22:51). But the disciples saw the situation as one that wouldn't turn out well. So, each of the eleven remaining disciples fled and left Jesus alone with the angry crowd.

Jesus went willingly with the chief priests and the guards. They were leading Him away to stand trial before the Jewish religious leaders. This would be the first of several interrogations Jesus would endure. Yet, He remained faithful even in the face of betrayal.



Gospel Discussion

READ MATTHEW 26:69–75.

This passage is not the end of Peter’s story. Even though he denied Jesus was his Friend, his Teacher, and his Lord—just as Jesus had predicted (v.30-35)—he was forgiven. Soon after these events, Peter and the other apostles would receive the Holy Spirit and find that God’s strength was more than enough to boldly stand for Jesus and His kingdom! Do you push away conversations about Jesus? Ask that God give you the strength to discuss Jesus and salvation with those around you.

Family Activity

Give each child a dollar bill. Ask them if they would trade it for 30 pennies. Talk about whether the dollar bill or 30 pennies is more valuable. Then discuss how Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 silver coins and how Jesus is much more valuable than 30 coins.

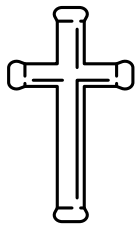
For Younger Children

Judas was one of Jesus’ disciples. He traveled with Jesus for three years to many places. He saw Jesus heal sick people, make blind people see, and even walk on water! But Judas just did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah that the people were waiting for.

Judas decided that Jesus needed to be stopped. He went to the chief priests in Jerusalem and said he could help them arrest Jesus. The chief priests were eager to have Judas help them. They were already trying to devise a plan that would allow them to kill Jesus. Judas just gave them a perfect opportunity to silence Jesus once and for all. The chief priests gave Judas 30 silver coins. All Judas had to do was choose the perfect time and place to betray Jesus.

Later, Judas led the chief priests, temple guards, and a small crowd to where Jesus and the other disciples had gathered in a garden. Jesus had been praying to God for a long time that evening. Judas walked ahead of the crowd and gave Jesus a kiss on the cheek. The kiss identified which man the guards should arrest.

When the guards seized Jesus, the other disciples fled. Jesus could have called angels from Heaven to defend Him, but He knew that being captured was a part of God’s plan. Jesus went willingly with the temple guards to stand trial for claiming to be the Messiah.



HOLY WEEK DAY 6 (FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022)

Jesus is Crucified

READ: MATTHEW 27:1-2, V.11-54

The night had been long and arduous. The Sanhedrin council had an emergency meeting to pass judgment on Jesus as soon as He arrived from the ordeal in the Garden of Gethsemane. Out of the seventy priests that made up the council, only a handful were present. The result was an unjust trial with false testimony and a sentence of death (Matthew 27:57-68; 28:1).

Shortly after dawn broke, Jesus was led to the governor's estate. Pontius Pilate, the Roman procurator of Judea at this time, held the final authority to determine if someone should be executed for breaking the law. Pilate wasn't concerned with the bickering of the Jewish people and their strange religion. He heard the priests' complaints as to how Jesus declared Himself "King of the Jews."

Pilate questioned Jesus but found no fault in Him. He then appealed to the Jewish leaders to instead punish Jesus, but they only wanted Jesus to be executed. Pilate even sent Jesus to another governor named Herod Antipas, and yet Herod found no fault in Jesus either (Luke 23:6-16). Pilate had Jesus beaten and flogged, but that didn't appease the Jewish priests and elders. Pilate was uneasy about sentencing this man to death just for breaking the Jews' strange laws. Jesus certainly hadn't broken any Roman laws.

Yet there was a crowd gathering around the priests outside. The angry mob was shouting, "Crucify Jesus!" Fearing a riot, Pilate handed Jesus over to his soldiers to be executed. The soldiers took Jesus and dressed Him in a robe and put a twisted crown of thorns on His head. They mocked Jesus by bowing to Him, spitting on Him, and hitting Him. Pilate gave his men a sign that read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." This was both Jesus' crime and Pilate's mockery of the Jewish leaders.

By mid-morning, Jesus—beaten, bleeding, and exhausted—was on the way to Golgotha. The commotion brought people out of their homes to see this man who would dare challenge the Jewish priests. A man from the crowds was forced to carry Jesus' cross along the roads. Once they arrived at the execution site, they laid the cross on the ground, stripped Jesus of His clothing, and with a

mallet, hammered thick iron nails through Jesus' hands and feet and into the rough wood. They hoisted Jesus up on the cross and dropped it's end into a hole so that Jesus would hang for all to see. The soldiers gambled for pieces of Jesus' clothing so they could take home mementos of the occasion they killed the Jews' King.

Jesus became a spectacle. People passed by the cross just to mock Him. They said, "He saved others, yet He cannot save Himself?" Even one of the other men who hung on a cross near Jesus yelled at Him.

At noon, the bright day turned to darkness. Unease began to spread among those witnessing the execution of this Man who claimed to be the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14). For three hours, the sun was hidden as shouts and snide comments likely dwindled to merely murmurs.

Suddenly the tension was pierced by Jesus shouting, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?"

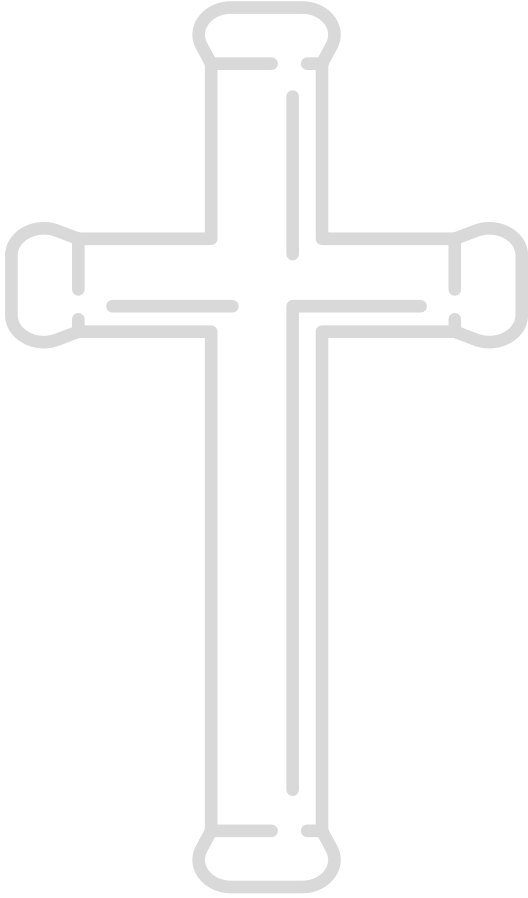
Talk began to rise from the crowd. Some expected to see the prophet Elijah rescue Jesus. However, no rescue came. Jesus shouted out one last time and then collapsed. The Man who was to be Israel's King was dead.

Suddenly the entire region was shaken. The earth shook and the rocks around Golgotha were split in two. Back in Jerusalem, the earthquake opened graves. In the very temple of God, the curtain that barred entry to the Holy of Holies was torn in two.

The sun was shining again on Golgotha and a centurion stood with his men before Jesus' cross after the earthquake had passed. He traded uneasy glances with his men. He looked up and saw the mockingly written sign above Jesus' body and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"



See this interactive story on **Bible App for Kids:**
"It is Finished" for Android and Apple devices.



Gospel Discussion

READ LUKE 23:39-43.

One thief being crucified with Jesus mocked Him. The other thief rebuked the first and defended Jesus. This thief was being punished justly for His crime, but on the cross that day, He met the Savior of the world. What did Jesus promise the thief? What did the thief do to earn eternal life? (*No actions, just acknowledgment by faith and belief that Jesus is God's Son.*)

Family Activity

Place a fresh white carnation or rose in a clear vase with water at the base. Discuss with your family what it meant that Jesus was a “lamb without blemish or spot” (1 Peter 1:18-19). Add a dozen drops of red food coloring to the water. As the red begins to appear in the white flower over the next couple of days, be reminded that Jesus took our sins upon Himself when He died on the Cross and shed His blood for us.

For Younger Children

After Jesus was arrested, He was put on trial. The religious leaders did not believe Jesus when He said He is the Son of God or the Messiah. So, they decided that Jesus should die because they believed Jesus was telling lies.

They took Jesus to a governor named Pilate who did not believe Jesus had done anything wrong. But the Jewish people demanded that Pilate treat Jesus like He was a criminal. They shouted, “Crucify Jesus!”

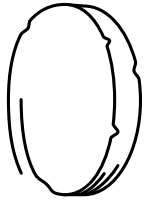
Pilate tried many things to calm the people. He tried to reason with them. He even tried to punish Jesus for the people by having Him beaten. But nothing Pilate tried worked.

Pilate became afraid of the people and was worried they would begin fighting with Pilate's soldiers. He gave Jesus over to His soldiers to be executed by crucifixion.

Jesus was led by the soldiers to a place called Golgotha. He was tired, hurting, and bleeding. But it hurt worse when the soldiers nailed His hands and feet to a cross and stood the cross up. This was a crucifixion. People would hang from a cross until they died.

Jesus hung on the cross for hours. People made fun of Him and even called Him names. When Jesus died, a great earthquake shook the ground. Some of the people then realized that everything Jesus said was true.

Jesus knew that He would die because that is what God sent Him to do. But the good news is Jesus did not stay dead. Here's the best news in the world: Jesus is alive!



HOLY WEEK DAY 7 (SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022)

Jesus is Buried

READ: MARK 15:40-47

The afternoon sun hung over a hushed gathering of onlookers. The daylight had returned after hours of unnatural darkness and everyone atop the hill at Golgotha looked unsteady. The tremors had come unexpectedly once Jesus had breathed His last and some wondered if He had been telling the truth all along.

The Jewish leaders had asked that Pilate not leave any bodies hanging on crosses during the Sabbath. Since the Sabbath began once night fell, those being crucified would need to be taken down within the next few hours. Pilate's soldiers broke the legs of the two thieves hanging on their crosses so they would die more quickly (John 19:32). However, when the soldiers came to Jesus, they saw that He had already passed away. Still, they pierced His side with a spear and out from the wound poured blood and water (v. 33-34).

Two women stood in the crowd watching the heartbreaking scene unfold. They and other women had followed Jesus from Galilee, listened to Him teach, helped to meet Jesus' and the disciple's needs, and trusted everything that Jesus had told them. Both women's names were Mary. Mary Magdalene had met Jesus when He freed her from a life of torment by seven demons (Luke 8:1-2). The other Mary may have been the grandmother of James and John, two of Jesus' disciples. While the disciples had abandoned Him the night before—except for one (see John 19:26-27)—these women had been present at the death of the Messiah.

The hours passed and the hill was bathed in a golden glow. The women watched as a new arrival trekked up to the top of the hill. He brought with him supplies that would be used for Jesus' burial. The man's name was Joseph. The women would later learn that Joseph was a member of the very same council of priests that had sentenced Jesus to death the night before. But Joseph was a secret follower of Jesus (John 19:38). He believed that Jesus truly was the Messiah sent by God. When Joseph learned that Jesus had died, he went immediately to Pilate. Even though Pilate was surprised that Jesus was already dead, he agreed to give the body over to Joseph. That meant that Jesus's body wouldn't be drug off with the two thieves, but that Joseph could give

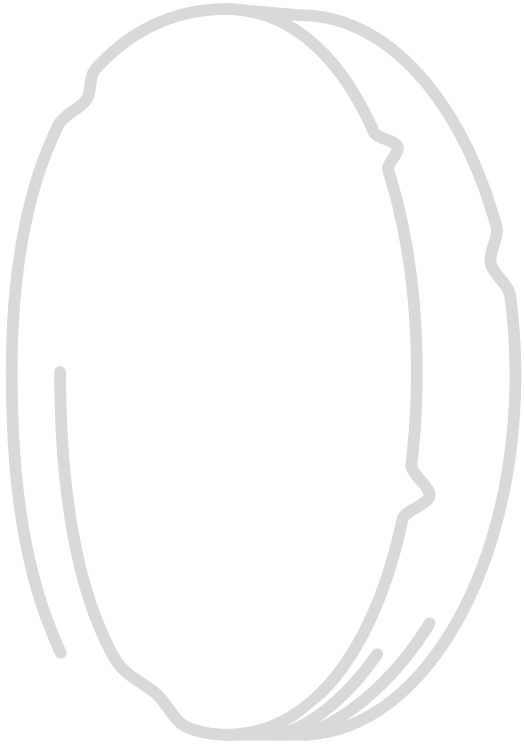
Him a proper burial (Isaiah 53:9).

Along with Joseph came a man named Nicodemus (John 19:39). He was also an important Jewish leader who had met with Jesus and defended Him (John 3:1-21; 7:40-52). Together, Joseph and Nicodemus lifted Jesus' body off the cross. They wrapped Him in linen strips that had been layered with spices and aloes. They loaded Him up and went a short distance to a tomb that Joseph had purchased (John 19:41). The tomb was a small room cut into the rock. As they worked, both Mary's watched.

Joseph and Nicodemus laid Jesus' body carefully down in the tomb and stepped outside. A large flat stone that had been cut when the tomb was made stood at the side of the tomb's entrance. They rolled it over the entrance and sealed the tomb. It would take several strong men to open it again.

We aren't told what happened after Jesus was laid in the tomb that evening. Perhaps Joseph and Nicodemus left contemplating their lives after the day's events. Their very public display toward the Man who claimed to be the Messiah would not go unnoticed. Perhaps the men left both women sitting and staring at the tomb that now held the body of their Master. The Mary's could have been trying to process the speed at which the entire day unfolded. Just under 24 hours ago, Jesus was free and alive. Now He was dead and buried.

The women probably left the garden tombs before nightfall. They would observe the Sabbath and rest. But they would be back. After the Sabbath had passed, they would come back with more spices and anoint the body. In only a little more than a day and a half, they would be able to honor their Master again.



Gospel Discussion

READ JOHN 3:1-21.

This is Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus. Nicodemus wanted to understand the things Jesus taught. What does Jesus mean by saying "born again?"

Later in the conversation, Jesus says that there are those who believe and those who do not believe. According to John 3:16-21, what do those who *believe* actually believe?

Family Activity

Do an Easter scavenger hunt together as a family. Look for items that symbolize different parts of the Easter story. Look for 2 sticks to represent the cross, a rock to represent the stone and tomb, something black to represent sin, something red to represent Jesus' blood, something white to represent a clean heart and forgiveness for our sins, and finally something green to represent a growing relationship in Christ.

For Younger Children

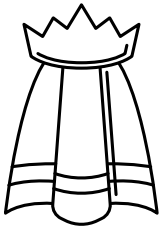
Shortly after Jesus had died on the cross, two men came to collect Jesus' body. The first man was Joseph. He had asked Pilate if he could bury Jesus in Joseph's own tomb. Joseph was a rich man who secretly believed that Jesus is God's Son.

The second man was Nicodemus, a high Jewish priest. Nicodemus had met with Jesus before when he wanted to know if Jesus was truly the Messiah. Nicodemus came to believe that Jesus was telling the truth and even defended Jesus when some of the other priests wanted to arrest Him.

Both Nicodemus and Joseph carefully took Jesus off the cross. They wrapped His body in linen strips that had been covered in spices and aloe. They then took His body to the nearby tomb that Joseph had purchased. There they laid Jesus down inside and rolled a heavy stone in front of the tomb to seal the entrance.

The whole time they worked, two women watched. They both were named Mary. They watched while Jesus died. They saw Joseph and Nicodemus prepare Jesus for burial. They followed when the men took Jesus to the tomb. They were still watching the tomb after it was closed.

These women had both met Jesus in a place called Galilee. They fully believed that Jesus is the One God promised who would rule God's new kingdom. They knew in their hearts that Jesus is the Messiah! They followed Jesus from Galilee to wherever he went. They followed Jesus to Jerusalem and now they stood outside of His tomb. Jesus was now dead. But soon, these two women would be the first to know He didn't stay that way.



HOLY WEEK DAY 8 (SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2022)

Jesus is Alive

READ: MATTHEW 28

It had been a long Sabbath. Fear had gripped the hearts of Jesus' followers. If their Lord and Master had been so easily arrested and executed, how much more dangerous would it be for them? Yet there were some who would brave city streets and busy paths to do what little they could for their crucified Teacher.

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary planned to lead a group of women to Jesus' tomb as soon as the morning came. They had prepared spices and fragrant oils because they likely wanted to prepare Jesus' body properly for burial since it was so hastily handled by Joseph and Nicodemus. Before the sun had risen, the women set off to the gardens near Golgotha.

As they traveled, they began to wonder how they would roll the heavy stone away from the entrance to the tomb (Mark 16:3). However, as the sun was rising, they arrived at the tomb and discovered the stone had already been rolled away. The scene was eerily quiet.

Mary Magdalene approached the tomb and saw that it was empty. The body of her Lord was gone. She immediately ran back to where the disciples were staying (John 20:2). She had to tell Peter and John that someone had taken Jesus' body!

The other women slowly moved to see inside the tomb. It was empty. A voice said, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, as He said." An angel sat on top of the stone that had sealed the tomb. He told the women to report their findings to the disciples and to tell them to go to Galilee. The women hurried off to relay everything they had seen and heard.

Meanwhile, Mary Magdalene pounded on the door of the house where Peter and John were staying. When the door opened, they saw Mary distressed and breathing hard. She said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him" (John 20:2). Peter and John immediately took off for the tomb. Mary kept up as best as she could.

Peter and John arrived at the tomb shortly after and found it exactly as Mary had described. There was no body, but where it had lain were linen burial sheets. Peter noticed that the cloth that had covered Jesus' face was now neatly folded apart from the other cloths. Peter and John did not fully understand what had happened, yet, but soon they would (John 20:4-10).

When the men left, Mary stood weeping outside of the tomb. She wanted to get one last look at the place that was supposed to be the final resting place of her Master. She froze when she saw two angels in white sitting inside! They asked her why she was crying (John 20:11-13).

Mary tried to tell them that someone had taken Jesus' body, but she was startled when she sensed someone behind her. She turned to see someone she mistook for the groundskeeper to the garden. He asked her the same question. Again, she explained that someone had stolen her Lord's body (John 20:14-15).

"Mary," the man said softly.

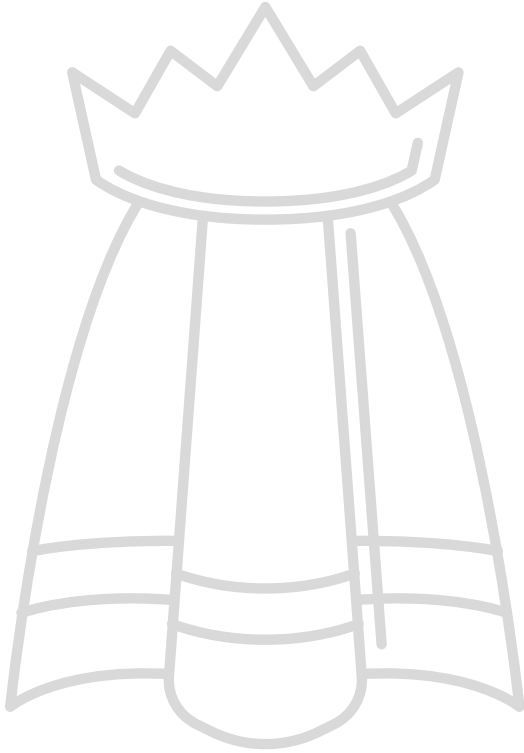
Mary suddenly stopped crying. She knew this Man. She knew Who was standing in front of her! She exclaimed, "Teacher!"

Jesus, alive, stood before Mary. She tried to hug Him, but He said instead, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God'" (John 20:16-18).

Mary found herself running as fast as her feet could carry her. What had been grief and despair only moments before, was now unshakable joy! Jesus is alive! He had risen! For the next 40 days, Jesus would appear to over 500 people proving that He is the Messiah and the Savior of the world (1 Corinthians 15:6)!



See this interactive story on **Bible App for Kids:**
"A Happy Sunday" for Android and Apple devices.



Gospel Discussion

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11.

This passage encourages us to think like Jesus demonstrated. Verses 5-8 tell us how Jesus humbled Himself and died for the sins of the world (see also Romans 5:8). But at Christ's resurrection God did something amazing! What do verses 9-11 tell us about how we should respond to Jesus today?

Family Activity

Make resurrection rolls for breakfast to enjoy as a family. Talk about the empty tomb and watch your child's face as they open their roll to find the marshmallow gone and the roll is empty.

<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/84289/resurrection-rolls/>

For Younger Children

Some of the women who were followers of Jesus decided to visit Jesus' tomb two days after He had been buried. They woke up early that morning and prepared spices and oils to take with them. As they traveled, they became worried that they would not be strong enough to roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb.

But when they arrived at the tomb, the stone had already been rolled away! They looked inside the tomb and saw that it was empty. Angels appeared and told the women that Jesus was no longer there, but He was alive again!

Mary was one of the women who went out that day, but she left before the angels appeared. When she saw the empty tomb, she ran to get Peter and John, two of Jesus' disciples. The three of them ran back to the tomb. When the disciples found the tomb empty, they didn't know exactly what to believe. But Mary stayed behind and waited until everyone had left.

She began to cry. She didn't know where Jesus was. Suddenly, Someone was standing behind her. At first, she didn't recognize Him, but when He said her name, she knew it was Jesus! She saw with her own eyes that Jesus was alive!

Jesus is alive today and is preparing His kingdom for those that love Him. The good news that we can tell others is that Jesus died for our sins, but God brought Him back. Jesus Christ is Lord of all!

