

Grove Kids Holy Week Family Guide

Holy Week is a beautiful opportunity for families to slow down and walk through the story of Jesus together. Each day of this guide follows a moment from the final week of Jesus' life. Along the way you will notice a symbol, a short scripture passage, a question to wonder about, a simple prayer, and a small activity you can do together as a family.

You can use this guide around the dinner table, before bed, or anytime that works for your family rhythm. Inside the bag you will also find the symbols for each day. Many families enjoy placing them somewhere visible in their home as the week goes on. You might even find a simple piece of wood in your garage or another special place where you can display the symbols together as a reminder of the journey toward Easter.

Day One: Palm Sunday

Symbol: Leaf

Scripture: Matthew 21:1–11

For younger children, you may enjoy finding this story in a children's Bible and reading it together.

Jesus rides into Jerusalem and the crowds erupt with excitement. People wave palm branches, lay down their cloaks, and shout "Hosanna!", which means "Save us now!". They are welcoming Jesus like a king. But Jesus is not the kind of king the people expected. He comes gently, humbly, and full of love. He is a king who came not to be served, but to serve.

Take a moment to wonder together what it might look like for Jesus to be King in our own lives.

You might pray something simple like this:

Jesus, thank you for being our King. Help us trust you, follow you, and learn your ways. Amen.

For a family moment, younger children may enjoy grabbing leaves, scarves, or paper palms and parading around the house shouting "Hosanna! Jesus is King!". Older children could read the Palm Sunday passage together and talk about what kind of king the people expected and how Jesus shows us a very different kind of kingdom.

Day Two: Monday

Symbol: Sponge

Scripture: Matthew 21:12–17

For younger children, you may want to find this story in a children's Bible and read it together.

When Jesus enters the temple, He sees that people have turned God's house into something it was never meant to be. Tables are overturned and coins scatter as Jesus clears the space. He reminds everyone that God's house is meant to be a place of prayer, worship, and love. Jesus

cares deeply about our hearts too. He wants them to be places where love, kindness, truth, and worship can grow.

As a family you might talk about this question:

What helps our hearts stay close to God? What might need a little cleaning out in our hearts or our home to make more space for Him?

You might pray together:

Jesus, help our hearts be places where your love lives. Help us choose what is good, kind, and true. Amen.

A simple family activity today could involve cleaning something together. Younger children might take a sponge or cloth and clean a small space. Older children could help organize a drawer, toy bin, or closet. As you work, you might even set aside a few items to give away to someone who could use them. It can be a helpful reminder that sometimes our hearts need a little cleaning too.

Day Three: Tuesday

Symbol: Candle

Scripture: Matthew 5:14–16, John 8:12

Jesus tells His followers something amazing. He says, “I am the light of the world.” Light changes everything. When light enters a dark room, the darkness cannot remain the same. Jesus brings light into the world through truth, hope, love, and forgiveness. Then He tells His followers something surprising. He says that we have the light of the world too. When we follow Jesus, His light shines through us in the way we live, love, and treat others. Even small acts of kindness, courage, or faith can shine brightly and help others see Jesus.

You might ask around the dinner table:

How can we be lights to the people around us?

Then pray together:

Jesus, thank you for being the light of the world. Help us shine your light wherever we go. Amen.

Younger children may enjoy turning off the lights and shining a flashlight or lighting a candle to see how the light fills the room. Afterward you could play the song “This Little Light of Mine” and sing along together.

Older children might read Matthew 5:16 and talk about ways your family can show kindness this week. You might also think of someone who does not yet know Jesus, pray for them together, and talk about simple ways you could share your faith and show them Jesus’ love.

Day Four: Wednesday

Symbol: Silver Coins

Scripture: Matthew 26:14–16

For younger children, you may want to find this story in a children’s Bible and read it together.

Judas, one of Jesus’ disciples, agrees to betray Him for thirty pieces of silver. Judas had walked with Jesus, listened to His teaching, and seen His miracles, yet he chose something else instead. This moment reminds us that our choices matter. Each day we make decisions about how we treat people, whether we tell the truth, and whether we follow Jesus even when it is difficult.

You might talk together about this question:
What does it mean to be a good and trustworthy friend?

Then pray:

Jesus, help us choose what is right. Help us be faithful friends who love others well. Amen.

Younger children may enjoy holding a few coins, counting them, and then playing a game by hiding the coins around the room and letting them search for them. Afterward you might talk about how money can be helpful, but loving Jesus and being a good friend matters far more.

Older children might talk about times when doing the right thing can feel difficult, especially when there is pressure or temptation. You could discuss what it means to betray someone’s trust and how money, popularity, or rewards can influence decisions, and talk about choosing integrity, trusting God and faithfulness instead.

Day Five: Maundy Thursday

Symbol: Cup

Scripture: John 13:1–20, 34. Luke 22:7–23

For younger children, you may want to find this story in a children’s Bible and read it together.

On this night Jesus gathers with His disciples for a special meal. During the meal He gives them a new command: “Love one another.” Jesus shows them what this kind of love looks like by serving them, even washing their feet. It is a powerful picture of humility and care for others. During this meal Jesus also explains something important. The bread and the cup would now remind His followers of Him. Today when we take communion, we remember Jesus’ love and the sacrifice He made for us.

You might ask together:
What are ways we can love one another in our family this week?

You might pray:

Jesus, help us love each other the way you love us. Teach us to serve and care for one another. Amen.

Younger children could share a small snack like crackers or bread while you talk about communion and how it helps us remember Jesus and His love. Older children might take turns gently washing each other's feet or hands as a reminder of serving and loving others, followed by praying for each other.

Day Six: Good Friday

Symbol: Cross

Scripture: Matthew 26:47–27:44, Mark 14:43–15:32, Luke 22:47–23:43, and John 18:1–19:27

For younger children, you may want to find this story in a children's Bible and read it together.

On Good Friday we remember the day Jesus died on the cross. Jesus chose to give His life because He loves us deeply. He carried our sin and brokenness so we could be forgiven and brought close to God. The cross reminds us that God's love is stronger than sin, stronger than pain, and stronger even than death.

You might talk about this question together:
What does the cross show us about God's love?

Then pray:

*Jesus, thank you for loving us so much. Thank you for giving your life so we could be forgiven and made new.
Amen.*

Younger children may enjoy making a cross craft or taping the shape of a cross onto a window with painter's tape and painting over it. When the tape is removed, a cross appears in the middle of the colors.

Older children might spend a quiet moment reflecting on the cross and thanking Jesus in prayer. You could also take a short walk as a family, collect a few sticks, and tie them together to create a simple cross to place somewhere in your home.

Day Seven: Saturday

Symbol: Stone

Scripture: Matthew 27:45–61, Mark 15:33–47, Luke 23:44–56, and John 19:28–42

For younger children, you may want to find this story in a children's Bible and read it together.

Jesus is placed in a tomb and a large stone is rolled in front of it. It is a quiet day of waiting. The disciples do not yet know what is coming next, but God is still at work.

You might ask together:
Have you ever had to wait for something important?

Then pray:

God, help us trust you even when we are waiting. Amen.

A simple family activity today could be baking resurrection rolls or hot cross buns together as you prepare for Easter.

Day Eight: Easter Sunday

Symbol: Flower

Scripture: Matthew 27:62–28:10, Mark 16:1–19, Luke 24:1–12, and John 20:1–18

For younger children, you may want to find this story in a children's Bible and read it together.

The stone is rolled away.

The tomb is empty.

Jesus is alive.

Because Jesus defeated death, everything changes. We can live with hope, joy, and new life because Jesus is alive today. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Because Jesus conquered death, we are invited into life. Not only eternal life one day, but freedom and hope today.

You might talk together about this question:

How does Jesus change everything?

Then pray:

Jesus, thank you for new life and hope. Thank you that you are alive. Amen.

As a family you can say together:

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Celebrate together and gather with other believers at church to share in the joy of Easter.