Passover-Good Friday-Easter

The original Passover, found in the Old Testament of the Bible is a reminder of the “death angel” passing over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt. This story has its beginning in Exodus 12. The Bible meaning of the Passover, for the New Testament, is about Jesus’ sacrifice and His death as the true Lamb of God. Jesus’ sacrifice made possible the forgiveness of our sins. We may teach our children that on the Thursday before Easter, Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples. They broke bread and drank wine, a ritual that we now commemorate in church as communion.

How to Have a Christian Passover Meal

Read more about this activity at:
http://www.feelslikehomeblog.com/2015/03/how-to-celebrate-a-christian-passover-meal-for-preschoolers/

Good Friday, why do we call Friday “Good”, when it was such a dark, terrible day for Jesus as He was sacrificed? Well, on Good Friday we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by crucifixion as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” Matthew 3:16. Lead me to the cross activities: http://amyswandering.com/2014/04/04/free-easter-activities-for-kids/

Easter, follows Good Friday celebrating the day when Jesus was resurrected, showing His victory over sin and death. Giving us hope of our future ahead for all who follow Him in love. “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward Him. And said, “Behold! THE LAMB OF GOD who takes away the sin of the world”. (John 1:29)

Countdown to Easter: Helping Kids Understand the Easter Story

What You Need:

• Purple, black, and white ribbon
• 8 small boxes (you may use wedding favor boxes from Michael’s.)
• Hershey’s kisses (optional)
• “Palm Branches” (You may use pieces of Easter grass.)
• Small LED light or tea light
• 30 silver coins
• Something to represent a basin and cloth (you may use the bottom of an Easter Egg and a small piece of fabric.)
• Small cross (you can make one out of sticks and yarn!)
• Torn piece of cloth
• Bible verses and days of holy week, found at:

Directions:

Assemble your boxes:
Put together your boxes, attaching the days of the week to the front of the box and the Bible verse to the inside of the lid.

Fill your boxes with symbols (and chocolate if desired):
Each day will include the symbol, a passage to read (feel free to read it from your Bible, a children’s Bible, or just tell it in your own words, depending on the ages of your kiddos.
Day 1: Palm Sunday
Symbol: Palm Branches
Details: Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey to a warm welcome. The people are shouting, “Hosanna! (which means “Save now!”) Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” They wave palm branches and lay their cloaks on the road for Jesus to ride over. They think Jesus has come to save them politically, not knowing that what he is about to do is even more important—redeeming the sin of the world.

Make It Memorable: This would be a great part of the Easter story for your kids to act out. As you read about the Triumphal Entry, have them wave palm branches, lay out their coats on the floor, and shout “Hosanna!”

DAY 2: Monday
Symbol: LED Light or Tea Light
Verses: John 12:20-36
Details: After the Triumphal Entry, Jesus tells his disciples, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light...Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light.” (v. 35-36) Jesus had already declared, “I am the light of the world” in John 8:12 and challenged them to “let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16) In his last days, Jesus encourages his disciples to soak up all of his “light” that they can while he is still there in person so they can carry it on when he is no longer with them.

Make It Memorable: Go into a room of your house that has no light and turn on the little light from their box or a small flashlight. Talk about how a little light can illuminate a large part of the room, just as we can affect those around us by showing Jesus’ light in us. Come up with a way you can “be a light” to someone this week.

DAY 3: Tuesday
Symbol: 30 “Pieces of Silver”
Verses: Matthew 26:14-16 (also found in Mark 14:10-11, Luke 22:1-6)
Details: Judas agrees to betray Jesus to the chief priests for thirty silver coins, thus setting into motion the plan to have Jesus arrested and eventually crucified.

Make It Memorable: Make it real for your kids by asking them what someone would have to give them in order for them to give up their mom or dad. Hopefully they conclude that no amount of money would be worth it!

DAY 4: Wednesday
Symbol: Basin and Wash Rag
Verses: John 13:1-17
Details: Washing guests’ feet was a job delegated to the lowest servant. Think about it: they only wore sandals, so their feet were exposed to everything, including mud, dust, animal droppings, and even raw sewage. No one wanted to be the foot-washer...can you blame them?! By washing his disciples’ feet, Jesus, the only human who has ever been perfect, humbled himself to the lowest place and demonstrated that to be human was to serve others.

Make It Memorable: Get out a large bowl and cloth and wash your kids’ feet. If they want, they can also wash yours. Determine to try to serve one another, just as Jesus humbly served his disciples.

DAY 5: Maundy Thursday
Symbol: Communion Cup and “Bread”
Verses: Luke 22:7-23 (also Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26)
Details: (“Maundy” comes from the Latin mandatum, which means commandment, and refers to John 13:34 where Jesus commands his disciples to love one another.) During the Passover meal, he also breaks the bread and tells his disciples, “This is my body given for you,” and the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.” The parallels here are undeniable. They are sitting here celebrating the Passover, a feast to remember when God protected the Israelites during the final plague in Egypt (Exodus 11 & 12) by having them slaughter a lamb and paint the lamb’s blood on the sides and top of their doorframes so that they would be “passed over,” and their firstborn son would survive. In the same way, Jesus’ blood is about to be shed so that all who believe in Him are “passed over,” spared from an eternity separated from God.

Make It Memorable: Have crackers and grape juice for a snack today and be thankful to Jesus for all that he has done for us.

DAY 6: Good Friday

Symbol: Cross


Details: Good Friday commemorates the death of Jesus on the cross. You may want to go into more or less detail about the crucifixion, depending on the ages of your children.

Make It Memorable: Make a crown of thorns out of play dough and some tooth picks. Talk about the fact that Jesus was willing to endure all of that pain and eventually death in order to save us.

DAY 7: Holy Saturday

Symbol: Ripped Cloth


Details: After Jesus breathed his last breath, the curtain of the temple, which separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple, was torn in two. Previously, only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies into the presence of God once a year; the curtain denoted a separation between God and men. Now that Jesus had given himself as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins, there was no longer that separation. We can access God directly because Christ erased our sins when he died for us.

Make It Memorable: Hold up a sheet between you and your child, showing how people were formerly separated from God. Then drop the sheet so they can see how freely we can come to God because of Jesus.

DAY 8: Easter Sunday

Symbol: Empty Box


Details: Christ is Risen!! He is Risen Indeed!! Because Jesus left the tomb empty and conquered death, we can live for eternity in Heaven!

Make It Memorable: Go to church with your family and celebrate! Are you still with me?! I know that was a lot! Just two more simple steps...

Tie a Ribbon Around Each Box

Palm Sunday through Monday Thursday get a purple ribbon, the traditional color of Lent which stands for royalty and repentance. Good Friday and Sabbath should have black ribbon, symbolizing sin and death, and Easter Sunday gets a white ribbon to signify resurrection and new life.

Display The Boxes In A Place Where Your Kids Will See Them Often

For more information on how to make this activity, go to: http://justagirlandherblog.com/easter-activity-for-kids/