

# A WALK WITH

Jesus

AN AT-HOME EXPERIENCE TO PREPARE FOR EASTER

Welcome to 'A Walk with Jesus,' an at-home experience to prepare your heart for Easter. This self-guided 'walk' invites families into the life of Jesus the week before He is crucified.

From the Royal Welcome to the Resurrection, the nine trail markers on your walk include scripture, prayer and multi-sensory experiences designed to engage each participant in the story of Jesus.

Our prayer is that you and your children will meet Jesus on this journey in an unforgettable way.

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## A Note of Preparation:

There are 9 stops on our Walk with Jesus. Each experience will take anywhere from 15-45 minutes and includes a scripture passage, a discussion prompt, an action and a prayer prompt. To prepare for each 'stop' on your walk, here are some supplies you can gather in advance. You can gather all the supplies on your own, or involve your children in collecting them as a way to build excitement.

- The Royal Welcome....a leaf or palm branch-1 per person; piece of paper cut into strips-1 for each person; coats, pencil or crayon; way to play music
- Jesus Teaches in Jerusalem....a small rock; 1 per person
- The Passover....bread, a favorite worship song that everyone can sing together
- Jesus Prays at Gethsemane....pillows; 1 per person
- Betrayal & Denial....a favorite lovey or toy for each child; a few coins
- Jesus Before the Courts....a belt, a printout of the last page of this document
- The Crucifixion....paper, pen, 1 nail per person, hammer, wood
- Burial of Jesus....box or container, piece of cloth, rock
- Resurrection of Jesus....empty box, confetti, way to play music

Parents are encouraged to lead their family through the experience at their own pace. You could do 1 in the morning and 1 in the evening beginning Wednesday, April 8, with a plan to complete the walk on Easter Sunday, or you can set up all the experiences to do the entire walk on a single day like Good Friday or the Saturday before Easter. Decide what will be best for your family and look for Jesus to meet you there.

# The Royal Welcome

## Scripture Readings:

**Mark 11:1-10**

**Zechariah 9:9**



## Discussion:

In this scripture it says that “many people” welcomed Jesus with their actions and their words. They laid down their cloaks and branches and sang and shout praises, declaring to everyone that He was their King and the Messiah that they had been waiting for. People of all ages were welcoming him and celebrating him to show their king honor. We’ll find out soon that not everyone felt that way. Some were already scheming and trying to find ways to stop Jesus.

We have a choice. Will we sing and shout praises for Jesus and allow him to be the king of our hearts? Will our actions show Him honor and bring Him glory?.

## Action:

Think of ways you can honor Jesus and write it or draw a picture of it on a paper strip. Lay down your coat with your strip of paper on the floor. Wave a leaf and shout “Hosanna in the highest!” Find Hosanna Rock on our Spotify playlist (BCC KidsLife Worship) or Youtube and rock out!

## Prayer:

King Jesus, you are the most powerful and loving King. You have done great works in our lives and we praise you and thank you for that. Prepare our hearts to walk with you, to know you more and to understand your love and sacrifice. Give us strength to lay down anything that may get in the way of our relationship with you.

# Jesus Teaches in Jerusalem

## Scripture Readings:

**Mark 12:1-12**

**Psalms 118:19-24**



## Discussion:

Jesus is in Jerusalem and teaching the people using parables. Parables are the stories that Jesus tells that to help the people see what they should do. Oftentimes these parables make some people upset, because they realize Jesus is pointing out how they were wrong. It can be hard to hear that you're not behaving like you should. This story is especially hard, because the people who Jesus was talking about would ultimately kill Him. God sent his Son to the people, but they wanted nothing to do with him. In Psalm 118 it foretells this will happen. And then it lets us know that it is a marvelous thing!

Why is this so marvelous? Because this was God's plan for us to be able to be forgiven for all the mistakes we make.

## Action:

Take your stone and place it together with everyone else's stones. Make a pile or a stack with them. Pull one out from the bottom and see what happens. Do all the rocks fall down? That's because we need the bottom stone—the capstone. Jesus is like this stone for us. With Him as our foundation we can stand firm.

## Prayer:

Help us hear your words of correction and not be angry but learn to follow you better. Thank you Jesus for being a solid rock for us to build our lives upon. Help us to keep you as our base and look to you for guidance and direction.

# The Passover

## Scripture Readings:

**Mark 14:32-42**

**Exodus 12:21-30**



## Discussion:

Jesus and his disciples celebrated the Passover meal. This was a celebration that the Jewish people had been celebrating for hundreds of years and was a way to remember how God rescued them from slavery in Egypt.

This Passover meal was different, though. This Passover Jesus tells his disciples that he will become the lamb that rescues people. And then he offers his disciples the bread and the drink as a covenant, or promise, for many.

The exciting thing, is that this covenant doesn't just rescue people from another person, this promise allows people to be forgiven of all their sins and live with Jesus forever. Have you ever made a mistake that you wish you hadn't? If so, Jesus says I forgive you, and I want you to live with me forever!

What can you thank Jesus for forgiving you for?

## Action:

Take the piece of bread and break it in half like Jesus did. Share the bread and remember a time God helped you in a difficult situation. Then sing a favorite song together.

## Prayer:

God, thank you for finding ways to rescue us when we are stuck. In the Bible we see that you always give us a way out of our troubles. We are glad for your love and we always want to remember your goodness in our lives.

# Jesus Prays at Gethsemane

**Scripture Readings:**  
**Mark 14:12-26**



## **Discussion:**

Jesus knew that He was about to do something very hard. After celebrating the Passover dinner with his friends, he took three of them with Him to a quiet place where he could pray. He asked his friends to do something while He prayed.

What did he need his friends to do for Him?

Did his friends do what He asked?

How do you think Jesus felt when He saw them sleeping?

He asked God for something while He prayed. What did He want from God? Is there something you would like for God to do for you? Are you okay if He says no?

## **Action:**

Take turns praying while the rest of the family pretends to sleep on their pillows.

## **Prayer:**

God, we face hard things sometimes, but none of it compares to what Jesus went through for us. Help us to be content in your plans for us. Help us to be good friends when someone else is facing something hard. Help us not to be distracted and stay focused on your ways.

# Betrayal and Denial

## Scripture Readings:

**Mark 14:43-50**

**Mark 14:66-72**



## Discussion:

Both Judas and Peter rejected Jesus in some way, even after spending every day with Him for 3 years and being among his closest friends. Judas betrayed Jesus and Him over to Jewish officials in exchange for some money. Peter denied that he even knew Jesus when he was in a nearby courtyard. What does it mean to betray someone? What does it mean to deny someone?

While it seems unbelievable sometimes to us that they would so quickly betray or deny Jesus, it's probably not that hard for us to do either. Maybe we have treated friends or family like this in smaller ways. Are you trustworthy? Can you think of a time you haven't been loyal to a friend?

## Action:

Have every child hold his special toy. Offer to give the child a few small coins if they will let you have their toy forever. (Hopefully they will not make that trade. If they say yes, expect them to ask for it back soon, just like Judas regretted his decision in Matthew 27.)

## Prayer:

God, we never want to deny that you are our Lord and that we love you. Help us make wise decisions and never stop following you.

# Jesus Before the Courts



## Scripture Readings:

**Mark 14:53-65**

**Mark 15:1-20**

## Discussion:

The people testifying against Jesus didn't have any real accusations to base their testimonies on. So they made false accusations. They wanted to charge Jesus with something so badly that they lied.

Sometimes other people's doubts and lies can influence us and we can begin to believe them. But if you look you can always find the truth. If the people accusing Jesus had looked they would have seen the Messiah standing in their midst.

Have you had lies told about you? What is true about you? What does Jesus say is true about you?

## Action:

In the Search For Truth word find are a lot of negative words. But the truth is there if you look hard enough. Can you find MESSIAH?

(for smaller children, help them find the letters and color them in pretty colors)

## Prayer:

God, it's easy to believe the lies. It's easy to doubt. But You are truth. Help us see You when others are saying lies around us.



# The Crucifixion

## Scripture Readings:

**Mark 15:22-32**

**Isaiah 53:3-5**



## Discussion:

The soldiers brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha. Then they nailed him to the cross and gambled with a game of dice to decide who would get each piece of his clothes. A sign on His cross that read "King of the Jews." On either side of him were two criminals. People who passed by shouted at him and mocked him. The leading priests and teachers of the law also mocked him.

This was a slow and painful way to die. And yet Jesus was willing to suffer and do whatever God's will for Him was. For us.

## Action:

On a piece of paper write something you have done that you need forgiveness for or some way you have disobeyed. Take turns hammering your slip of paper with nails onto the piece of wood.

## Prayer:

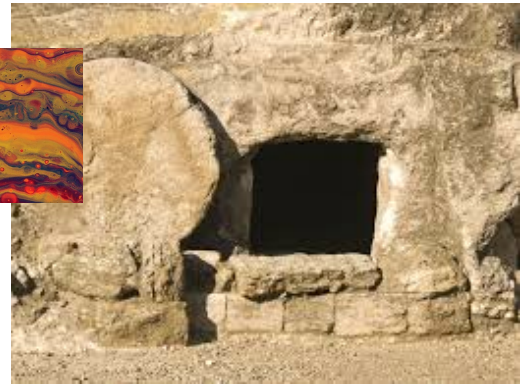
Jesus, thank you for loving us so much that you would endure the pain of death on a cross. We are sorry for our sins. We love you.

# Burial of Jesus

## Scripture Readings:

**Mark 15:42-47**

**Isaiah 53:9**



## Discussion:

Jesus had been betrayed, denied, accused, beaten and crucified. And this all happened within a day of him celebrating the Passover supper with his friends. Now it was almost time for the Sabbath. It was a risk, but Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus so that he could bury Him properly.

Joseph carefully wrapped Jesus' body in linen, placed Him in his tomb and rolled a large stone at the entrance to seal it.

It seems our story is over. Jesus has died.

## Action:

Put a piece of linen or fabric in a box as though it is wrapped around a body. Put a rock outside of the box.

## Prayer:

Jesus, we are glad that we know the story isn't really over. We pray with hope and expectancy at the joy of your resurrection and what is to come when you return again!

# Resurrection of Jesus

**Scripture Readings:**  
**Mark 16:1-11**



## **Discussion:**

The women who had watched Joseph put Jesus in the tomb were returning to anoint Jesus' body to show him honor and love. They were simply doing what they thought would be right, and they were even concerned about who would be able to roll the stone away from the tomb.

Imagine their surprise when they arrived and saw, not only that the stone was rolled away, but also that Jesus was not there!

And even though they were at first bewildered and trembling, soon they would know that Jesus was alive again! He's alive!

## **Action:**

Open the box outside and throw confetti. Celebrate the GOOD NEWS! Death has no power over Christ. Have a dance party!

## **Prayer:**

Jesus! You're alive! We praise you and exalt your name above all others. Hallelujah.  
You have risen!

## The Search for Truth

Look amongst all the negative words... and see if you can find the 'Messiah'.

U	S	U	R	P	E	R	R	S	E	M	N	I
T	R	O	U	B	L	E	M	A	K	E	R	T
S	O	F	T	O	A	M	H	A	V	S	S	R
I	T	R	H	T	N	E	G	R	U	S	N	I
R	S	E	Y	N	O	H	P	R	A	I	L	C
O	O	V	E	S	I	P	I	O	E	A	S	K
R	P	I	M	E	S	S	C	G	U	H	H	S
R	M	E	L	T	U	A	F	A	K	E	E	T
E	I	C	H	A	L	L	E	N	G	E	R	E
T	A	E	H	C	E	B	E	T	A	U	E	R
H	O	D	U	P	D	U	A	R	F	G	T	S
I	N	S	O	L	E	N	T	E	E	O	I	H
F	R	E	A	K	U	L	O	I	T	R	C	A

Arrogant

Blasphemer

Challenger

Cheat

Deceiver

Delusional

Fake

Fraud

Freak

Phony

Messiah

Heretic

Impostor

Insolent

Insurgent

Liar

Terrorist

Rogue

Trickster

Troublemaker

Usurper