

Lent

Family Devotional



Lent Family Devotional



How to Use This Book:

Hello Grace Kids families,

We put together this devotional for you to make this season leading up to the celebration of Jesus' sacrificial death and powerful resurrection meaningful for your family.

These five weeks of devotions walk along the week leading to Jesus' resurrection. Each week contains three parts of devotions and a memorable family activity. Before the week begins, take a few moments to read through the weekly devotion so that you are prepared and set aside time to make studying God's Word together a priority.

On Sundays at Grace Kids, your kids' classes will introduce the section of the story and reiterate the Gospel message in creative ways. We're partnering with you and praying for your family as you set out on this journey!

Our heart is to help you raise your kids in a relationship with God that engages all their heart, all their soul, and all their strength.

The Grace Kids Team

Big Idea — Celebrate Jesus who is King over all.**PART 1**

Read It: Matthew 21:1-11

Ask It: a. How did the crowd respond to Jesus' coming into Jerusalem?
b. What did the people say about Jesus in verses 10 and 11?

Discover It: Read verse 5 again. Now, look up Isaiah 9:9. What prophet was Jesus quoting?

Pray It: Go around and have each member of your family contribute a word or phrase of something they love about Jesus. Then take time to pray it together as a family.

PART 2

Read It: Mark 11:1-11

Ask It: a. When Jesus drew near to Jerusalem, what did He tell his disciples to do?
b. How did the disciples respond?

Discover It: Do you know a song with the word "*Hosanna*?" If you do, sing it together as a family, and worship Jesus as King! If not, make up your own song using the words from Mark.

Pray It: Ask Jesus to help you to listen to what He tells you to do and to do it. We know that obedience is important to Jesus.

PART 3

Read It: Luke 19:28-40 and John 12:12-19

Ask It:

- a. After reading both Luke and John's accounts of the Triumphal Entry, what do you notice is similar? What parts of the story are unique to each book?
- b. How do the Pharisees in the crowd respond to Jesus' grand entrance to Jerusalem?

Discover It: As a family, draw a picture of the Triumphal Entry. Include all the different people the Bible talks about.

Pray It: Pray in celebration to thank Jesus for coming to be our Savior from sin and separation from God.

HAVE FUN

Play musical chairs! Put out enough chairs in a circle with one less than there are people playing. Play the song: "Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah," and stop it occasionally. When the music stops, everyone should try to sit. Those who don't get a chair can cheer on the rest of the family until there is a winner!

Big Idea — Jesus gave the new covenant through His sacrifice.**PART 1**

Read It: Matthew 26:26-29 and Mark 14:22-25

- Ask It:
- What two items from the meal did Jesus talk about, and what did He say they represented?
 - What did Jesus say was His blood of the covenant poured out for in Matthew 26:28?

Discover It: The Passover meal was the clearest picture of God's redemption in the Old Testament. The first Passover took place in Egypt when the angel of death "passed over" the homes where the lamb's blood was painted on the doorposts and lintels. On the night before Jesus' crucifixion, at the Passover meal, the disciples learned that Jesus, the Lamb of God, was going to shed His blood for all mankind. For those who believe, Jesus' blood covers their sin so that when the judgment of God comes in their direction, it will pass over and bring them no harm.

Pray It: Have you believed and trusted Jesus as your savior from the judgment of God's wrath for sin? Talk about the Gospel message as a family, and thank Jesus for His new covenant!

PART 2

Read It: Luke 22:19-20

- Ask It:
- Now read Luke 22:54-62. How did Peter react when he remembered what Jesus had said to him?
 - In verse 32, what did Jesus do for Peter?

Discover It: When under pressure, Peter denied being a follower of Jesus. We read in Acts how Peter's life was changed, and he was no longer ashamed of his relationship with Jesus. In Romans 1:16, Paul shows us the attitude we should have when others ask about our relationship with God! Memorize this verse together as a family.

Pray It: Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you to be bold in sharing the Gospel and not to be ashamed of your relationship with Jesus.

PART 3

Read It: John 13:1-20

- Ask It:
- a. What did Jesus say to Peter when Peter told him, "You shall never wash my feet."?
 - b. How would you feel if after walking around on a dusty road, Jesus washed your feet?

Discover It: *** Parental Preparation Required: Gather a large bowl with water and a towel. *** Jesus told us to follow His example and to wash each other's feet. Parents, wash your kids' feet as an act of love and serving them.

Pray It: Pray together as a family, and thank Jesus for humbling Himself, serving and loving "his own who were in the world," loving them to the end. (John 13:1)

HAVE FUN

Play follow the leader! Choose a leader and follow their movements. Instruct the leader to do silly poses or facial expressions, and have the family copy. Talk about how in the same way you're following the leader of the game, Jesus told us to follow Him and the ways He's told us to live!

Big Idea — Jesus accepted His trials so that we can be saved.**PART 1**

Read It: Matthew 26:45-56

Ask It:

- Have you ever had a friend ignore you or betray you? How did that feel? One of Jesus' closest friends betrayed Him.
- Jesus said that He could call to His Father and that God would send an army of angels to Him, but instead of fighting, what did Jesus say must be fulfilled?

Discover It: Jesus did not call down legions of angels or defend Himself. This fulfilled the Scriptures. (See Matthew 26:56.) Isaiah 53:11 prophesied, "He shall bear their iniquities." The arrest of Jesus was linked to His death when He bore our sin. When we read of His arrest, we see His willingness to die in our place. This is the greatest demonstration of love in history.

Pray It: Look up Psalm 103:8-14. Pray these verses as you read them today! (For example: "Lord, You are merciful and gracious . . .")

PART 2

Read It: Mark 14:53-65

Ask It:

- Jesus says in John 14:6 that He is the Truth. When many bore false witness and lied about Jesus, did their stories agree with each other?
- Jesus remained silent when these lies were spoken about Him, but when the high priest asked Jesus if He was Christ, what did Jesus say?

Discover It: While Jesus was on trial, many told lies about him. In Psalms 145, David says that one generation will tell the next generation about God's mighty acts. Make a list together of some of the truthful, mighty acts of Jesus.

Pray It: Praise Jesus for His mighty acts of kindness, power, and mercy.

PART 3

Read It: John 18:1-11

Ask It:

- When Jesus said, "I am he," what happened?
- The Bible reminds us again and again of the power of Jesus' words. Can you think of another time where Jesus said something and there was a powerful response? (Answers may vary. Some ideas are creation or Lazarus being raised back to life.)

Discover It: Though Jesus did not defend Himself, John records a fascinating glimpse at His authority and power. When Jesus answered the officials, saying, "I am He," the officials drew back and fell to the ground. Something caused them to fall back. Whether it was a momentary wave of shock or simply the command of His voice, we can't help but notice that Jesus' words match those God used to describe Himself to Moses when stating, "I Am who I Am" (Ex. 3:14). These men should have fallen to their faces in worship instead of being forced to the ground by the King of Kings in this momentary display of His power.

Pray It: Worship Jesus together as a family using a favorite worship song.

HAVE FUN

Reenact Jesus' arrest. Take a video of your family skit, and watch it back together.

Big Idea — Jesus' sacrificial death gave us freedom from sin!**PART 1**

Read it: Matthew 27:11-26

Ask it: a. Who was Barabbas? Why was he released instead of Jesus?
b. When Pilot asked the crowd for the reason why Jesus should be crucified, what happened?

Discover it: Let's discover what the Bible says about Jesus' holiness and innocence from sin. Find and read:

• Isaiah 53:9

• 1 Peter 2:22

• 2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus knew no sin but took the pain and punishment of our sin upon Himself.

Pray it: Thank Jesus for taking the punishment for our sin upon Himself, and ask Him to convict you of any sin in your life. Use Psalm 139:23-24 to pray.

PART 2

Read it: Matthew 27:27-44

Ask it: a. What did the governor's soldiers do to mock Jesus?
b. What did the sign over Jesus say? Only a few days ago, Jesus was being worshipped as King as He entered the city, and now He was mocked.

Discover it: Thorns were not a part of God's original creation. When man sinned, God cursed the ground with thorns. The thorns from the curse in Eden became the mocking thorn of Jesus' crown. Jesus deserves to be treated like royalty and given the most beautiful crown, but Jesus took the wrath of the curse of sin and bore that suffering so that we may be united with God in heaven.

Pray it: Have your kids draw a picture of a crown they think would be fitting for King Jesus to wear and praise Him for being a good, kind, and just King.

PART 3

Read it: Matthew 27:45-56

Ask it: a. We remember Jesus' death on Good Friday, but since it's reminding us of Jesus' death, why do we call it "good?"
(Answer: Jesus said that He "did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Instead of condemning us for our sin, we can experience God's love and goodness because of Jesus. That's good news!)

b. What happened when Jesus died?

Discover it: When Jesus died the Bible says the curtain of the temple separating the veil between the holy place of God from people was torn in half from top to bottom. Jesus' sacrifice made a way for God to be with us. Because of Him, we have the boldness to enter into the holiest place by the blood of Jesus.

Pray it: Sing "Jesus Loves Me" together as a family, and thank Jesus for His great display of love.

HAVE FUN

Jesus said the only way to come to the Father was through Himself! Have some fun with this science experiment showing how Jesus washed us clean. You will need:

• **glass bowl** • **dish soap** • **water** • **ground pepper**

Begin by filling your glass bowl with clean water. Talk about how perfect God made the world without sin. Begin sprinkling pepper onto the water as you talk about sin and what sin is. Finally, remind your family how Jesus came to remove that sin as far as the east is from the west. Dab a bit of dish soap on your index finger and lightly place it in the middle of the bowl, on top of the water! The pepper should push away from the soap and hit the edge of the bowl. Take turns trying this as you remember the greatness of Jesus!

Big Idea — Jesus is alive; only those who believe will be set free.**PART 1**

Read it: Matthew 27:57-66

Ask it: a. What did Joseph of Arimathea do for Jesus?
b. Why do you think Pilate ordered guards to be on watch at Jesus' tomb?

Discover it: Even though the disciples didn't understand what Jesus meant when He said that He would rise again on the third day, some of the Pharisees seemed to understand. They asked Pilate to order the tomb guarded and sealed until the third day. But a wax seal and a Roman guard couldn't stop Jesus.

Pray it: Jesus' resurrection was a powerful moment, but many (like the Pharisees) chose to ignore the truth and not believe. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind people in your life who haven't asked Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. Pray for them today.

PART 2

Read it: Luke 24:1-12 and Mark 16:1-13

Ask it:

- What did the women find when they arrived at the tomb? What did the angels ask them in Luke 24:5?
- Who was the first person to see Jesus risen, and how did that person respond?

Discover it: Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 that Christ is the “firstfruits” (the first to be raised from the dead) and that we will also be raised from the dead. If Jesus had died but not risen again, we all would be lost. The resurrection is not an add-on to the cross. It is an integral part of the Gospel message without which that Gospel would have no power! We can live forever because Jesus rose again!

Pray it: Imagine being Mary Magdalene and seeing Jesus alive. What would you say? How would you act? What would you do? Take a moment to thank Jesus and praise Him for His power over death and promise of eternal life.

PART 3

Read it: Luke 24:36-53 and John 14:1-7

Ask it:

- What does Jesus tell His disciples before He ascended?
- Jesus promises He is preparing a place for His followers. What did Jesus tell Thomas was the way to the Father?

Discover it: Read Acts 2:22-28. Peter quoted King David during His sermon on the Day of Pentecost as He shared the Gospel. (Psalm 16). According to these verses, what hope and confidence do we have because of Jesus?

Pray it: Look up Revelation 11:17, and join the choruses of heaven praising Jesus!

HAVE FUN

Make Resurrection Rolls! Here is the recipe:

Resurrection Rolls

- One can of crescent roll dough
- 8 large marshmallows (or one for each roll you'll be making)
- Melted butter
- Cinnamon sugar

1. Preheat the oven to 350° F.
2. Unroll the crescent rolls and place on a rimmed baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Explain that this is like the cloth they wrapped Jesus in.
3. Give your child a marshmallow and explain that it represents Jesus, all white and pure because He was without sin.
4. Roll the marshmallows in the melted butter. The butter symbolizes the embalming oils.
5. Roll the marshmallows in the cinnamon sugar. The cinnamon sugar is like the spices used to prepare Jesus' body for burial.
6. Wrap the marshmallow in the crescent roll cloth, pinching the dough together securely. This represents how they wrapped Jesus' body.
7. Put the rolls in the oven. (The oven symbolizes the tomb.)
Bake for 12 minutes.
8. Open the tomb, and remove the rolls. When they're cool enough to handle, break one open, and discover what happened to the marshmallow.

Jesus is risen! Happy Easter!



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