



**EASTER  
DEVOTIONAL  
GUIDE**  
FOR FAMILIES

Lifeway™ kids

# HAPPY EASTER

## FROM LIFEWAY KIDS!

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During Easter, we celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our prayer is that your family can use this guide to remember and reflect upon the beauty of what has been done through the cross of Christ.

Each daily devotion is designed to lead your family to open your Bibles, discuss the Bible passage, pray together, and create special memories that help you engage further with Scripture and each other.

Use these devotions, activities, and prayer times to help your family worship Jesus this Easter. He is risen. Let's celebrate!



**READ**

Jesus and His disciples walked toward Jerusalem. As they neared, Jesus sent two of the disciples into a village. "Go to the village. You will see a donkey and a colt. Untie them and bring them to Me." Jesus fulfilled a prophecy Zechariah made: "Tell Jerusalem that their King will come riding on a donkey. He will come with gentleness and humility." The disciples obeyed Jesus and brought the donkey and the colt. They laid their robes on the donkey, and Jesus sat on it.

A large crowd gathered. The people spread their robes on the road. Some cut palm branches and placed them on the road. The people shouted, "Hosanna! The King who comes in the name of the Lord is blessed!" When Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem, the whole city was surprised. The crowds of people kept saying, "This is Jesus!" And everything Jesus did was exactly as the prophet Zechariah had said would happen.

—based on Matthew 21:1–11

**MAKE THE POINT**

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, He rode on a donkey to fulfill Zechariah's prophecy from long ago. The prophet Zechariah told of a future King, a Savior, who would humbly come on a donkey and proclaim peace. Jesus came to fulfill God's promise. He is the King the people had been waiting for. Jesus is King over everything, and He is worthy of praise.

**FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What message of hope did the prophet Zechariah give? (*The promised King would come riding on a donkey.*)
- Why does the coming of Jesus give us hope? (*Jesus was sent to be our Savior.*)
- What are ways we can show Jesus that we love Him and want to give Him praise? (*We can show Jesus we love Him by obeying Him, spending time with Him in prayer, studying our Bibles, loving people like Jesus loves them, and giving our time and money to serve others.*)

**PRAY**

Dear God, thank You for the hope of salvation and eternal life with You. We praise You for the gift and sacrifice of Your Son who brought that hope to all people. Help us continually praise You and show our gratitude through living for You.



# DAY 1 FAMILY ACTIVITY

## ITEMS NEEDED:

Clear contact paper, permanent marker, tissue paper in various shades of green, scissors, clear tape

## DIRECTIONS:

Prepare two equal lengths of contact paper for your child. Draw a leaf outline on the nonstick side of the paper. Instruct your child to tear apart small pieces of tissue paper. (You may also purchase green confetti tissue paper from a craft store.) Guide your child to peel off the solid piece of paper from the contact paper, revealing the sticky side. Decorate the leaf with various colors of green tissue paper. Next, peel the paper off the second piece of contact paper and seal the design by placing the sticky side down on top of the first piece of contact paper. Cut apart the leaf outline and attach the leaf to a window with tape.

Talk about how today's story reminds us that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, just like Zechariah prophesied. Jesus gave hope to the people as the coming King who was sent to be our Savior. Many people laid large leaves called palm branches at Jesus's feet and called out, "Hosanna" as He entered. When we look at the leaves we made in the window this week, we can remember to praise Jesus for coming for us.

## LEAD THE FAMILY TO SAY THIS VERSE TOGETHER:

*Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*  
(Matthew 21:9b)

USE THIS TEMPLATE TO DRAW THE LEAF



**READ**

Jesus and the disciples had gathered together in a room in the city of Jerusalem. Jesus knew that soon He would have to leave the disciples. Jesus loved the disciples. After supper, Jesus stood up and got a towel. He poured water into a bowl and began to wash and dry the disciples' feet.

When Jesus came to Peter, Peter asked, "Lord, are You going to wash my feet?"

Jesus told Peter, "What I am doing, you will not understand now. Later you will understand."

When Jesus had washed all of their feet, He asked them, "Do you know what I have done for you?"

"You call Me your Teacher and Lord. If I, your Teacher and Lord, have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example that you should do what I have done for you."

—based on John 13:1–15

**MAKE THE POINT**

Jesus demonstrated His humility when He washed the feet of His disciples. Even though Jesus was their Lord and worthy of respect and honor, He took on a servant's responsibilities by washing the disciples' feet. In doing this, Jesus left an example that we should willingly serve others with humility.

**FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What does it mean to serve others? (*Serving someone means helping someone else. Often, serving requires giving up something like time or money.*)
- How did Jesus serve the disciples? (*He washed their feet.*)
- How can our family serve other people and follow Jesus's example? (*We can serve other people by meeting needs, praying for people, and looking for opportunities to encourage or help others.*)

**PRAY**

God, thank You for sending Jesus and for teaching us what it looks like to love and serve others. Help our family serve one another and the people around us even when it is difficult. Please give us greater humility as we serve and follow You.

**ITEMS NEEDED:**

Sheet of paper, markers

**DIRECTIONS:**

Create a Kindness List. On a sheet of paper, make a list of ideas of how members in your family can serve one another, friends, and neighbors. Post the list in a visible place in your home and work together each week to complete another item on the list. Check your list often for ways to serve, and take time to pray for everybody on your Kindness List.



# DAY 3

# THE LAST SUPPER

## READ

One day Jesus told two of His disciples, Peter and John, to get everything ready for a special supper.

“Where do you want us to prepare the supper?” they asked.

Jesus said, “Go into the city. You will meet a man with a water pot. Follow the man into the house he goes into, and tell the owner of the house that I want to eat a special supper with My disciples at his house.”

Jesus’s disciples did what Jesus told them to do. When they saw the man, they followed him to a house and told the owner of the house everything Jesus had said. Peter and John got everything ready for the special meal. When it was time to eat, Jesus and the disciples went to the house. They sat at the table. As they were eating, Jesus took some bread. He thanked God for it, and then He tore the bread into pieces. Jesus gave some bread to each disciple.

Then Jesus took a cup and gave the men something to drink. Jesus said thank You to God. Jesus shared the cup with each man. Jesus told His disciples to always remember the things He did.

“Remember Me, and always think about Me,” Jesus said.

After supper, Jesus and His friends sang. Then they left the house and went to the Mount of Olives to pray.

—based on Matthew 26:17–30; Mark 14:12–16; Luke 22:7–23

## MAKE THE POINT

Jesus shared a special meal with His disciples. He wanted to prepare them for the difficult events that were about to happen. Jesus came to obey God and die on the cross. During this last supper with His disciples, Jesus established the first Lord’s Supper, a special time when believers remember Jesus’s sacrifice. The bread and the cup remind us of how Jesus sacrificed Himself to rescue us from our sin.

## FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What did Jesus tell His disciples to do as they ate the bread and drank from the cup? *(Jesus told them to remember and always think about Him when they did this.)*
- Why do believers celebrate the Lord’s Supper? *(The Lord’s Supper is a special time when believers eat the bread and drink from the cup to remember Jesus and His sacrifice.)*
- Why should we serve one another with joy? *(Help kids identify Jesus as the ultimate Servant. In His life and death, Jesus showed how to love and serve one another.)*

## PRAY

God, thank You for Jesus. We love You and praise You for all of the wonderful things You have done. Help us always remember these things. Amen.

**INGREDIENTS:**

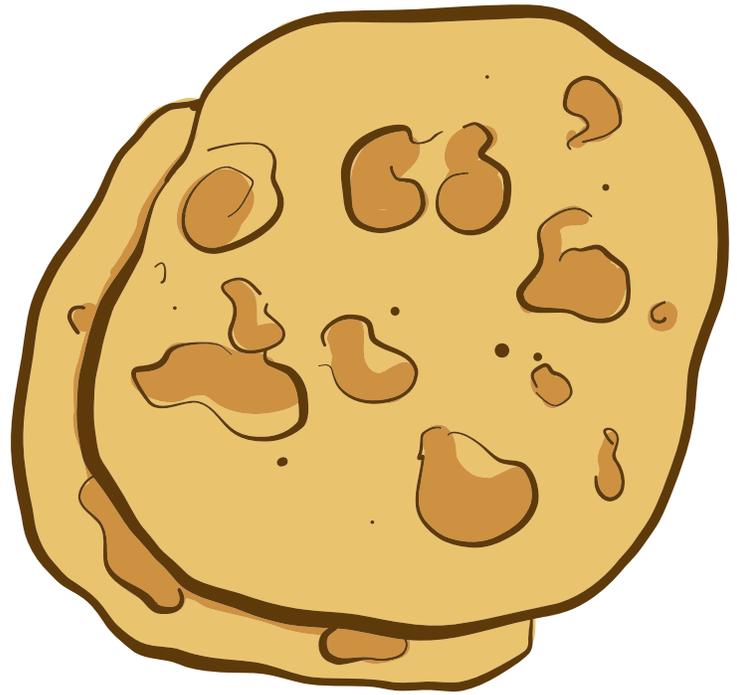
- 1 cup of all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup vegetable oil
- $\frac{1}{8}$  teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup of water

**DIRECTIONS:**

Make unleavened bread with your family.

Preheat an oven to 425 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Mix together the flour, oil, and salt. Slowly add the water to the mix and combine. Form dough into six equal balls and press into circles. Bake in a preheated oven until the bread is cooked, about 8–10 minutes. Flip bread after 4 minutes to evenly brown on both sides.

Explain that the meal Jesus ate with His disciples included unleavened bread similar to the bread you made. During the Lord's Supper, Jesus broke the bread and told the disciples to remember Him when they ate it. As Christians, we share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus's life and death and to tell others about Him until He returns.



# DAY 4

# THE PRAYER IN THE GARDEN

## READ

Jesus and His disciples walked to a place called Gethsemane. It was a garden near the foot of the Mount of Olives. Jesus said to the men, "Sit here while I go pray."

Then Jesus told Peter and two other disciples, James and John, to go with Him.

Jesus became quiet. He began to think about the plan God had for Him and the things that would happen soon. Jesus told His friends He was sad and wanted them to stay near Him.

While Peter, James, and John waited, Jesus walked a little farther away. He fell down on the ground and prayed. Jesus asked God to help Him. "Whatever You want, God, I will do," Jesus said.

Jesus walked back to the disciples. He found them sleeping. "Stay awake and pray," Jesus said to the men.

Jesus walked away again to pray some more. When He finished, He went back to the disciples. They were sleeping again!

So Jesus went to pray again. He asked for help to be ready to do God's plan.

When Jesus finished praying, He returned to His disciples. He told them that the time had come.

—Mark 14:32–42; Matthew 26:36–46

## MAKE THE POINT

Jesus knew He was about to be betrayed, arrested, and crucified. He was greatly distressed, and He chose to spend His final moments praying. He understood that all of the events about to take place were part of God's plan. Jesus prayed, fully committing to the plan God had for Him.

## FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why was Jesus sad and asking His friends to stay near? (*Jesus knew He was about to fulfill God's plan by suffering and dying for our sin.*)
- Did Jesus think prayer was important? How do you know? (*Yes, Jesus spent part of His final days talking to God in prayer and asking His disciples to pray for Him.*)
- Do other people who know you believe prayer is important to you? Why or why not? (*Lead kids to discuss what prayer is and why it is important.*)

## PRAY

God, thank You for sending Jesus to earth. Thank You for the example Jesus gave us: that even in times of great distress, we can talk to You and be comforted.

# DAY 4 FAMILY ACTIVITY

## ITEMS NEEDED:

Bible, index cards, 6 plastic cups, foam ball

## DIRECTIONS:

Write five scenarios on the cups. (E.g., a severe storm, changing schools, speaking to a restaurant server, going to a party where you don't know anyone.) Stack the cups in a pyramid on a table. Invite one family member to read Philippians 4:6–7 in a Bible or Bible app.

Lead each person to knock over the cups with the foam ball. The number of cups knocked over will direct the person's response to one of the situations provided:

- Even number: describe a fearful response.
- Odd number: describe a courageous response.
- All cups knocked over: choose another person to respond to the situation.

Talk about the importance of recognizing a situation and choosing to respond in courage and faith. Remind your family that, no matter the situation, you can always pray to God, and He hears you.



**READ**

One day, Jesus's friend Peter was sitting in a courtyard. A servant walked up to Peter. She said, "You were with Jesus from Galilee." This surprised Peter. He was afraid for the people to know He was Jesus's friend. Peter shouted so everyone nearby could hear: "I don't know what you are talking about!"

Peter walked out to the gateway. Another woman saw him and spoke to the people. The woman said, "This man was with Jesus!"

Now Peter was even more upset. Again he shouted, "I don't know the man!" After a little while, some more people standing near Peter spoke up. They said, "You certainly are one of the people following Jesus. The things you say show that!"

Now Peter was even more afraid. He was angry at the people. "I do not know the man!" Then Peter heard a rooster crow. Suddenly Peter remembered what Jesus had said earlier that night. Jesus said that before the rooster crowed, Peter would say three times that he did not know Jesus.

Peter was so sad. He was Jesus's friend, but he told the people he did not know Jesus. Peter left the people and cried.

—Matthew 26:69–75

**MAKE THE POINT**

Jesus knew His friend Peter loved Him and that Peter really wanted to follow and obey God. But Jesus also knew Peter's faithfulness would fail. Following Jesus requires loyalty even when it is difficult or risky. When Peter realized his sin, he wept. He knew he had hurt Jesus, and Peter felt great sorrow.

**FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Jesus told Peter he would deny Jesus before it even happened. What does this tell us about Jesus? *(Jesus knows everything because He is the Son of God.)*
- Do you think Jesus still loved Peter even after Peter denied Him three times? Why or why not? *(Yes, Jesus loved Peter, even when He sinned. Jesus forgave and restored Peter and had a special plan for his life to tell others about God. Jesus also loves us even though we sin.)*
- How did Peter feel after he denied Jesus? How should we respond when we are convicted of sin? How does God respond when we confess our sin to Him? *(Peter was very sad and upset after he denied Jesus. We should feel sad about our sin, confess it to God, and commit to obey and follow God.)*

**PRAY**

Jesus, we want to love and obey You, but we sin. Like Peter's sin, our sin hurts our relationship with You, and it brings sorrow. Help us repent and grow to live more like Jesus, instead.

**ITEMS NEEDED:**

Index cards, pens or pencils, beanbag, or rolled-up pair of socks

**DIRECTIONS:**

Choose a room in your home and play a game of Hide and Seek. The challenge is that people can only hide in that one room. After a few rounds, talk together about how difficult it was to hide in a room full of people.

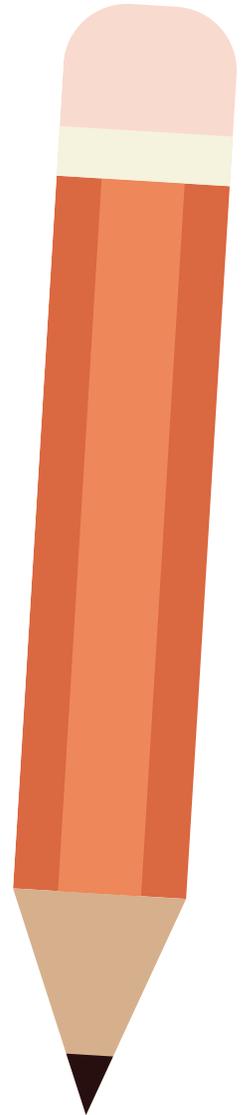
Say: "Just like it was hard for us to hide in a crowded room, Peter was unable to hide in the crowd of people. When he was found out, he lied and denied knowing Jesus. This was sin. Sin breaks our relationship with God, but we can talk to God about our sin. Let's look in our Bibles to see how God responds to this."

Write the following verse references on individual index cards:

- 1 Chronicles 16:34
- Psalm 86:15
- Isaiah 54:10
- Romans 5:8
- Romans 8:38–39
- Ephesians 2:4–5
- Philippians 1:6
- 1 John 1:9

Scatter the cards on the floor. Take turns tossing a beanbag or a rolled-up pair of socks onto the cards. Select the card the beanbag landed on. Once everyone has a card, locate those verses in the Bible and read them together.

Select one of the verses to memorize as a family. Work together to create movements or interesting voices to help you recall the words.



# DAY 6

# JESUS'S BETRAYAL, ARREST, AND TRIAL

## READ

The religious leaders did not like Jesus. They wanted to get rid of Him. One of Jesus's disciples, Judas, went to the religious leaders and made a deal.

Judas agreed to betray Jesus. The leaders had Jesus arrested, and they sent Him to Pilate, the governor.

Pilate asked Jesus, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

Jesus told him, "You have said it."

The religious leaders began telling lies about Jesus, but Jesus said nothing. Pilate was amazed at Jesus. He decided to let the people decide what he should do. Pilate could let a criminal named Barabbas go free, or he could release Jesus. Pilate knew that the religious leaders were jealous of Jesus and that is why they had arrested Him. The religious leaders got the people to tell Pilate that they wanted Barabbas to be free. When Pilate asked the people about Jesus, the people said they wanted to crucify Him.

Finally, Pilate agreed to the people's demands to free Barabbas and sentence Jesus to be crucified.

—based on Matthew 26:47–50, 57–68; 27:1–31

## MAKE THE POINT

Nothing that happened in the events of Jesus's betrayal, arrest, or trial was out of His control. Because Jesus is the Son of God, He knew everything that was going to happen, and He willingly submitted to the Father's plan. Jesus allowed these events to take place so that He could fulfill God's promise and make a way for people to be rescued from their sins. Jesus died on the cross, and God raised Him from the dead so we can be saved.

## FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Jesus knew everything that was going to happen to Him, and He still obeyed God's plan. What does this teach us about Jesus? (*Jesus loved and obeyed God. He came to fulfill God's plan even though it would cost Him greatly.*)
- When are times it is difficult to believe that God is in control? (*Lead kids to discuss experiences where they have felt out of control.*)
- How can we trust God when our circumstances feel uncertain? (*Encourage your family to consider practical ways you can remember God is in control, no matter what.*)

## PRAY

God, thank You for Jesus and His willingness to fulfill Your perfect plan for His life on earth. Thank You for being in complete control of everything. We trust You, and we love You.

# DAY 6 FAMILY ACTIVITY

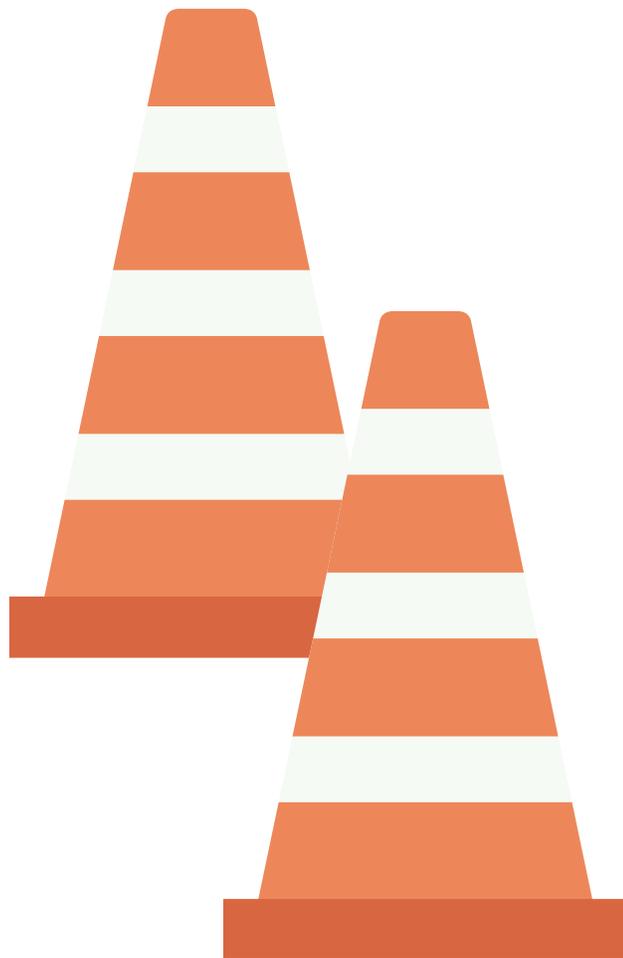
## ITEMS NEEDED:

Blindfold, objects in room for obstacle course

## DIRECTIONS:

Choose one person to be blindfolded and another person to call out directions to complete the obstacle course. Play again with other family members, changing the course after the player has been blindfolded so he or she cannot see the new obstacles. Continue playing with new family members being blindfolded and others calling out directions.

Discuss how challenging it was to navigate through the obstacle course when you couldn't see where you were going. Ask what the blindfolded family members had to rely on instead of themselves. (The caller's directions.) Remind your kids that no matter what obstacles they face, Jesus will always be there to guide them. He is God the Son, and He is in complete control of everything. Talk about how we can respond to difficult circumstances in ways that demonstrate our faith in God and belief that He is in control of all things.



**READ**

The religious leaders did not like Jesus. They wanted to get rid of Him. A mob of people found Jesus and arrested Him. They took Him to Pilate. Pilate allowed Jesus to be beaten up. Pilate told the people, "I can't find any reason to charge Him (Jesus)." But the religious leaders yelled, "Crucify Him!" The religious leaders did not believe the truth about Jesus.

Pilate tried to release Jesus. He was afraid of what was happening, but the crowd of people would not give up. They wanted Jesus to be crucified. Finally, Pilate agreed. Pilate had a sign made for the top of Jesus's cross that said, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." While Jesus was dying on the cross, Jesus asked John to take care of His mother, Mary. He knew that every Scripture prophesied about Him would be fulfilled, so He said, "It is finished." Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sin.

Joseph of Arimathea was a follower of Jesus. Joseph went to Pilate and asked permission to bury Jesus's body. Nicodemus and Joseph took Jesus's body and wrapped it in linen cloths. They placed His body in a new tomb in the garden. The next day, the religious leaders asked Pilate to give orders for the tomb to be guarded because Jesus had said, "After three days I will rise again."

—John 19:1–42; Matthew 27:62–66

**MAKE THE POINT**

Jesus's crucifixion (the way Jesus died on the cross) took place to pay for the sins of people. Because of His death on the cross, people can have a relationship with God that is personal and true. God loved people so much that He sent Jesus to provide the sacrifice for sin. Rejoice today for God's good gift for everyone who believes in Him.

**FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Who is Jesus? (*Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth to save us. He never sinned and came to be the perfect sacrifice for our sin.*)
- Why did Jesus die on the cross? (*Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin.*)
- Why did Jesus have to die? (*Jesus died on the cross and rose again because this was God's plan to rescue people from sin. Jesus took our place and paid the punishment that was supposed to be for us.*)

**PRAY**

God, thank You so much for Jesus's sacrifice. Thank You that Jesus willingly chose to die on the cross to rescue people from sin. Help us be grateful each day for this amazing gift.

**ITEMS NEEDED:**

Brown or gray circle cut out of construction paper, poster board with a circle drawn on it the same size as the construction paper circle, blindfold, tape

**DIRECTIONS:**

Give a family member a prepared circle. Blindfold that family member and gently spin him or her around three times. Challenge the family member to stick the circle onto the poster board where the circle is drawn to “seal the tomb.” Allow the remaining family members to take turns, one by one. Use a marker to outline and initial each person’s attempt to help determine a winner. Determine which circle is most accurately positioned.

Explain that after Jesus died on the cross, His body was placed in a tomb and the tomb was sealed. Ask your kids if they can remember who stood guard around the tomb and why. Remind your family that Roman soldiers stood guard because Jesus had said that He would rise again after three days.



**READ**

After Jesus died on the cross, He was buried in a tomb. Jesus's friends and disciples were very sad and did not know what to do.

Three days later, on the morning after the Sabbath (Saturday), some of Jesus's followers took spices and perfumes to His tomb. When the women arrived, the stone was rolled away and Jesus was not there. They were confused.

Suddenly, two men appeared and asked the women, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here. He has been resurrected! Remember, He told you, 'The Son of Man will be betrayed, crucified, and rise on the third day.'"

The women remembered what Jesus had told them. They went to the disciples and shared the good news! Peter ran to the tomb to see. He looked inside and only found the cloths Jesus's body had been wrapped in. He was amazed at what had happened! Jesus is alive!

—Matthew 27:62–28:10; Luke 24:1–12

**MAKE THE POINT**

Jesus died on the cross to provide forgiveness for sin, but He didn't stay dead. Three days later, Jesus rose from the grave. Jesus paid the price for our sin, and He conquered sin and death. We can celebrate that God brought Jesus back to life and that Jesus is alive today!

**FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What did the angel tell the women at the tomb? (*The angel asked the women why they were looking for Jesus. He was not there. He had been resurrected.*)
- What is the resurrection of Jesus? (*The resurrection is a real event during the life and ministry of Jesus where someone was dead and came back to life. Jesus came back to life from physical death with a glorified body, never to die again. Jesus's resurrection shows that He is the Son of God.*)
- Why is Jesus's resurrection good news? (*Jesus came to die on the cross and rise again to pay the punishment for our sin, and He did! When we believe that Jesus is God's Son and trust in Him, we are saved from sin and are called God's children.*)

**PRAY**

God, thank You for sending Jesus to pay the price for our sin. We praise You for raising Jesus from the grave. Help us share this good news with others. Amen.

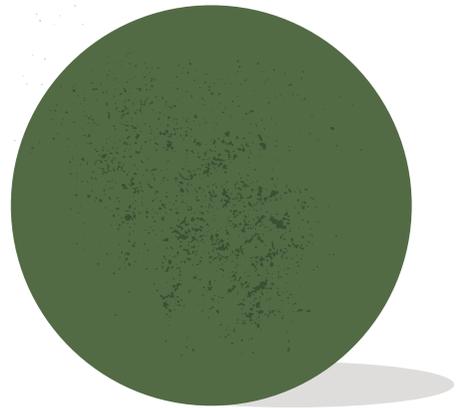
**ITEMS NEEDED:**

2 balls

**DIRECTIONS:**

Stand in a circle and place a ball in the middle of the circle. Explain that the ball in the middle is the “door” of the tomb. Challenge your family to take turns holding the other ball and sharing one truth they have learned this week about Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection. After sharing a truth, that person may roll the ball he or she is holding to try to knock the “door” to the tomb out of the circle.

Explain that Jesus died on the cross, but He didn’t stay dead. Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day, just as He promised. Jesus provides salvation from sin and the promise of eternal life to everyone who believes in Him.





# Lifeway<sup>TM</sup> kids

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