

EASTER

FAMILY DEVOTIONS & ACTIVITY GUIDE



A 14-Day Journey Through the Life of Jesus

EASTER

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Anticipate Easter as a family by reading and talking about Jesus' life –
His miracles, His words, His love, His life & His death.
Then celebrate the most amazing event ever – His resurrection!

Week 1

DAY ONE

JESUS TEACHES IN THE TEMPLE

Jesus is full of knowledge and wisdom.

Luke 2:41-52

DAY TWO

JESUS IS TEMPTED

Jesus did not sin.

Matthew 4:1-11

DAY THREE

JESUS TALKS TO THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

Jesus knows everything about me.

John 4:1-30

DAY FOUR

JESUS HEALS A LAME MAN

Jesus can forgive and heal.

Mark 2:1-12

DAY FIVE

JESUS CALMS THE SEA

Jesus has power over the wind and waves.

Matthew 8:23-27

DAY SIX

JESUS FEEDS FIVE THOUSAND

Jesus can do the impossible.

Mark 6:34-44

DAY SEVEN

JESUS WALKS ON WATER

Jesus can help us do the impossible.

Matthew 14:22-33

Week 2

DAY EIGHT

JESUS HEALS A BLIND MAN

Jesus can use something ordinary to do something extraordinary.

John 9:1-25

DAY NINE

JESUS CALLS LAZARUS OUT OF THE GRAVE

Jesus has power over death.

John 11:1-43

DAY TEN

JESUS GOES HOME WITH ZACCHAEUS

Jesus loves everyone.

Luke 19:1-10

DAY ELEVEN

JESUS IS WELCOMED WITH PRAISE

Jesus is worthy of our praise.

Luke 19:28-40

DAY TWELVE

JESUS' LAST SUPPER

Jesus gave us an example to follow.

Luke 22:7-27, John 13:1-17

DAY THIRTEEN

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Jesus died for us.

Luke 23:26-48

DAY FOURTEEN

JESUS IS ALIVE!

Jesus did what no one else can do.

Matthew 28



the Jesus Tree

A FAMILY EASTER TRADITION

Just as a Jesse Tree¹ at Christmastime helps our family to daily focus our hearts and our attention on the birth of Christ, a Jesus tree during the season of Lent helps us anticipate and celebrate the life and resurrection of Jesus. A Jesus tree can take many different forms, and it doesn't have to be anything big or fancy. The purpose is simply to help our family see beyond all the bunnies and baskets and eggs of the season and focus on the most important thing: Jesus.

Make a Tree

There are lots of ways to make a Jesus Tree. Here are some ideas:

- Gather some branches and put them in a vase. You can paint the sticks, or leave them natural.
- Use a small artificial tree - even one left over from the Christmas season would work. (If you do a Jesse Tree at Christmas, you can just bring it out again for Easter!)
- Cut out a tree from paper (wrapping paper or scrapbook paper work great), and hang it on a wall in your house.
- Purchase a real tree from a local nursery. Use it as your Jesus Tree, then you can plant it outside in your yard!

Fill it With Stories

- Hang ornaments on your Jesus Tree to represent the life of Jesus. You can use the printable ornaments in this kit, or even make your own if you want! Add to your JesusTree as you read through the stories of Jesus' life with your family.

¹ If you are not familiar with the tradition of a Jesse tree at Christmas, I highly recommend *The Greatest Gift* or *Unwrapping the Greatest Gift*, both by Ann Voskamp. You can also find lots of ideas for a Jesse tree and a Jesus tree (also sometimes called an Easter tree) online and on Pinterest.



Jesus Teaches in the Temple

JESUS IS FULL OF KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM

DAY
1

Read About It

Read Luke 2:41-52

Talk About It

Here are some questions to help get the conversation going:

- How old was Jesus when this happened?
- Why do you think Jesus was in the Temple?
- Verse 47 says, "All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers." Talk about this verse. Why do you think all the teachers were amazed by Jesus?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said "Didn't you know I must be in my Father's house?" What does this tell us about who Jesus is?

"Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people."

Luke 2:52

Pray About It

Pray as a family. Ask God to help you grow in wisdom like Jesus did. Thank Him for Jesus and for helping you understand and know Him.

Do Something About It

- Start a "Jesus Tree" with your family and add the Day 1 ornament to your tree.
- Make a growth chart (or use one you already have). Take turns marking each family member's height on the growth chart. You can also mark how tall each person was when they were born. Talk about how much you've each grown. Then talk about how Jesus grew too. And not only in size...the Bible says that "Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people." Talk about ways you can grow in wisdom and in favor with God and others.

**There are lots of great DIY growth chart ideas online (check out Pinterest for some fun project ideas!)*

Jesus is Tempted

JESUS DID NOT SIN

Read About It

Read Matthew 4:1-11

Talk About It

Here are some questions to help get the conversation going:

- Jesus was very hungry. Why didn't Jesus make the rocks turn into bread?
- What did Jesus say to Satan when he tempted him? What did he use to "fight back"?
- Why do you think Jesus went through these very difficult 40 days? How do you think he felt?
- Why is it important to know that Jesus never sinned?

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil."

Matthew 4:1

Pray About It

Pray as a family. Ask God to help you when you are tempted, and thank Him for His forgiveness.

Do Something About It

- Add the Day 2 ornament to your Jesus Tree.
- Make a paper chain together as a family. On each strip of paper, write down a sin, something that you have done that needs forgiveness. Link your paper strips together to form a chain. (You can keep adding to this chain throughout the next two weeks). Talk to your kids about how sin is like chains that bind us and keep us from living the life God intended for us. On Easter, celebrate Jesus' resurrection by breaking apart your chain of sins! This is what Jesus does for us—His death and resurrection frees us from the bondage of sin! They don't have any power over us anymore!



Jesus Talks to the Woman at the Well

JESUS KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT ME

Read About It

Read John 4:1-30

**“Come and see
a man who told
me everything I
ever did!”**

John 4:29

Talk About It

Here are some questions to help get the conversation going:

- Why was the woman surprised that Jesus was talking to her?
- What do you think Jesus meant when He said that He could give her “living water?”
- Who did Jesus tell the woman He was?
- Why did the woman run and tell the village about Jesus? Have you ever told anyone about Jesus?

Pray About It

Pray as a family. Thank God for knowing everything about you, and still loving you anyway. Thank Him for His living water that gives us eternal life. Ask Him to help you tell others about Him.

Do Something About It

- Add the Day 3 ornament to your Jesus Tree.
- Take a family selfie (or pull out a family photograph). As you look at your picture, talk about each person, listing details about each one (things they like to do, things that have happened to them, favorite things, etc). Talk about how Jesus knows EVERYTHING about us...even the secret hidden things that we can't see in a picture. And....He LOVES us! It doesn't matter where we're from or what we look like, or even if anyone else in the world likes us...Jesus loves us. Jesus loves EVERYONE. And we should too.



Jesus Heals a Lame Man

JESUS CAN FORGIVE AND HEAL

Read About It

Read Mark 2:1-12

Talk About It

Here are some questions to help get the conversation going:

- How did the lame man get to Jesus? How can we help others get to Jesus?
- Why don't you think Jesus healed the lame man right away?
- Why were the religious teachers so angry when Jesus forgave the man of his sins?
- Do you think it's more important that Jesus can heal our bodies or that Jesus can forgive our sins?

"I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins."

Mark 2:10

Pray About It

Pray as a family. Tell God how amazing and awesome He is. Thank Him for His forgiveness. Ask Him to help you as you share Jesus with people around you.

Do Something About It

- Add the Day 4 ornament to your Jesus Tree.
- Make a woven mat. Use scrapbook paper or construction paper and follow the directions in the "additional resources" section of this kit to make some woven paper mats together. Talk about how the lame man's friends carried him on a mat to Jesus. Discuss ways that you can carry people to Jesus. We may not use an actual mat and physically carry people to Jesus like these four friends did, but what things can act like a "mat" and help us get someone to Jesus? (Acts of kindness? Acts of service? Conversations about Jesus? What do you think?)
When you're done, you can use your finished mats as place mats for your Easter meal!

Jesus Calms the Sea

JESUS HAS POWER OVER THE WIND AND WAVES

Read About It

Read Matthew 8:23-27

Talk About It

Here are some questions to help get the conversation going:

- What makes you feel scared or afraid?
- What do you normally do when you are afraid?
- How can having faith help when we are afraid?
- What does this miracle tell us about Jesus?

**“The disciples
were amazed.
‘Who is this
man?’ they asked.
‘Even the winds
and waves obey
him!’ ”**

Matthew 8:27

Pray About It

Pray as a family. Ask God to help you have faith when life is scary. Thank Him for being with us when we are scared. If Jesus can calm the sea, He can take definitely take good care of you – thank Him for this amazing truth.

Do Something About It

- Add the Day 5 ornament to your Jesus Tree.
- Shaving Cream Fears – this is a slightly messy but super fun tactile family activity. Reinforce the truth that Jesus can calm our storms and help us when we are afraid with this simple and fun hands-on idea! All you need is shaving cream and blue food coloring. Make an “ocean” of shaving cream waves, write your fears in the “water,” then use your hand to wipe them away and “calm the sea.” Detailed directions are in the “other resources” section of this kit.



Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

JESUS CAN DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

Read About It

Read Mark 6:34-44

Talk About It

Here are some questions to help get the conversation going:

- How many people do you think 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish would normally feed?
- How do you think Jesus was able to feed over 5,000 people with so little food?
- Why do you think Jesus fed all those people?
- In verse 37, Jesus told his disciples to feed all the people, but the disciples did not think it was possible, they could not think of a way it could be done. Is there anything God is asking you to do that you think is impossible?

“They all ate as much as they wanted.”

Mark 6:42

Pray About It

Pray as a family. Ask God to give you more faith, to trust that He can do impossible things. Thank Him for providing for you, and for taking care of you.

Do Something About It

- Add the Day 6 ornament to your Jesus Tree.
- Bake 2 loaves of bread together. As you mix and bake, talk about how God provides for us. Every loaf of bread, every bowl of cereal, every slice of pizza, is a gift from our Provider. God provides for us, blessing us with so many good things, and He can multiply those blessings when we share the blessings and give to others. When your bread is all done, wrap one loaf up and deliver it to a neighbor or a friend. Then sit down and enjoy the other loaf as a family, thanking God for blessing us so we can bless others.



Jesus Walks on Water

JESUS CAN HELP US DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

Read About It

Read Matthew 14:22-33

Talk About It

Here are some questions to help get the conversation going:

- Why were the disciples afraid?
- Walking on water is impossible. So how was Jesus able to walk on the water? How was Peter able to walk on the water?
- Peter walked on the water toward Jesus until he began to sink. Why did he start sinking?
- Do you ever doubt God?
- Jesus said, "Take courage. I am here!" How can knowing that God is here, that He is with you, help you have courage?

“‘Don’t be afraid,’ he said. ‘Take courage. I am here!’”

Matthew 14:27

Pray About It

Pray as a family. Ask God to give you courage as you face scary or hard things. Thank God for always being right there with you so that you can be brave and do hard things. Ask God to help you keep your eyes and focus on Him, not on the problems all around you, so you can increase in faith and trust Him more.

Do Something About It

- Add the Day 7 ornament to your Jesus Tree.
- Sink or Float Experiment: Fill a bucket, or the bathtub, with water. Then gather various items from around the house to use in your sink or float experiment. One at a time, drop an item in the water and see if it sinks or floats. Try predicting which things will float and which ones will sink. What about a person? Would a person sink or float in the water? Talk about how Jesus walked on the water...how was Jesus able to do that?

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

JESUS CAN USE SOMETHING ORDINARY
TO DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

Read About It

Read Luke 2:41-52

**“I was blind, and
now I can see!”**

John 9:25

Talk About It

Here are some questions to help get the conversation going:

- This man was born blind. He never saw anything, ever, in his whole life. What kinds of things could he now see after Jesus healed him? How do you think he felt when he could see for the first time ever?
- Have you ever played in the mud? Do you think that putting mud on a cut or a broken bone or on blind eyes could heal them? So how was Jesus able to give this man sight using mud?
- People didn't understand how it happened. Even the man who was healed didn't really understand how it worked. All he knew was that he once was blind and now he could see. Are there things that you don't understand? Can we believe something even if we don't fully understand it? Is that hard or easy for you?

Pray About It

Pray as a family. Thank God for Jesus, and for the healing that He can give. Ask God to help you trust Him and have faith that He can use simple, ordinary things to do impossible, extraordinary miracles. And even when you don't understand everything, ask God to give you courage to tell others what you do know – how God has changed your life.

Do Something About It

- Add the Day 8 ornament to your Jesus Tree.
- Make some mud! You can either go outside and play in some real mud, or just make some chocolate pudding to enjoy as dessert. Either way, talk about how Jesus used something ordinary to do something extraordinary!



Jesus Calls Lazarus Out of the Grave

JESUS HAS POWER OVER DEATH

Read About It

Read John 11:1-43

Talk About It

Here are some questions to help get the conversation going:

- Verse 35 says “Jesus wept.” Jesus cried because Lazarus died. He loved Lazarus very much. When have you felt so sad that you cried?
- In verse 37 some people said, “This man healed a blind man. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?” What do you think? Could Jesus have kept him from dying? Why didn’t he?
- Lazarus had been dead for 4 days. But Jesus called him out of the grave and he was ALIVE! How do you think everyone reacted when Lazarus walked out?
- What does this miracle tell us about Jesus?

“Jesus told her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.’”

John 11:25

Pray About It

Pray as a family. Thank God that He gives you this amazing hope – that those who believe in Jesus will live, even after they die. Thank Him that Jesus has power over death, and that even when we are sad and our hearts are hurting, that there is always, always hope.

Do Something About It

- Add the Day 9 ornament to your Jesus Tree.
- **Wrap Up the Story:** Have a little family fun and act out this Bible story together. Choose one person to be Lazarus. The other members of the family then take rolls of toilet paper and wrap “Lazarus” up really good. Carefully have “Lazarus” lie down and act dead. Wait 4 minutes. Four minutes may seem like a long time, but talk about how Lazarus was dead for FOUR DAYS before Jesus came. How did his family and friends feel during those four days? Then, at the end of 4 minutes (or whenever the kids start to lose attention), tell “Lazarus” to get up and walk. Repeat this activity as many times as you’d like, letting others take turns being Lazarus.



Jesus Goes Home With Zacchaeus

JESUS LOVES EVERYONE

Read About It

Read Luke 19:1-10

Talk About It

Here are some questions to help get the conversation going:

- Why do you think Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus?
- Zacchaeus was a pretty bad guy. He stole from people and was not very nice. Why did Jesus want to spend time with a person like this?
- Why do you think other people were unhappy that Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house?
- Do you think Zacchaeus changed after meeting Jesus? How can you tell?
- Is there someone who you have a hard time loving?

"For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

Luke 19:10

Pray About It

*Pray as a family. Thank God for His love, and that He loves everyone – even people who do bad things like Zacchaeus. Thank Him for loving you even when you do bad things too. And ask God to help you love others – to love **everyone** – the way that Jesus loves them.*

Do Something About It

- Add the Day 10 ornament to your Jesus Tree.
- Jesus loves EVERYONE: Cut a big heart out of poster board or a big piece of wrapping paper. Then grab some magazines or newspapers and start cutting out pictures of people. Cut out lots and lots of different people. As you cut these pictures out as a family, talk about how everyone is different. But one thing is the same: everyone makes bad choices...we ALL sin. But who does Jesus love?... EVERYONE! Glue ALL the people into the big heart...because NO ONE is outside of God's love. He loves EVERY. SINGLE. PERSON. No matter what they look like, no matter what they do. His love never changes. To finish it off, add pictures of everyone in your family. God loves YOU too...no matter what!

Jesus is Welcomed With Praise

JESUS IS WORTHY OF OUR PRAISE

Read About It

Read Luke 19:28-40

Talk About It

Here are some questions to help get the conversation going:

- Why were so many people so excited to see Jesus?
- The people were praising God by shouting and singing. What is your favorite way to praise God? What are some other ways we can praise Him?
- Some of the Pharisees didn't like that the people were praising Jesus and calling Him the King. But Jesus said, "If they keep quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!" What do you think Jesus meant by that?
- Why should we praise Jesus?

"Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Luke 19:38

Pray About It

Pray as a family. Give God praise for His goodness and His grace. Thank Him for Jesus, and for His amazing love.

Do Something About It

- Add the Day 11 ornament to your Jesus Tree.
- Praise Jesus together as a family. You can sing songs or turn up some worship music loud and dance around the house together! Have a dance party! If you play instruments, you can pull those out and have a family music night, singing songs to Jesus. Or you could even make up your own praise songs if you want! Just spend some time praising God together.



Jesus' Last Supper

JESUS GAVE US AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

Read About It

Read Luke 22:7-27, and John 13:1-17

Talk About It

Here are some questions to help get the conversation going:

- This was a very important meal for Jesus and His disciples. Why do you think it was so important?
- After Jesus gave his disciples the bread, what did He mean when He said "This is my body, which is given for you?"
- In John 13 we read about Jesus washing the disciples' feet. Why did Jesus do that?
- What kind of example did Jesus give us to follow? (John 13:14-15)
What does He mean when He says we should "wash each other's feet?"

**"Do this to
remember me."**

Luke 22:19

Pray About It

Pray as a family. Thank God for Jesus and that we can remember Him on special days like Easter. Ask Him to help you as you follow His example and serve others.

Do Something About It

- Add the Day 12 ornament to your Jesus Tree.
- Bake some unleavened bread and have a "Last Supper Meal" as a family. Break bread together and as you talk through this story and remember the significance of what Jesus did. (*Details and ideas for this special meal are in the "Other Resources" at the end of these devotions.*)
- Wash one another's feet. Get a bowl of water and a washcloth, kneel down by your children, and wash their feet. (This may seem silly or strange at first since feet-washing isn't really part of our modern-day culture, but physically kneeling down and washing one another's feet provides a great visual and connection to the story...it helps them experience the story, which helps leave a lasting impression in the memory of your children.) As you wash their feet, share the story of how Jesus washed His disciples' feet at the Last Supper, and how he told them, **"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set an example that you should do as I have done for you."** (John 13:14-15 NIV) This was an act of service, a humbling act of love. And He wants us, His followers, to follow His example and serve others in the same way. Talk about ways you can "wash the feet" of people around you – how can you serve others as a family?



Jesus is Crucified

JESUS DIED FOR US

Read About It

Read Luke 23:26-48

Talk About It

Here are some questions to help get the conversation going:

- How did reading this story make you feel?
- Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” What do you think about that?
- Many people made fun of Jesus while He was on the cross. They said, “He saved others...let him save himself if he is really God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” (vs 35). Why didn’t Jesus save himself? Could he have?
- This was a very sad day. Jesus died. How do you think His family and friends felt?

“Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”

Luke 23:34

Pray About It

Pray as a family. Thank God for Jesus and for all that He suffered when He was hurt and then died on the cross. He could have saved Himself – He was God, after all – but He chose to die, because it was the only way to bring hope and life to our very lost and broken world. Thank Him for doing this for you.

Do Something About It

- Add the Day 13 ornament to your Jesus Tree.
- Make a “Crown of Thorns.” You’ll need a small grapevine wreath and toothpicks for this activity. Set the wreath in the center of your table. Give each family member some toothpicks. Take turns putting a toothpick “thorn” into the wreath. As you add a “thorn,” name a sin. Talk about how Jesus took on all the sins of the world when He hung on the cross, and that He died to forgive every single one of our sins. Leave your crown of thorns on your table. On Easter morning, replace the crown of thorns with a gold crown for our Risen King! (A crown template is included in this kit).

Jesus is Alive!

JESUS DID WHAT NO ONE ELSE CAN DO

Read About It

Read Matthew 28

Talk About It

Here are some questions to help get the conversation going:

- Verse 8 says that the women were “very frightened but also filled with great joy.” Why were they frightened? And why were they filled with joy?
- The angel said, “He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as He said would happen.” Jesus told His followers that He would die, and that He would rise from the dead. And He did! Jesus did what He said He would do. Why is this important?
- Even after Jesus appeared to His disciples, verse 17 says “some of them doubted.” Why do you think some people doubted that He rose from the dead? Do people today still doubt this?
- In verses 19-20, Jesus gives us an important job: He tells us to go and tell others about Him. Who can you tell about Jesus?
- Jesus said, “I am with you always.” How does that make you feel? How does that help you as you go and tell others about Jesus?

**“He isn’t here!
He is risen from
the dead, just
as he said would
happen.”**

Matthew 28:6

Pray About It

Pray as a family. Thank God for Jesus. Thank Him that he died for us, but also that He didn’t stay dead...that He rose again and is alive today! Ask Him to help you tell others this great news.

Do Something About It

- Add the Day 14 ornament to your Jesus Tree.
- Bake some Resurrection Rolls together. (Recipe is in the “Other Resources” section of this kit) These are fun (and tasty) treats that illustrate Jesus’ Resurrection.



other RESOURCES

Printable Jesus Tree Ornaments

Make a Woven Mat

Shaving Cream Fears

A Last Supper Meal

Crown Template

Resurrection Rolls Recipe



the Jesus Tree

PRINTABLE ORNAMENTS

Day Two

"Then Jesus was led
by the Spirit
into the wilderness
to be tempted there
by the devil."



MATTHEW 4:1

Day Three

"Come and see
a man who told me
everything I ever did."



JOHN 4:29

Day One

"Jesus grew in wisdom
and in stature and in favor
with God and all the people."



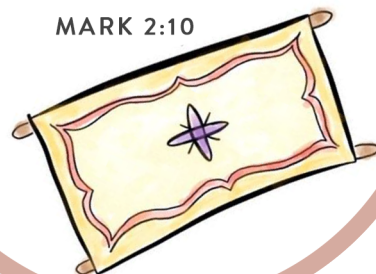
LUKE 2:52

Print out all 14 Jesus Tree Ornaments (3 pages) onto cardstock. Cut out around each circle (or use a 3-inch circle punch if you have one). Then just punch a little hole in the top of each ornament and add some string or ribbon to hang them on your Jesus Tree.

Day Four

"I will prove to you
that the Son of Man has
the authority on earth
to forgive sins."

MARK 2:10



Day Five

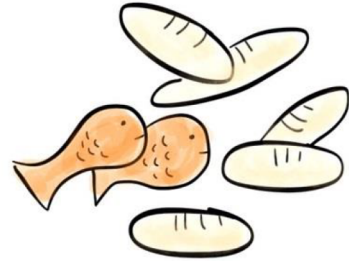
"The disciples were amazed.
'Who is this man?' they asked.
'Even the winds and waves obey him.' "



MATTHEW 8:27

Day Six

"They all ate
as much as they wanted."



MARK 6:42

Day Seven

"Do not be afraid."
He said. "Take courage.
I am here!"



MATTHEW 14:27

Day Eight

"I was blind,
and now I can see!"



JOHN 9:25

Day Nine

"Jesus told her, 'I am
the resurrection & the life.
Anyone who believes in me
will live, even after dying.'"



JOHN 11:25

Day Ten

"For the Son of Man
came to seek and save those
who are lost."



LUKE 19:10

Day Eleven

"Blessings on the King
who comes in the name
of the Lord!"



LUKE 19:38

Day Twelve

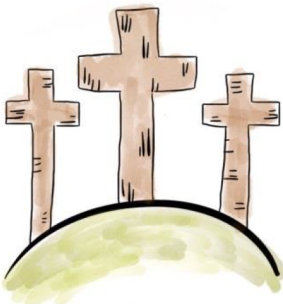
"Do this
to remember me."



LUKE 22:19

Day Thirteen

"Father, forgive them,
for they don't know
what they are doing."



LUKE 23:34

Day Fourteen

"He isn't here!
He is risen from the dead,
just as he said would happen."



MATTHEW 28:6

Make a Woven Mat

DIRECTIONS

What You Need

- 18-in. x 12-in. piece of construction paper
If you don't have large sheets of construction paper, you can also use scrapbook paper or wrapping paper. This large sheet of paper will be the size of your mat, so whatever size paper you use will be the size of your finished mat.
- 12in. x 1-in. strips of paper (scrapbook paper works great for these strips!)
You will need 16 strips of paper if your large pieces of paper are 18x12.
(You may need less or more depending on the size of your large piece of paper)
- You will also need: Scissors, a Ruler, a Pencil, and Glue

What You Do

- Take the large piece of paper and fold it in half across the width ("hamburger fold")
- Use your ruler to make 1-inch wide spaces all along the folded edge. Then mark 1-inch spaces along the open edge. Connect these marks so that you have lines across your paper, running from the folded edge across to the open edge – but leave a 1-inch edge on the open side of the paper (*see picture 1 below*)
OR, you can do like me and skip this step and just eyeball it as you cut!
- With the paper still folded, start at the fold and cut along your lines that you just marked, but stop 1-inch away from the open edge (otherwise you will end up with just long strips of paper). (*see picture 2 below*)
- Unfold the paper to reveal the loom you have created.
- Now, start weaving your 1-inch strips of paper through your loom, alternating weaving over and under the strips on your loom.
- After you have woven all your strips into your loom, you can glue down the ends of your strips to the sides of the loom to hold them in place. (*See finished mat in picture 3 below*)

(If you want your mats to last longer, or if you'd like to use them as place mats, you may want to consider covering them with clear contact paper or laminating them)

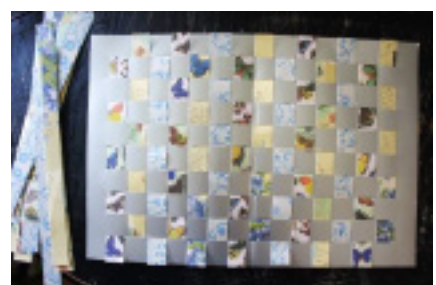
Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Shaving Cream Fears

DIRECTIONS

DAY 5
activity

What You Need

- Shaving Cream (unscented)
- Blue Food Coloring
- A disposable plastic tablecloth or wax paper (to cover the table)

What You Do

- Lay down a plastic tablecloth or tape down some wax paper on your table (if you don't want the shaving cream directly on your table).
- Spray a large mound of shaving cream on the table in front of each family member.
- Add a few drops of blue food coloring.
- Mix the food coloring into the shaving cream. *You may want to mix it with a plastic spoon first, or at least avoid directly touching the food coloring until it is mixed in with the shaving cream – this will help minimize staining your fingers blue. (Even if your hands turn a little blue, it will eventually wash out, so no worries!)
- Once it is mixed, it's time to get a little messy and have a lot of fun!
 - Make “waves” in the shaving cream. See how big you can make them. Talk about the story and how the storm made the waves so high that water was getting into the boat and the disciples were scared. Then you can use your hand to make your “water” smooth again. Take away the waves and make it calm. Talk about how Jesus calmed the waves.
 - Use your finger to write words in the shaving cream. Write something you are afraid of, something that makes you scared. Then, using your hand, wipe the shaving cream smooth again. Talk about how Jesus can take away all our fears and calm our storms too, just like he calmed the storm for the disciples when they were afraid.
 - Play in the shaving cream as long as you'd like. The more you play in it, it actually starts to dissolve. Try putting a little bit in your hands and then rub your hands together. Keep rubbing them. Soon, the shaving cream will disappear! Talk about how we can put all of our fears in Jesus' hands...and if we keep trusting Him, before long all those fears will disappear!

"Last Supper"

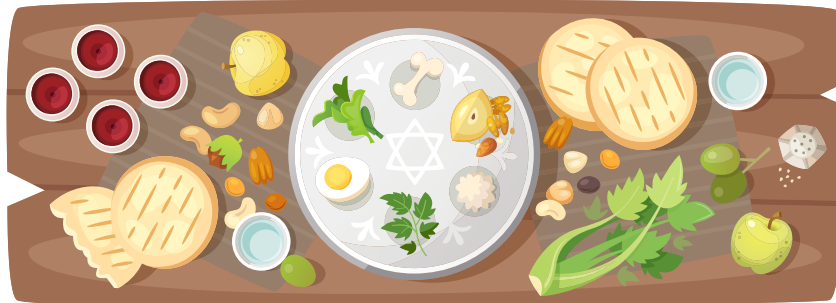
FAMILY MEAL

DAY 12
activity

The Purpose Behind This Family Tradition:

At the last supper with His disciples, Jesus told them to **"do this to remember me."** There's something significant about traditions, about doing something that means something in order to remember something important. As a family, we want to create traditions that have significance, that point our hearts to something, to Someone... *traditions that help us remember.*

In Luke 22, Jesus and His disciples were having the Passover Meal together. The Passover Meal was important, full of symbolism, full of significance...it helped them remember. They remembered where they came from, remembered how God rescued them from slavery in Egypt, remembered how God made a way where there was no way, remembered how the blood on the doorposts saved their children from the curse. Passover. A meal that helped them remember.



And everything that the Passover was, everything that it pointed to, everything that it symbolized...Jesus fulfilled with the New Covenant. When His body was broken and His blood was poured, everything was fulfilled. *"It is finished."* So when we break the bread that represents His body, and when we pour the drink that represents His blood, we remember—we remember where we came from, we remember how God rescued us from the chains of sin and death, we remember how Jesus made a way where there was no way, we remember that HIS blood covers our sin and saves us from the curse of death. **We remember.**

So every year at Easter, we have a family "Last Supper" meal together. We do it to remember Jesus. We bake unleavened bread, and we drink "wine" (we use sparkling grape juice), and we slow down and remember what Jesus did. We pull out our Bibles and read about the first Passover, we talk about the significance of the Passover meal and the sacrifice of the lambs. Then we read about Jesus' last meal with His disciples. We read His words. We break the bread. We drink the juice. We pray. We remember.

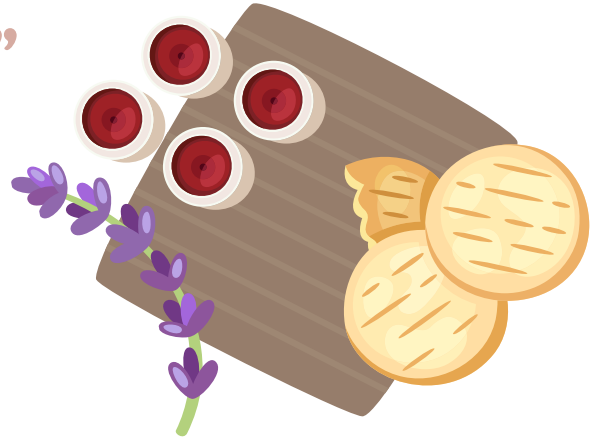
On the following page is a plan for a basic "Last Supper" meal that we do each year as a family.

Another great option if you are wanting something more detailed would be to prepare a complete Messianic Seder or Christian Passover Meal. If you are interested in learning more about the full Passover Meal, or if you would like to try a complete Messianic Passover Meal with your family, I recommend the resources found at <https://annvoskamp.com/sticky-notes>

After you sign up/sign in for her resources, look under the "Free Tools" category and you will find two great free printable resources: *"A Christian Haggadah Passover" & "A Christian Passover Meal"*

“Last Supper”

FAMILY MEAL



Before the Meal

Bake Unleavened Bread

- Invite the kids to join in and help mix and bake. (One recipe option is included in this packet)

Decorate the Table

- This is a special meal, so decorate it in a special way. Use the “Remember Me” printable (found in this kit) on the table, if you want. Add candles, flowers, or any other decorations you’d like. If your Jesus Tree fits on your table, it would make a great centerpiece.

Prepare a Meal

- This meal does not have to be complicated. Lamb would be a lovely choice, since the significance and symbolism of the lamb would tie in really well to what the meal is about. But you could even just bake a chicken with some veggies, or whatever kind of meal your family enjoys. Just don’t forget the sparkling grape juice!

At the Meal

Read about the first Passover

EXODUS 11:1–12:30

(You can read the entire passage, or choose a few verses to explain the story: Exodus 11:4-6, 12:3, 5-7, 12-13, 17)

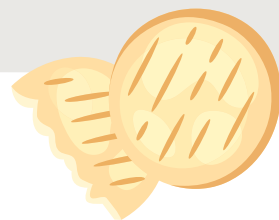
In Exodus, the Bible tells us that God helped the Israelites escape slavery in Egypt by inflicting ten plagues upon the Egyptians before the Pharaoh would release them. The tenth and worst of the plagues was the death of all the first-born children in Egypt. The Israelites were told to mark the doorposts of their homes with the blood of a spring lamb and, upon seeing this, the spirit of the Lord knew to pass over the first-borns in these homes. When the Pharaoh freed the Israelites, it is said that they left in such a hurry that they could not wait for bread dough to rise (leaven). In commemoration, for the duration of Passover no leavened bread is eaten, for which reason it is called “The Festival of the Unleavened Bread”. Matzo (flat unleavened bread) is a symbol of the holiday. ²

So The Passover, or the Festival of Unleavened Bread, was a special time each year that helped the Jews remember how God helped them escape slavery in Egypt, and how the blood of a spotless lamb saved them from death.

Read about Jesus' Last Supper

LUKE 22: 7-20

“And He took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘**This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.**’”
(Luke 22:19 NIV)



After you read these words, pray and thank God for it, then break the bread and eat it together.

We eat the matzah (unleavened bread) to remind us of the fact that the Israelites did not have time to wait for yeast to rise because they had to be ready to move when God said. For us as Christians, it reminds us to live lightly, always ready to go when the call comes, for in the twinkling of an eye, like a thief in the night, Jesus is going to return and we will all go home.

We eat matzah because tonight we remember Jesus. By whose stripes we are healed. Yeast leavens, or puffs up, as pride and sin inflates our hearts. Yeast reminds us of the words from 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 “Don’t you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast – as you really are. For Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the festival, not with old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.”

Tonight we eat unleavened bread, bread without yeast, to remember Jesus who was without sin. We break the bread to remember that Jesus was broken for us.²

“In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, ‘**This cup is the new covenant of my blood, which is poured out for you.**’”
(Luke 22:20 NIV)



After you read these words, pour the grape juice and drink it together.

For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins. (Hebrews 9:22) But we have hope. Because of the blood shed by the thorns piercing Jesus’ brow, because of the blood from the wounds of the nails, we, in faith, mark on the door of our hearts. We drink this juice, representing the voluntary sacrifice of Jesus, God’s own gift of a perfect lamb, for our sins, that punishment may Passover us. And because of His blood we have new life in Christ.

Because of His crucifixion we have symbolically been passed over by the shedding of His blood! We celebrate Passover today to remember how God saved the Jews from slavery in Egypt, and how He has saved us from the bondage of sin and death through Jesus’ blood.²

Prayer

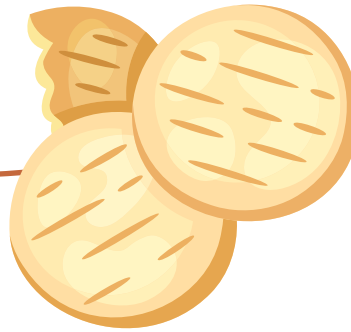
After eating this special meal together, say a prayer. Thank God for Jesus, the spotless Lamb who died so that we could be saved. Thank Him for His body and for His blood. Thank Him for His grace and His mercy. Thank Him for His love and His forgiveness.

² Words in italics are from “A Christian Passover Meal” and “A Christian Haggadah Passover” Booklet, found under “Free Tools” at annvoskamp.com/sticky-notes

Unleavened Bread

WHOLE WHEAT FLATBREAD

DAY 12
recipe



Ingredients

- 4c whole wheat flour
- 1 1/2t sal
- 3T butter
- 2 egg yolks
- 2T vegetable oil
- 1c milk

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400F.
2. In a bowl, combine flour and salt.
3. Using a stand electric mixer with a dough hook, beat the butter, egg yolks, and vegetable oil until combined (not smooth).
4. Slowly alternate adding flour mixture and milk to mixer bowl while mixer is on a medium/low speed. Dough should be crumbly but moist.
5. Lightly knead dough by hand to form smooth ball.
6. Lightly flour a bread board and pinch off a quarter of the dough.
7. Pat the dough into a flat disk, then using a rolling pin, thin the disk to approximately 1/8" keeping the board floured and flipping disk as necessary to avoid sticking.
8. Carefully transfer to an ungreased baking sheet. (Optional: Lightly pierce surface of bread with a fork to help avoid bubbling, and mark squares onto surface with a knife to aid in separating servings).
9. Bake for 10 - 12 minutes, or until lightly browned on edges. (Bake it longer if you like it crispy, or underbake it by a minute or so for a soft, chewy texture.)

Recipe Source: <http://www.epicurious.com/recipes/member/views/WHOLE-WHEAT-FLATBREAD-JEWISH-OR-UNLEAVENED-BREAD-50008052>



Remember Me

PRINTABLE TABLE DECORATION

- Cut out along solid lines.
- Fold along dotted line.



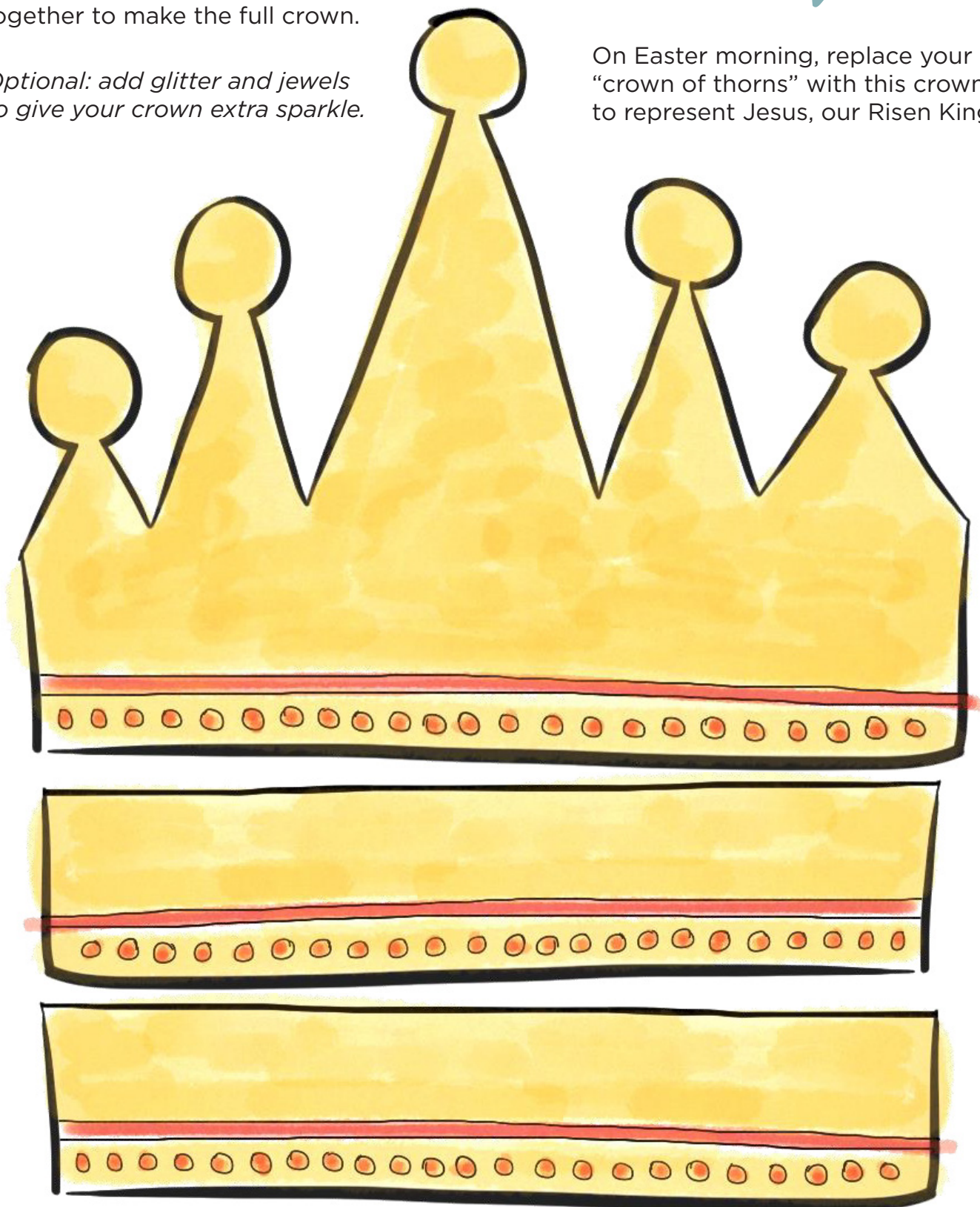
Crown Template

OPTION 1: FULL COLOR

Print the full-color crown template. Cut along outside lines. Tape or staple side strips to the front of the crown, and then attach together to make the full crown.

Optional: add glitter and jewels to give your crown extra sparkle.

On Easter morning, replace your “crown of thorns” with this crown, to represent Jesus, our Risen King!



Crown Template

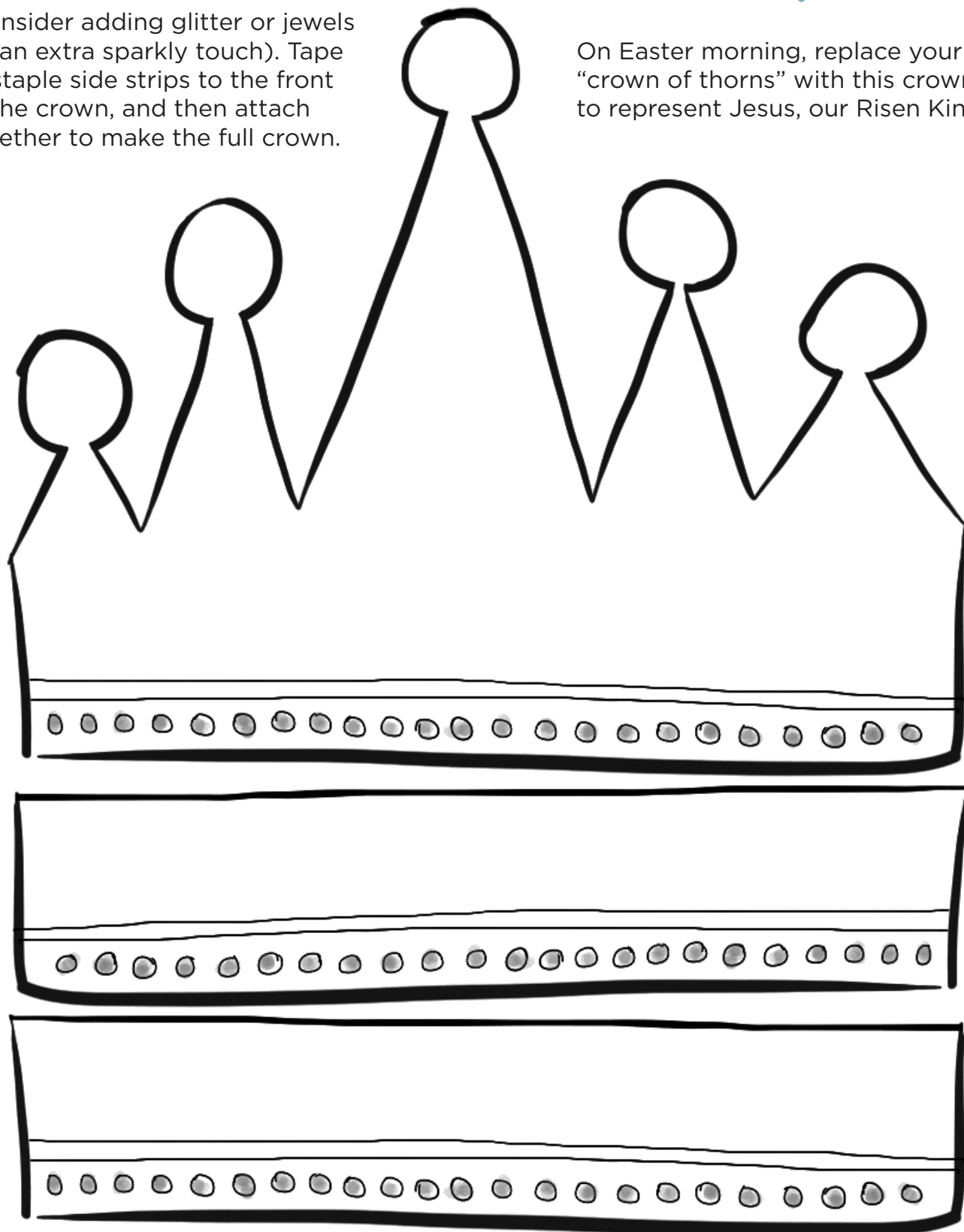
OPTION 2: BLACK & WHITE

DAY 13
activity

Print this crown template. Cut along outside lines. Have your children color and decorate the crown in any way you wish.

(Consider adding glitter or jewels for an extra sparkly touch). Tape or staple side strips to the front of the crown, and then attach together to make the full crown.

On Easter morning, replace your “crown of thorns” with this crown, to represent Jesus, our Risen King!



Resurrection Rolls

AN EASTER TRADITION

DAY 14
recipe



Ingredients

- 1 (10 oz) can refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
- 8 large marshmallows
- ¼ cup melted butter
- 2 Tbsp ground cinnamon
- 2 Tbsp white sugar

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F
2. Lightly grease a baking sheet.
3. Separate crescent rolls into individual triangles. (If you can find the big and flaky ones, the marshmallows will fit better.)
4. In a small bowl, mix together the cinnamon and sugar.
5. Dip a marshmallow into melted butter, then roll in the cinnamon sugar mixture. Place marshmallow into the center of a dough triangle. Carefully wrap the dough around the marshmallow. Pinch the seams together very tightly to seal in the marshmallow as it melts (or cut a bit of the marshmallow off to fit). Place on a baking sheet. Repeat.
6. Bake in a preheated oven until golden brown, about 15 minutes.

Makes 8 Resurrection Rolls

When you open the rolls after they are baked, the marshmallows are gone!

Recipe Source: <http://www.beautyandbedlam.com/resurrection-rolls-easter-recipe/>





A little note about these resources:

I wrote this little set of family devotions and designed the Jesus Tree ornaments with my own family in mind...I chose to focus on the life of Jesus and picked stories that I felt would prepare our hearts for Easter, and I designed the ornaments using symbols I thought would help trigger our memory of the stories. Please feel free to use this kit as a starting point for your own family Easter celebrations. But also feel free to add to it and personalize it for your own family.

I have provided a lot of activities in this kit. But our family does not do all of these activities. The whole idea is to be intentional about celebrating Easter, but not to make it so busy that we are stressed and exhausted by the time we get to Easter Sunday. I provided multiple activities so that you could see how easy it is to extend the devotions if you want to. For our family, we will choose probably two or three activities that work best for our family, or that are most meaningful to us, and focus on those. But most nights, we will simply talk about the Bible story and add our ornament to our Jesus Tree. So please do not feel like you have to do everything – in fact, please don't.

The point is not to add more to your already busy family schedule...the point is to intentionally slow down and focus on what is most important this Easter season.

Maybe your family is in a season where you can easily do an extra activity every day and it adds meaning and fun to your family, not stress and busyness. If that's where you are, great! Do it! You can even look for more ideas online – there are so many fun ideas out there that can help connect your kids' hearts to Jesus!

But if your family is in a season that is already busy and full, maybe what works best for you would be to just focus on slowing down long enough to read a Bible story together every night...maybe print the ornaments and just hang one on your Jesus Tree each day and that's it. Even just doing that alone will make an impact on your family, by intentionally turning your hearts toward Jesus this Easter season.

So take these ideas, take these resources, and tweak them and make them work for your family, in your season, where you are now. Even if you just try one thing, just start one tradition this Easter, just one thing that points your family to Jesus...it will make a difference.

**Wishing you so much joy as you
focus on Jesus this Easter!**