

HOLY SATURDAY

Keep Jesus in his tomb all day today. Remind your child why Jesus is in the tomb. Build anticipation for Easter morning! Before tomorrow morning, take Jesus out but leave the cloth to prepare for the tomb to be empty.

EASTER SUNDAY

Matthew 28:1-15

Supplies: Story Box, Rock

To Prepare: Show your child the story box. **Ask: Do you remember who is in this box? Let's check to see if anything has changed.** Open the box with a shocked face to see the box empty except for the cloth.

Story: Chirp, chirp, chirp sang the birds. It was early Easter morning and the sun was just coming up. Two women were walking to Jesus' tomb. As they got closer, they asked each other, "How will we roll the big heavy stone away from the doorway to get inside?" Rumble, rumble, rumble. All of a sudden the earth started to shake. An angel came down from heaven, rolled away the stone, and then sat on it! His clothes were sparkling white. The soldiers were so scared that they fell down and could not move.

Walk walk walk. The women arrived at Jesus' tomb. What a surprise they had! Not only was the stone rolled away, but an angel was sitting on top of it! The angel said, "Jesus is not here; He has risen! Come and see! Then go and tell Jesus' disciples that Jesus is alive."

Run, run, run. The women hurried to tell Jesus' friends what had happened. But on the way, they had another surprise! Suddenly, Jesus was there talking to them. The women were so happy. They went up to Jesus, bowed at His feet, and worshiped Him.

Then Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. Go tell My friends that I will see them soon." Jesus was the best surprise that morning. Jesus had risen! Jesus was alive!

Jesus showed His love for all people when He died on the cross to pay for our sins and became alive again. Jesus wants everyone to know this because He loves us and wants us to live with Him in heaven someday. Because of Jesus, we have forgiveness for our sins. Because of Jesus, we have eternal life in heaven!

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HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

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PALM SUNDAY

Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40

Supplies: Story Box, Paper Palm Branches, Donkey Cutout (included) or Toy Donkey, Cookie Sheet with Cornmeal or Rice

To Prepare: Have your child do the actions with you as you tell the story. Give them palm branches (included) to wave while saying Hosanna!

Option: Add uncooked rice or cornmeal to a cookie sheet. As you tell the story, move the wooden figure from the story box and a donkey in the rice or cornmeal. Have people figures lined up along the sides. Put down palms when the people shout, Hosanna!

Story: So many people loved Jesus. They believed He was the Savior God promised to send. Now it was time for Jesus to go to Jerusalem. He knew that soon He would have to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus' friends went to the village. They found a donkey and untied it so they could bring it to Jesus. There were lots of people in Jerusalem. When the people heard that Jesus was coming, they ran to see Him. Men, women, and little children crowded along the road to see Jesus. Some took off their coats and laid them on the road. Wave your branches during this section! They waved palm branches and shouted, "Praise God! Hosanna, hosanna to the Son of David!" Hosanna means "Lord, save us!" Some people even called Jesus a King! Jesus loved us so much that He died on the cross to save us. Now, because Jesus died and came alive again, we will live forever with Him in heaven. Jesus is our Savior and King!

Song: To the tune "Are Your Sleeping?"

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
to the King, to the King.

Riding a donkey,
Riding a donkey,
Jesus comes. Jesus comes.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-23

Supplies: Story Box, Playdough or Play food, Pictures of Communion (included)

To Prepare: Have your child make pretend food with playdough or set up and play a pretend dinner. Ask him or her, "If this was a real meal, who would you invite to eat with you? What's your favorite meal?"

Option: Serve grapes and vanilla wafers as a special snack.

Story: It was almost time for Jesus to suffer and die on the cross to take away the sins of all people. Jesus knew He was going to die soon. He wanted to have one last meal with His 12 special friends, the disciples. Jesus and his friends went to a room where they could eat and visit by themselves. Jesus was happy He could share a meal with His friends before He dies. After they ate, Jesus picked up a loaf of bread and blessed it. Show bread on story box. Then he broke it into pieces. Jesus gave the bread to His disciples to eat. Jesus said, "This bread is My body, which is given for you. Every time you do this, think of Me." Show the communion picture.

Then Jesus took the cup of wine and blessed it. Show the wine chalice on story box. He said, "This is my blood. it is poured out for you to take away your sins. Drink this to remember Me." Show the communion picture.

Jesus loved His disciples very much. He loves us very much too. In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us the forgiveness of sins that He won for us on the cross. He reminds us that He loves us and will always be with us. Someday we will live with Jesus in heaven. The Lord's Supper is a special gift from God. One day you'll be able to receive The Lord's Supper, until then, you receive a blessing from our pastor to remind you of how you are God's child. God forgives our sins because Jesus died on the cross and gave His body and blood for us.

Song: To the tune of "God is so Good"

I am God's child. I am God's child.
I am God's child, and He blesses me!
He gives me gifts. He gives me gifts.
I am God's child, and He blesses me!

GOOD FRIDAY

Matthew 27:45-55

Supplies: Story Box, Cookie Sheet with Cornmeal or Rice

To Prepare: Hide the cross and rock in the cornmeal or rice for your child to find. Say: **Look what was hidden in the rice.**

Were you surprised? Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

Option: Paint rocks with crosses to remind your child of the rock rolling in front of the grave.

Story: Many people loved Jesus and believed He was the Savior God promised to send. But some people did not believe in Him. These people told lies about Jesus. They asked the leader of the country to crucify Jesus; that means to put Jesus to death. Bang, bang, bang went the hammer. Pretend to hammer. The soldiers nailed Jesus' hands and feet to the cross. This hurt Jesus, but He wasn't angry. He prayed, "Father, forgive them." Two men who were robbers were crucified with Jesus. These men did bad things. They deserved to die. Jesus didn't do anything wrong though. He suffered and died on the cross to pay for our sins. Rrrrip pretend to tear material into two pieces. After Jesus died, the big curtain that was hanging in the temple was torn into two pieces. Rumble, rumble, rumble went the earth. Shake as though the ground is moving. God sent an earthquake. The earth shook and rocks split apart. Crunch, crunch, crunch. Walk in place. Some of Jesus' followers came take his body off the cross. They wrapped it in a clean cloth. Wrap the wooden figure with the material from the story box. Then Jesus' friends put Jesus' body in a special place called a tomb. Put the wrapped peg doll into the story box. Push, push, push. Pretend to push a heavy stone. Jesus' followers rolled a big stone in front of the door. Then they sadly walked home.

Instead of singing, pray with your child. Ask God for forgiveness. Remind your child that Jesus died for all the sins of the world, theirs included.

