

This Family Guide will help you maximize spiritual discussions at home during the Easter season. You'll find easy-to-implement ideas for each day from Palm Sunday to Easter. Try one or more to help your family focus on the significance of Holy Week.

LEADING UP TO HOLY WEEK

Your family is encouraged to place a wooden cross in your front yard as a simple reminder of Easter's true meaning. Pick up one FREE cross at any Bellevue campus. Please do not drape, paint, or decorate your cross in any way.

Q: Why should we put a cross in our yard?

A: It is a simple way to tell others you are a Christian. "For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ" (Romans 1:16a). Use the cross as a reminder to invite others to attend church with you Easter Sunday.

Q: How can I show the world that I am not ashamed to be a follower of Jesus throughout the year?

A: Love others as Jesus loves you (John 15:12), allow Jesus to shine through you (Galatians 5:22), and serve other people (1 Peter 4:10). Discuss other ways your family can publicly show Jesus' love to others.

PALM SUNDAY

READ: John 12:12–15

Q: What did the people shout as Jesus entered the city riding a donkey?

A: They shouted, "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!"

Q: Do you think the people realized Jesus would need to die on a cross in order to bring them salvation?

A: No. In fact, Jesus had to explain it to His closest followers. (John 12:20–33)

ACTIVITY: A parent stands at the top of the stairs and tells the children he/she wants them to join him/her upstairs in "Heaven." But the kids can't touch the stairs or the railing. Let them mull over the dilemma. If they can't figure out the solution, coach them to ask the parent to come downstairs and carry the kids up on his/her back. Explain that Jesus came down to us to make a way to Heaven because we could not enter Heaven by our own efforts.

PRAY: Turn the excited anticipation of the Palm Sunday crowd into your family's prayer.

GOING FURTHER

Capture God moments this Easter season and become a more intentional family one step at a time. Additional resources are available at the Home Point Resource Centers located in the East and West Lobbies and bellevue.org/homepoint.

WORSHIP THE RISEN SAVIOR WITH US EASTER SUNDAY!

SUNRISE SERVICE AT THE CROSSES

For time and details visit bellevue.org/easter.

WORSHIP SERVICES

9:20 and 11:00 a.m. (identical services)

There will be no Life Groups or evening Worship Service on Easter.

For more information and additional Easter celebration opportunities, visit bellevue.org/easter.

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Love God. Love People. Share Jesus. Make Disciples.



A FAMILY GUIDE FOR HOLY WEEK



MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY

Take a few minutes at breakfast, dinner, or bedtime to focus your family on key events from the final week of Jesus' earthly ministry.

MONDAY: Read John 13:1–17.

In ancient households the lowest job of all was to wash the feet of guests. Usually this task was only carried out by servants. Discuss the many ways Jesus humbled Himself while on Earth. Take turns washing one another's feet and then read Philippians 2:5–8 before praying, "Lord Jesus, thank you for humbling Yourself for us. Help us do the same with one another. Amen."

TUESDAY: Read John 17:20–23.

Jesus actually prayed for those of us who would believe in Him in the future. He asked His Father to help us show unity by loving each other. Discuss how your family can show love to each other in a way that pictures God's love. (Couples should read Ephesians 5:31–33 to reinforce how marriage is intended to be a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride, the Church.) Pray, "Lord Jesus, help our family reflect the kind of selfless love you prayed for us. Amen."

WEDNESDAY: Read Luke 22:47–54.

Even while Jesus was being wrongfully arrested, He showed love and compassion for the arresting soldiers. Pray, "Lord Jesus, help us show compassion and love one another even when others treat us wrongly. Amen."

THURSDAY: Read Luke 23:13–34.

Pilate condemned Jesus because he feared a riot among the people. These were many of the same people who shouted "Hosanna" just a few days earlier as Jesus arrived in Jerusalem. Later, while on the cross, Jesus prayed for Pilate, the soldiers, and the crowd when He said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Pray, "Lord Jesus, thank you for being willing to forgive us even when we do the most terrible things. Give us the grace to also forgive one another. Amen."

Celebrate
EASTER

GOOD FRIDAY

Help your children understand the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross with one of these simple activities.

YOUNGER CHILDREN: Have your children nail two boards together in the shape of a cross. Then read Romans 3:23 together. Now have each person in the family write their name on a piece of paper along with the word "Sins." Invite each person to list the sinful things he or she has done (i.e., losing temper, saying bad words, gossiping). Very young children can simply draw mean faces. Then, one at a time, allow each person to nail his or her list to the cross as a symbol of Jesus taking our sins with Him and paying the penalty for our wrongdoing. Conclude by reading Romans 5:8 and Romans 6:23 together before praying, "Lord Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross to pay for our sins. Amen."

OLDER CHILDREN: Watch one of the following films that feature Jesus' trial, scourging, and death. Both are available in the Bellevue Library. Talk about the film and then pray together, "Lord Jesus, thank you for the sacrifice you made on our behalf. Amen."

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: This 2003 film depicts word-for-word scenes from John's gospel including Christ's death and resurrection.

JESUS: This two-hour docudrama shows the life of Christ based on the gospel of Luke.

SATURDAY (EASTER EVE)

Take a few minutes at breakfast, dinner, or bedtime to reflect on what it was like for Jesus' followers after they lay Him in the tomb.

READ: Matthew 27:57–66

DISCUSS: Have each member of your family name one person who knew Jesus and describe what they must have been thinking/feeling the day before His resurrection. (i.e., Peter felt guilty for denying Jesus, Mary felt grief over losing her beloved son, Pilate felt nervous for condemning an innocent man.)

PRAY: "Lord Jesus, thank you for going into the grave so that we could overcome death! Amen."

ACTIVITY: Before going to bed, spend time together making "Empty Tomb Cookies." This Faith Talk, including recipe and discussion points, is available at our Home Point Resource Centers and bellevue.org/homepoint.

EASTER DAY

Purchase a "Resurrection Eggs™" kit* or create your own with empty plastic eggs numbered 1–12. Each egg should contain a symbol that prompts re-telling part of the Easter week story as follows:

*Available in the Bellevue Bookstore

EGG 1: A small leaf as a "palm branch" symbolizing the scene described in Matthew 21:1–11

EGG 2: A small cloth with perfume on it to symbolize the scene in John 12:2–8

EGG 3: A piece of cereal to illustrate the Last Supper described in Matthew 26:17–19

EGG 4: Three dimes to symbolize Judas' betrayal of Christ as described in Matthew 27:3

EGG 5: Toothpicks glued in the shape of a cross to reflect Jesus carrying His cross as described in John 19:17

EGG 6: A small thorny branch or a single thorn to show Jesus' crown as described in John 19:2

EGG 7: Small dice to show soldiers gambled for Jesus' clothes as explained in John 19:23–24

EGG 8: A tiny nail or straight pin to illustrate nailing Jesus to the cross from John 19:18 and 37, 20:25–29

EGG 9: A small bit of sponge to illustrate Matthew 27:34

EGG 10: Several whole cloves or other spices to reflect Jesus' burial as described in John 19:40

EGG 11: A small rock to illustrate the tomb covering of John 20:1

EGG 12: Empty to show "He is risen!" as described in John 20:6–7

After this activity, store the eggs in a carton and then allow your children to hunt for chocolate eggs, Easter baskets, or other goodies to celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection from the dead! Then encourage them to share the story with family, friends, and others throughout the day.