

5-Day Family Easter Devotional Guide

Welcome to a sacred journey through Holy Week designed especially for families with young children. Over the next five days, you'll walk together through the most powerful story ever told, from Jesus's humble arrival in Jerusalem to His glorious resurrection.

This devotional is crafted to help your family slow down during the busy Easter season and focus on what matters most. Each day includes Scripture reading, a memory verse, engaging discussion questions, and a simple hands-on activity that brings the story to life for little ones. These moments don't require perfection, just your presence and an open heart.

Easter isn't just about bunnies and baskets. It's about a King who chose humility, a Savior who served, a sacrifice that changed everything, a waiting that teaches trust, and a resurrection that brings eternal hope. As you gather each day, you're creating memories that will shape your children's faith for years to come.

5 Days

Short, meaningful devotions perfect for busy families

Scripture-Based

Grounded in God's Word with memory verses

Interactive

Hands-on activities that engage young hearts



The King Who Came Humbly

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:8–9

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" – Matthew 21:9

Big Idea: Jesus is a King, but not the kind people expected.

Imagine the scene: crowds lining the dusty roads of Jerusalem, children laughing and running alongside, people pulling off their cloaks and laying them down like a royal carpet. Palm branches waving in the air. Shouts of "Hosanna!" echoing off the stone walls. Everyone was celebrating because the King was coming.

But this King wasn't riding a powerful war horse. He didn't arrive in golden armor with an army behind Him. Jesus came riding on a young donkey, gentle, humble, and peaceful. The people expected a king who would fight their enemies with swords. Instead, Jesus came to fight a much bigger battle—the battle against sin and death—with love.

This is how Jesus always works. He doesn't force His way into our hearts. He knocks gently. He invites. He serves. He comes not to be served, but to serve. Even in His moment of greatest celebration, Jesus showed us that true greatness isn't about power or fame, but humility and love.

Discussion Question 1

What kind of king did people expect? How was Jesus different from what they imagined?

Discussion Question 2

Why do you think Jesus chose to ride on a donkey instead of a horse? What does that tell us about Him?

Family Activity

Lay towels or blankets on the floor to represent palm branches. Take turns acting out the story—some can be the crowd shouting "Hosanna!" while one person pretends to be Jesus riding into Jerusalem. Let the children wave their arms like palm branches and celebrate together!

Love That Serves

Scripture Reading: John 13:3–5

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet." – John 13:14

Big Idea: The greatest love kneels down.

In Jesus's time, washing feet was one of the dirtiest, most humble jobs you could do. Roads were dusty and dirty, people wore sandals, and by the end of the day, everyone's feet were filthy. Usually, the lowest servant in the household would wash visitors' feet when they arrived.

But on this night, something shocking happened. Jesus—the Teacher, the Master, the Lord—got down on His knees with a basin of water and a towel. One by one, He washed His disciples' dirty feet. Peter was so surprised he didn't want Jesus to do it! But Jesus explained that this is what real love looks like.

True love doesn't just say nice words. It rolls up its sleeves. It kneels down. It serves others even when it's hard or uncomfortable. Jesus didn't wash feet because He had to; He did it to show us how to love. When we serve others, we're showing them Jesus's heart.

Think About It

The Son of God, Creator of the universe, washing dirty feet. That's how much He loves us—and that's how much He asks us to love each other.



Discussion Question 1

How can we serve someone in our family today?
What's one thing we can do to help?



Discussion Question 2

Why is serving others important? How does it make them feel? How does it make us feel?



Family Activity

Choose one small act of service to do for another family member today. It could be making someone's bed, helping with a chore, drawing them a picture, or giving them a hug when they need it. Remember: when we serve others, we're showing Jesus's love!

The Cross

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:44–46

"Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." – Luke 23:46

Big Idea: Jesus chose the cross because He chose us.

This is the hardest part of the Easter story, but also the most beautiful. Jesus, who had done nothing wrong, was nailed to a cross. The sky grew dark. Everything felt heavy and sad. But even in that terrible moment, Jesus was doing something amazing. He was taking our place.

Every wrong thing we've ever done, every mean word, every selfish choice—Jesus took all of that on Himself. He didn't have to. He's God's Son! He could have called angels to rescue Him. But He stayed on that cross because He loves us that much. The Bible says that the punishment for sin is death, but Jesus died so we wouldn't have to. He took our punishment so we could be forgiven and close to God forever.

When Jesus said, "It is finished," He meant the work of saving us was complete. The cross wasn't the end of the story, but it was the moment when Jesus paid the price for our freedom. Because of the cross, we can come to God. We can be forgiven. We can have hope.

The cross shows us the deepest kind of love; love that sacrifices everything for someone else. Jesus gave His life so we could live. That's how precious you are to Him. That's how far His love reaches.

Discussion Question 1

Why did Jesus die for us? What was He saving us from?

Discussion Question 2

How does the cross show God's love? What does it teach us about how much He cares?

Family Activity

Find something safe but a little heavy for each person to hold—a book, a water bottle, a small bag. Hold it with arms outstretched for 30 seconds. Talk about how Jesus carried something much heavier: our sin. Thank Him for carrying what we couldn't carry ourselves.

The Waiting

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:59–61

"The Lord is good to those who wait for Him." – Lamentations 3:25

Big Idea: God is working even when it feels quiet.

After Jesus died, His friends carefully took His body down from the cross. They wrapped Him in clean cloth and laid Him in a tomb carved into rock. A heavy stone was rolled in front of the entrance. Then they walked away, hearts broken, unsure of what would come next.

Saturday was a day of waiting. Everything felt quiet and still. Jesus's followers were grieving and confused. They remembered His words, but they did not yet understand. All they could do was wait.

We know that kind of waiting too. We wait for prayers to be answered. We wait for things to change. We wait when we cannot see what God is doing.

But God is always working, even when it looks silent. A seed buried in the ground seems lifeless, yet beneath the soil roots are forming and life is stirring. Something beautiful is on its way.

While Jesus lay in the tomb, God was preparing the greatest miracle in history. The waiting was not wasted. It was part of the plan. And just as His followers learned to trust in the silence, we can trust too. God is faithful, even in the in-between.

Discussion Question 1

Have you ever had to wait for something good? How did it feel? What happened when the waiting was over?

Discussion Question 2

How can we trust God while we wait? What can we remember about who He is?

Family Activity

Plant a seed together in a small pot or cup of soil. Water it and place it by a window. Over the next few days and weeks, watch for growth. Talk about how even though we can't see what's happening under the soil, the seed is working and growing—just like God is always working, even when we can't see it.

He Is Risen!

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:5–6

"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said." – Matthew 28:6

Big Idea: The stone was rolled away. Death did not win.

Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, women who loved Jesus walked to the tomb carrying spices to honor His body. Their hearts were heavy with grief. But when they arrived, they couldn't believe their eyes. The massive stone had been rolled away! The tomb was open and empty!

An angel appeared, shining with glory, and spoke the most wonderful words ever spoken: "He is not here. He has risen, just as He said!" Jesus was alive! Death couldn't hold Him. The grave couldn't keep Him. He had conquered sin and death forever, and because He rose, everything changed.

This is the heartbeat of Easter: Jesus is alive! He didn't just come back as a spirit or a memory. He walked, talked, ate with His friends, and showed them His hands and feet. He was really, truly alive. And because He lives, we have hope that lasts forever.

When Jesus rose from the dead, He proved that God's love is stronger than anything—stronger than our mistakes, stronger than our fears, stronger than death itself. Because Jesus lives, we can live too—not just here on earth, but forever with Him in heaven. The resurrection means that no matter how dark things seem, light will always break through. No matter how final something feels, God always has the last word. And His word is always LIFE.



Hope

Because Jesus rose, we have hope that never ends



Love

God's love is stronger than anything we face



Life

We can live forever with Jesus in heaven

Celebrating the Resurrection

Discussion Questions

Take time as a family to talk about these important questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus is alive? How is that different from just remembering someone who died?
2. How does the resurrection give us hope when we're scared or sad?
3. If someone asked you why Easter matters, what would you tell them?
4. What's your favorite part of the Easter story?



Family Activity: Celebrate!

Jesus is alive, and that calls for celebration! Open all the curtains in your home and turn on the lights. If it's evening, turn on every lamp. Walk from room to room together and shout, "He is risen!" Let each person respond, "He is risen indeed!" Sing a favorite worship song, dance, laugh, and thank God together for the greatest gift ever given—Jesus's victory over death. This is a day of JOY!

The resurrection isn't just something that happened 2,000 years ago. It's a reality that changes everything about how we live today. Because Jesus conquered death, we don't have to be afraid. Because He rose, we know God keeps His promises. Because the tomb is empty, our hearts can be full of hope.

Easter is the day when darkness lost and light won. It's the day when love proved it's stronger than hate. It's the day when life defeated death once and for all. And it's the reason we can face each new day with confidence, knowing that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is living in us.

Living the Resurrection Story

Now that you've walked through the Easter story together, the journey doesn't end here. The resurrection isn't just something we celebrate once a year—it's a truth we can live every single day. Here are some ways to keep the Easter message alive in your family throughout the year.

1

Keep Talking About Jesus

Make conversations about Jesus a natural part of daily life. At breakfast, bedtime, or in the car, talk about how Jesus's love shows up in your day.

2

Practice Serving

Remember Day 2? Keep washing feet—not literally every day, but by looking for ways to serve each other and others in your community.

3

Trust During Waiting

When hard times come and you're waiting for answers, remember Day 4. God is working even when things feel quiet.

4

Choose Hope

On difficult days, remind each other: Jesus is alive! That means we always have hope, no matter what we're facing.

You've given your children an incredible gift this week—not just information about Easter, but an experience of walking through the story together. They'll remember the activities, the conversations, and most importantly, the truth that Jesus loves them so much He died and rose again for them.

These five days are just the beginning. Keep reading the Bible together. Keep praying. Keep pointing your children to Jesus in everyday moments. The seeds you're planting now—through devotions like this one, through prayers at bedtime, through teaching them to love and serve—will grow in ways you can't even imagine.

Memory Verses for Your Family

One of the best ways to hide God's Word in our hearts is through memorization. Here are all five memory verses from this devotional gathered in one place. Consider practicing one each week, using hand motions, songs, or repetition during meals.

Day 1

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" – Matthew 21:9

Day 2

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet." – John 13:14

Day 3

"Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." – Luke 23:46

Day 4

"The Lord is good to those who wait for Him." – Lamentations 3:25

Day 5

"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said." – Matthew 28:6

Tips for Memorizing Scripture as a Family

- Say the verse together at every meal for a week
- Create simple hand motions for key words
- Write verses on colorful cards and hang them around the house
- Turn verses into songs using familiar tunes
- Offer small rewards when children can recite a verse
- Practice while driving or walking together
- Break longer verses into smaller chunks
- Let children illustrate the verses with drawings
- Recite together as part of bedtime routine
- Celebrate when someone masters a verse!

When your children memorize these verses, they're not just learning words—they're equipping themselves with truth they can draw on for the rest of their lives. In moments of fear, celebration, confusion, or joy, these Scriptures will come back to them, reminding them of who Jesus is and what He's done.

Your Easter Story Continues

Congratulations on completing this five-day journey through the Easter story! You've walked with Jesus from His humble entry into Jerusalem, through His act of servant love, to the cross, through the waiting, and finally to the glorious resurrection. What an incredible week of growing closer to Jesus as a family.

But here's the most important thing to remember: Easter isn't just a story we read about—it's a story we get to be part of. Every day, we can live in the light of the resurrection. Every day, we can remember that Jesus's love is powerful enough to change everything. Every day, we can choose to serve others, trust God during the waiting, and celebrate the hope we have because the tomb is empty.

The time you've invested this week—reading Scripture together, discussing deep questions, doing hands-on activities, praying as a family—will create memories and plant seeds of faith that will grow for years to come. Your children are watching you model what it looks like to prioritize Jesus, and that example will shape their hearts far more than you might realize.

5

Days of Devotion

That strengthen family faith

5

Memory Verses

To hide in your hearts

1

Empty Tomb

That changes everything

As you move forward from this devotional, keep these practices going. Read the Bible together regularly. Talk about what Jesus is teaching you. Pray for each other. Serve your neighbors. And most of all, keep pointing your children back to the truth that Jesus is alive and His love never fails.

Thank you for taking this journey. May the hope of Easter fill your home not just this week, but every day of the year. He is risen! He is risen indeed!

"Because I live, you also will live." – John 14:19