

READ IT

This rotation's Bible story is

Holy Week and Easter

from Matthew 21:1-11; 27:32-66; 28:1-10

Jesus died but rose again!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Jesus
- Parade
- Disciples
- Cross
- Tomb
- Women

When Jesus traveled to Jerusalem, the city was bursting at the seams with Jews from all over the world. They had come to the holy city to observe and celebrate the Passover. The Passover is the great feast in which Jews recall how God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt and led them through the wilderness into the Promised Land.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 454-487 (there are 7 stories that help tell this big story!)

Spark Bible pages 1084, 1096-1097

Family Prayer

**Thank you, Jesus, for giving your life for us.
Thank you, God, for always being able to work for good, even in the midst of events that look so horrible and frightening. AMEN.**

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

- 1 How do you celebrate Easter in your family?
- 2 How do you observe Holy Week?
- 3 What is the scariest part of this story? What is the most exciting part?
- 4 Write the basic parts of this story on small pieces of paper that can fit inside plastic Easter eggs. Have someone hide the eggs and everyone else hunt for them. After you find them all, put the story together in the right order.



Eye Spark

When you see a cross, make an invisible cross on your body to remind yourself that Jesus loves you so much that he gave up his life for you!



Ear Spark

When you hear the noise of a celebration, crowd, or parade, remember the Palm Sunday story in which Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Create a Holy Week/Easter centerpiece for your meal table. What objects can you use as symbols for the different parts of the story? Try branches, a Bible, bread and a cup, a toy donkey, flowers, and rocks. What things could you easily make that can go in your centerpiece? How about a cross, a purple tablecloth, or Easter eggs? Read each part of the story together at a meal on the corresponding day of Holy Week.

For younger kids

Decorate Easter eggs to celebrate the good news that Jesus did not stay dead but rose again!

For older kids

Make a Holy Week and Easter treasure hunt for a younger sibling or friend. What kinds of things could you hide that would help them learn the story of Jesus' death and resurrection? What sorts of clues will you give?

TRY IT

Art

Share the Good News of Easter! Decorate plastic eggs with Easter stickers and glitter glue and give them to your friends and neighbors. Include a note inside that invites them to come to worship with you.

Computer Lab

As a family, make cards to give to friends. You can use your computer or make some by hand. Share the Good News by writing messages like "He Is Risen," "Jesus Lives," or other similar phrases. Try to put into words what the life, death and resurrection of Jesus means to you.

Creative Drama

Find some Easter treats and decorations, and use them to make a garden display. Add an empty egg for a tomb. Have each family member pick their favorite treat and use it to tell part of the Easter story.

Video

Recount the stories of people who made great sacrifices in your family so that you could have a better life (ancestors who immigrated, for example). Who were they? How much do you know about them? Share their stories and make sure their memories live on.

Bible Skills and Games

There are many signs of life outdoors. As a family, go on a nature hunt and search for things that remind you that Jesus is alive! Share with one another what you found and how it reminds you of Jesus. If possible, bring it inside and place it in your bedroom to remind you that God's love conquers all!

Cooking

God makes all things new at Easter! Melt all of your leftover Easter chocolate in the microwave. While it is still gooey, shape the chocolate into crosses on wax paper. Push cinnamon candies into the spots where Jesus' hands were nailed. Put the chocolate crosses in the freezer for two minutes. Peel the chocolates from the wax paper for a new treat. Give thanks to God before enjoying.

Music

Wake up early to watch the sun rise and read the following Bible passages together.

Genesis 1:1-5 (God creates light)

Psalms 27:1 (The Lord is my light)

John 1:1-15 and John 8:12 (Jesus is the light)

Then sing a hymn about morning or light, such as "When Morning Gilds the Skies," "Morning Has Broken," or "Shine, Jesus, Shine."

Science

What happens in the dark places around you? Explore closets and look under furniture, in basement corners, and under attic eaves. What signs of past life (yours or that of other creatures) do you find? Take the opportunity to clean away the past and start out fresh.