



LAKELAND

COMMUNITY CHURCH

EASTER FAMILY DEVOTIONALS



WELCOME NOTE TO PARENTS:

Happy Holy Week from our NextGen team to your family!

This week marks some of the highest moments & toughest trials of Jesus' life, ending with his crucifixion on the cross. For too many of us, this week in Christ's life has become a faded story in our minds. We've heard it so often that we've almost become comfortable with it. We minimize the pain along the way because we know how it ends. But to your kids, and to their young faiths, this is a story that needs to be told and told to the fullest. There are life changing truths in the things that happened in the last weeks of Jesus' life.

That's why we wanted to partner with you in a unique way this year. In this Family Devotion Guide you will find five different sections of scripture that can deepen your kids' understanding of what Jesus was doing and feeling on the way to Easter Sunday.

Each night will have a section of scripture for you to read together, age-specific questions for you to ask your kids, and even a parent note to help you understand how to guide the conversation. Let these conversations go as long as they naturally do! Let your kids hear your answers as you answer the questions alongside them. Trust us, It'll help them open up!

You've got this! We believe that you have everything that you need to be your kids' biggest spiritual champion. Conversations about God and the Bible are easier to have than we sometimes think. All you have to do is set aside the time and make it a priority.

As always, we are here for you. So if you have any questions, want to share any stories, or need any help you can reach out to me at Jayson@lakeland.church.

I'm praying for the great conversations you're about to have!

Jayson Etchison - Lakeland NextGen Pastor





MONDAY

READ THIS TOGETHER: Matthew 21:12-13

Preschool - Why was Jesus mad?

Elementary - What were the people in the temple doing wrong?

Students - What are some things that can get in the way of worshipping God?

Parent note:

As you read this passage as a family, make sure to draw attention to the fact that Jesus was angry because the leaders had turned the Temple into something it was never supposed to be - a business. Too often we let things get in the way of worshipping God. Things like sports, activities, free time, and even work. Tonight, help your kids see that Jesus was angry because these leaders had lost their focus on God and got distracted with other things.





TUESDAY

READ THIS TOGETHER: Mark 14:3-9

Preschool - What did the woman pour on Jesus' feet?

Elementary - Why do you think the woman wanted to sacrifice her expensive perfume?

Students - What are you willing to sacrifice for God?

Parent note:

This story shows us that ordinary people can give extraordinary gifts of worship! This woman poured out a year's worth of wages in perfume, let's call it \$40,000! But the cost of the gift wasn't important, all she wanted to do was give her very best to Jesus. Try and help your kids see that they can also give extraordinary acts of worship to God. Things like helping others, praying for their friends, and more! They're never too small to give something back to God.





WEDNESDAY

READ THIS TOGETHER: John 13:1-17

Preschool - Who didn't want Jesus to wash their feet?

Elementary - Why did Jesus wash the disciples feet?

Students - How did Jesus model servant leadership by washing the disciple's feet?

Parent note:

Let's get this out there first, washing feet was as disgusting as it sounds! These men had walked for miles on dirty and muddy roads. Each step packed more and more gunk onto their feet. Feet washing was something that a servant would do for these honored guests. But Jesus got up and did one of the lowest & dirtiest jobs out there. Help your kids see that Jesus came to serve everyone around Him! Jesus' servant leadership shows us that nobody is too important to help.





THURSDAY

READ THIS TOGETHER: Luke 22:40-46

Preschool - What did Jesus do when He was in the Garden?

Elementary - Jesus knew that God was asking Him to do something big to save us. What do you think it means to be set free from your past mistakes by accepting God's forgiveness?

Students - Jesus knew that his crucifixion was going to be hard. But still, He was willing to go through all that pain for you. What does it mean to you, that Jesus was willing to suffer and die so that you could have a relationship with God?

Parent note:

Tonight's story gets a bit heavy. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus pleads with God that this burden of a brutal death would be taken away from Him. Even still, He was completely prepared to do whatever it took to give us a path to forgiveness. Your conversation tonight should help your kids see that Jesus gave up everything so that we could have hope. Our sin and mistakes can be left in the past. All it takes is accepting the love and forgiveness that Jesus' death and resurrection gives us.

If this salvation conversation seems like a lot, don't worry. We have your back! Visit lakeland.church/guide or email Jayson@lakeland.church for a conversation guide that can make this critical conversation simple and straightforward!





FRIDAY

READ THIS TOGETHER: Psalm 88:1-7

Preschool - Who can help you when you're sad?

Elementary - This Psalm shows that sometimes, we just feel down. When is a time that you have felt sad recently? How could God have helped you with that sadness?

Students - What are the things that you run to when you feel darkness? Do those things distract you from turning to God? How can trusting God for help first, be better than those things?

Parent note:

This Psalm is a pretty accurate picture of the sadness that creeps into our lives. There's a feeling of hopelessness and brokenness in these words. For kids, it's helpful for them to know that God is near when we feel sad. That He doesn't forget us or leave us behind just because we have a bad day, a bad week, or a bad season...He's still right there. Tonight, help your kids see that God is the answer to our brokenness and sadness. As a family, end tonight by reading Psalm 38:14.



**LOOKING FOR MORE
RESOURCES FOR YOUR FAMILY?**

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