

Choosing Your

ADVENTURE

EASTER

- 2022 -



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TODAY'S READING:

John 12:9-19

THE NEXT DAY THE GREAT CROWD THAT HAD COME FOR THE FESTIVAL HEARD THAT JESUS WAS ON HIS WAY TO JERUSALEM. THEY TOOK PALM BRANCHES AND WENT OUT TO MEET HIM, SHOUTING, "HOSANNA!" "BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!" "BLESSED IS THE KING OF ISRAEL!"

- JOHN 12:12-13

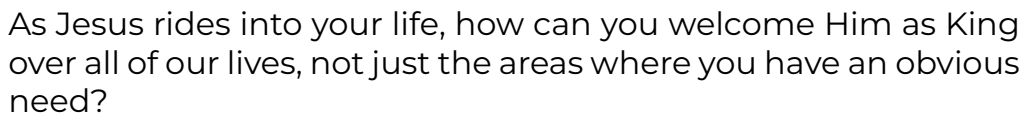
SUN
APR
10

DAY ONE
PALM SUNDAY

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem sitting on a donkey, it was the first time since raising Lazarus from the dead that he'd shown his face in the city. The story of Lazarus's resurrection had circulated so many considered Jesus to be a celebrity. Everyone wanted to get a selfie with Jesus. They went out to meet Him and received him like a King. Well, not everyone, the religious leaders plotted to have Jesus killed.

Surprisingly, Jesus would embrace death and reject the coronation-like shouts of the crowd. He would embrace death in order to conquer death. As he rode into Jerusalem, the people cried, "Our King has come!" They praised Jesus because of His victory over Lazarus's death. But ironically, Jesus wasn't coming to claim his crown on account of Lazarus's death and resurrection, but on account of his own.

- Pastor Jonathan Smith



Families, Try this at home!

Have every member in your family trace their hand and cut it out. Once each family member has cut out their hand, have each person write one thing they praise Jesus for ("I praise Jesus for _____")

Optional:

Continue to add as the week goes on to create a palm leaf with all cut-out hands.

[illegible]

TODAY'S READING:

Mark 11:15-19

THE FATHER HANDED ALL AUTHORITY TO JUDGE OVER TO THE SON SO THAT THE SON WILL BE HONOURED EQUALLY WITH THE FATHER.

- JOHN 5:22 MSG

There's a 90's movie where a pair of friends happen upon a dead beehive. They kick it.... and you can imagine what happens next. They expected it to be empty - but it certainly was not.

Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem is kind of like that. God's people have been waiting for an earthly King but Jesus has come to rule over hearts.

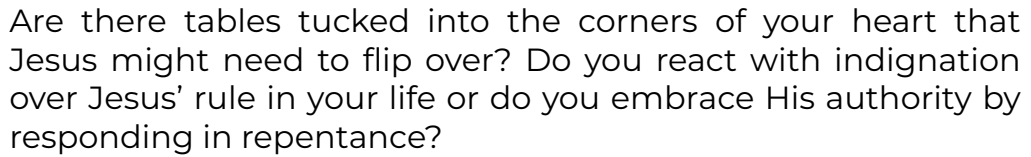
When Jesus arrives at the temple the next day, He immediately starts overturning the market tables, accusing God's people of failing at the one task God had given to them through His covenant - to be a blessing to the whole world [Genesis 12:2].

But instead of taking this correction to heart and allowing the truth of His words to change their behaviors, the Priests are furious by Jesus' accusations. They begin to plot to destroy Jesus and from then on, Jesus becomes a marked man.

- Pastor Jessica Collins

MON
APR
11

DAY TWO



Talk about these questions as a family:

1. Who is in charge? (Having authority refers to power and control. Jesus is the most important authority of all. He has also given us other adults such as coaches, police officers, teachers, parents in our lives.)

2. Where did the authority of Jesus come from? Who gave Him power?

[illegible]

TODAY'S READING:

Luke 20:1-19

THE FATHER HANDED ALL AUTHORITY TO JUDGE OVER TO THE SON SO THAT THE SON WILL BE HONOURED EQUALLY WITH THE FATHER.

- JOHN 5:22 MSG

If Monday's arrival in the temple clearly demonstrated that the Temple was to be cleansed of self-serving religion and politics, then on Tuesday, Jesus demonstrated exactly what the Temple was supposed to be used for. He made it a place for people of "all nations" to meet with God at "His house." Messiah, Jesus, had spent the last 3 years of public ministry helping people be restored to God's intention and purpose for their lives. On Tuesday, he does the same for the Temple.

A week later, the first Apostles would teach people in those same Temple courts. The first Christians would have their gatherings "in the temple courts". But after Tuesday's full day of teaching there, it would be the last time Jesus would visit that Temple.

- Pastor Keith Smith

TUES
APR
12

DAY THREE



- 1 As Temples of the Holy Spirit, what kinds of things need to be cleansed from our lives so that Jesus can fulfill His purposes?
- 2 Just like the Jerusalem temple, how do we change for the best when Jesus is present in us, working in us?

Families, Try this at home!

On this day Jesus showed us the intention for His church and that was to have a place where ALL people could gather. Some of our friends and family don't come to church. As a family write down FIVE people that you will commit to inviting to church this season.

TODAY'S READING:

John 12:1-8

MARY THEREFORE TOOK A POUND OF EXPENSIVE OINTMENT MADE FROM PURE NARD, AND ANOINTED THE FEET OF JESUS AND WIPE HIS FEET WITH HER HAIR. THE HOUSE WAS FILLED WITH THE FRAGRANCE OF THE PERFUME.

- JOHN 12:3

WED
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DAY FOUR

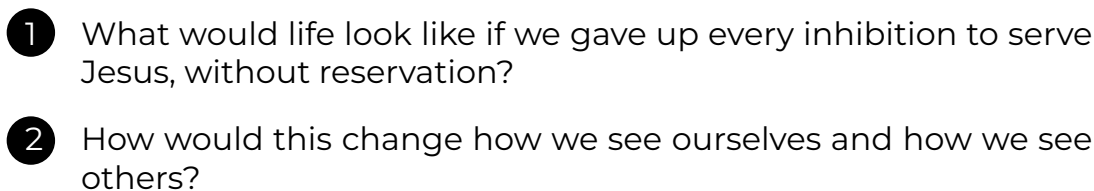
└ Much of life is made up of maintaining the 'socially acceptable' norms of culture and there is nothing wrong with that. Jesus said we are in this world, but not of it. So what does Jesus expect from his followers?

Looking at this scene during the last days of Jesus, it seems simple to focus on the betrayal of Judas, the foreshadowing of Jesus' resurrection like that of Lazarus, and of course, the beautiful act of Mary anointing the feet of Jesus. But what if we looked less at what Mary did, but instead, why she did it?

Mary was guaranteed ridicule for what she did, but her faith stood out. Her faith in Jesus compelled her to serve him with everything earthly she had (expensive ointment).

Let's live serving with the faith Mary had in who Jesus said he is – our Saviour!

- Pastor Dan Jeyaveeran



Mary demonstrated courage and strength by washing Jesus' feet in front of all those people. Mary knew she would be made fun of BUT she didn't care because she knew Jesus was who He said He was. She wasn't scared!

Parents GO first. It's important for kids to see that you are also asking Jesus for help.

[illegible]

JESUS TOLD THEM, “IN THIS WORLD THE KINGS AND GREAT MEN LORD IT OVER THEIR PEOPLE, YET THEY ARE CALLED ‘FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE.’ BUT AMONG YOU IT WILL BE DIFFERENT. THOSE WHO ARE THE GREATEST AMONG YOU SHOULD TAKE THE LOWEST RANK, AND THE LEADER SHOULD BE LIKE A SERVANT. WHO IS MORE IMPORTANT, THE ONE WHO SITS AT THE TABLE OR THE ONE WHO SERVES? THE ONE WHO SITS AT THE TABLE, OF COURSE. BUT NOT HERE! FOR I AM AMONG YOU AS ONE WHO SERVES. - LUKE 22:25-27

THU
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14

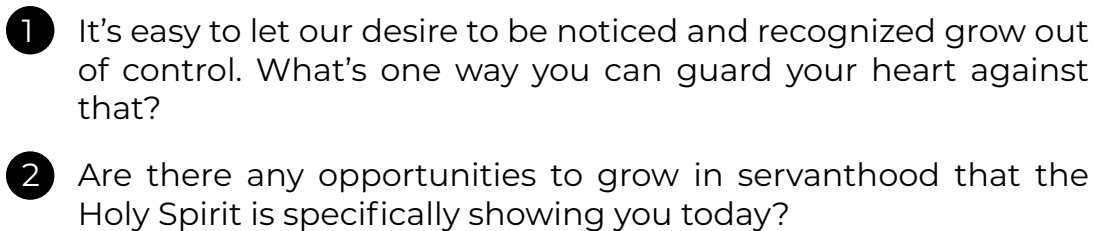
DAY FIVE

Sending off my 5- and 7-year-old boys with important instructions has taught me the benefit of telling them the priority instruction last. Sometimes it's the only thing they remember!

Similarly, when Jesus has one final evening to share his heart with his closest followers, our ears should perk up for what he prioritizes. In a contrast to yet another one of their bragging competitions, Jesus reminds them that power works differently in his kingdom: “[he] is among [them] as one who serves” (Luke 22:27).

In John's account (14:1) we can see how surprising it was for Jesus to wash their feet. He upended a really strong cultural norm to embed servanthood into their minds – showing all his followers (including us) that serving is a key way to embody his Kingdom.

- Pastor Matt Smith



**Families,
Try this at home!**

Today discuss how Jesus washing the feet of his disciples was not normal in that day and age. Today, find ways to serve each other in your home.

Optional:

Adults, wash the feet of your kids. This act showcases your servanthood and humility... (Be prepared for lots of giggles!)

[illegible]

TODAY'S READING:

Matthew 27:11-61

JESUS EXPLAINED: "IT IS NECESSARY THAT THE SON OF MAN SUFFER, BE TRIED, FOUND GUILTY, BE KILLED AND AFTER THREE DAYS, RISE UP ALIVE." HE SAID THIS SIMPLY AND CLEARLY SO THEY COULDN'T MISS IT.

- MARK 8:31-32 MSG

Have you ever attempted to put together something without following the instructions, only to discover that you missed an integral step? It can be frustrating to be left with a handful of screws and a wobbly new table.

Jesus had given a blueprint of what was about to unfold. He said it "simply and clearly so they couldn't miss it." But many did.

Thankfully, the plan to save the world wasn't dependent on humanity's ability to follow the plan. The plan to save the world was completely dependent on Jesus.

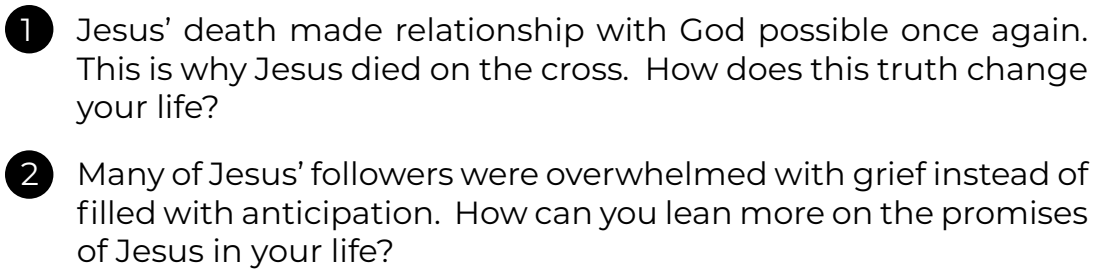
And as Jesus breathed his last earthly breath, we read that the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The purpose of this curtain was to separate the Most Holy Place [where the Spirit of God resided] from the spaces where men would worship. Only God could tear this heavy curtain from the top to bottom and it happened at the exact moment that Jesus' breathed his last breath, symbolizing the end of separation between God and man.

Jesus' death changed everything.... just as Jesus had said it would!

- Pastor Jessica Collins

FRI
MAR
15

GOOD FRIDAY
DAY SIX



Some ideas include: dinner using candlelight; changing screen time to reading as a family.

[illegible]

TODAY'S READING:

Matthew 27:62-66

“SIR, WE JUST REMEMBERED THAT THAT LIAR ANNOUNCED WHILE HE WAS STILL ALIVE, ‘AFTER THREE DAYS I WILL BE RAISED.’ WE’VE GOT TO GET THAT TOMB SEALED UNTIL THE THIRD DAY. THERE’S A GOOD CHANCE HIS DISCIPLES WILL COME AND STEAL THE CORPSE AND THEN GO AROUND SAYING, ‘HE’S RISEN FROM THE DEAD.’ - MATTHEW 27:63-64

SAT
APR
16

DAY SEVEN

Although, very little is written about the Saturday that followed Jesus' crucifixion, it is unique in that this is the only full day in history where the body of Jesus lied buried in a tomb. Yesterday, he was crucified. Tomorrow, he rises from the grave. But what about today? It must have felt like the longest and most difficult day for those who had hoped that Jesus would be crowned King.

Often, we are short-sighted scorekeepers. We judge moments and events by their immediate outcomes. This type of scorekeeping can create hopelessness and pain when the present score looks like certain defeat. Author George Eliot once said; “Don't judge a book by its cover”. The Saturday before Easter Sunday reminds us to always look beyond our present circumstances because those in Christ Jesus will someday see and experience resurrection power. The chapter you find yourselves in is not your last chapter, hope comes in the morning!

- Pastor Jonathan Smith



It's very hard to see an "Easter Sunday resurrection moment" in a "Saturday tomb moment". How can you build into your life (before we find ourselves in a tomb moment) a vision beyond that moment?

**Families,
Try this at home!**

Sometimes we're so nearsighted that we forget how amazing Jesus truly is. Have each person in your family write down one thing they are praying for in this season. Once everyone has written something down, put each one in a jar or container. Have one of the adults set a reminder for 6 months from today (Oct. 15, 2022). Once October 15 comes around, remind the family to look back at their needs as they discuss how Jesus was faithful.

[illegible]

TODAY'S READING:

Luke 24:1-7

...SUDDENLY TWO MEN IN CLOTHES THAT GLEAMED LIKE LIGHTNING STOOD BESIDE THEM. IN THEIR FRIGHT THE WOMEN BOWED DOWN WITH THEIR FACES TO THE GROUND, BUT THE MEN SAID TO THEM, "WHY DO YOU LOOK FOR THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD? HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN!"

- LUKE 24:4-6

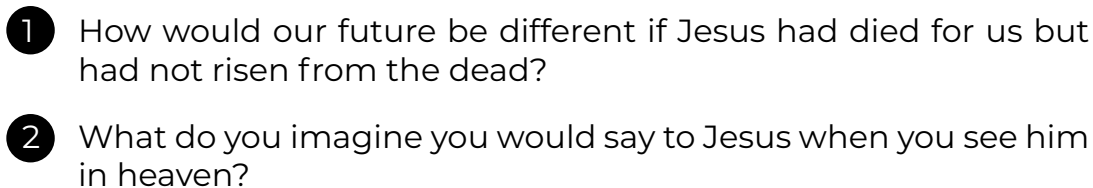
SUN
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EASTER
SUNDAY
DAY EIGHT

Early Sunday morning, some of Jesus' grieving friends traveled to his grave to better prepare his dead body for the customary Jewish burial. They are unsuccessful. It actually gets even worse. His body is gone. They can't even give Jesus a decent burial. An angel announces the obvious, "He is not here." However that same angel then adds the words that changed everything for them and for us. Those next words have ushered millions into eternal life since that Sunday morning: "He is Risen, just as He said."

Just as Jesus laid down his life with a purpose - to forever cleanse away the sins that separated us from God, he also rose from the dead with us as His purpose. He said it best: "Because I live, you shall live also." He is so worthy of our gratitude and devotion, forever. Just like Jesus, we're alive forevermore!

- Pastor Keith Smith



**Families,
Try this at home!**

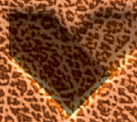
Jesus paid the price for our sin, and He conquered sin and death.

1. What is the resurrection of Jesus?

(Jesus came back to life from physical death with a glorified body, never to die again. Jesus' resurrection shows that He is the Son of God.)

2. Why is Jesus' resurrection good news? (When we believe that Jesus is God's Son and trust in Him, we are saved from sin and are called God's children.)

[illegible]



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