

Family Easter Reading Plan



Welcome to the 14-day Easter reading plan for your family. We're excited to pass on this booklet and hope it inspires you as you prepare for Easter together.

This reading plan is designed to help you and your family prepare for Easter. Some of the activities may work better for younger children. Modify as you go along to suit the children in your family.

We hope this study will help you focus on the truth of Easter - that Jesus died and rose again for us to have life with him forever!

The structure and flow of this reading plan was inspired by the resource 'Resurrection Eggs', breaking the good news of Easter down into 12 stories from Jesus entering Jerusalem, to his resurrection. We'll also go back to the beginning of the Bible before getting to this point, to help us remember why we needed Jesus to come. The key image each day acts as a cue to the story and visual reminder.

So how does it work?

There are 14 devotions included in this booklet. Each one includes a story from the Bible to read together, some questions to ask to help you think about the story and something to pray about. There is also an activity suggested each day. These are designed to help you reinforce the story you've just read, to spend time together as a family and to think about how you can share Jesus with others this Easter. If you don't think you have time for the activity each day, that's ok; still read the passage together and pray!

Different aged kids

With reading the story, do what works for the age of your children. If they're younger you may want to read it from your favourite Children's Bible. If they're older open up the Bible together in an appropriate version.

There are 2-5 questions each day; your children may be able to answer all of them, only one of them. They may not even be old enough to talk yet - that's ok! It's great to read the Bible with our children no matter their age. Use the questions as a guide and judge what your family are able to do. (As a tip; the first question is usually the most straight forward.)

One thing that can be helpful with younger children especially is teaching a simple Biblical truth and repeating it in different ways to help them remember and learn it. This reading plan is perfect for it. Here are some simple phases you may like to teach from this study;
Day 1 - "God made the world and it was very good"
Day 2 - "Sin broke God's world. But he had a plan to fix it"
Day 3-14 – "Jesus is the King who came to save the world"
Actions can be a great way to help remember the truth.

Another thing that can be helpful for younger children is teaching truth through simple songs and rhymes. A good one you could sing each day with this devotion is "Jesus Loves Me". Why not come up with actions for it too?!

Tip

Some of the activities involve different kinds of preparation or being able to do them at different times of the day. It might be worth having a look ahead so you can organise anything you need to and choose the time of day that works best for you.

If you have any questions, please drop me an email or your child may enjoy telling me 'what they are learning or enjoying from the devotion'.

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Day 1- Monday 30th March

Focus: Why we need Jesus; God's perfect world



Read: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Questions:

1. Who made the world?
2. What was God's world like when he made it?
3. What was God's intention for his world and his people?

Pray:

Praise God for his power. Thank him for his good creation and that we're made for relationship with him.

Activity:

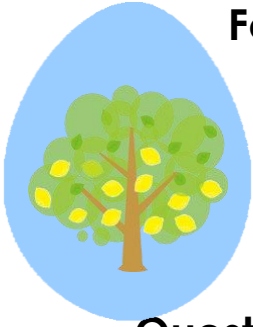
Using playdough or different collage items to make your own creation to remind you of God's greatness.
(See back of book for playdough recipe)



Day 2- Tuesday 31st March

Focus: Why we need Jesus;

God's perfect world broken



Read: Genesis 3:1-24

Questions:

1. What did Adam and Eve do?
2. What was the consequence of Adam and Eve's sin?
3. What is the consequence of our sin?

Pray:

Lament that God's good world was broken by sin. Repent of your sin.

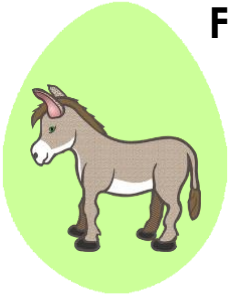
Activity:

Make a paper chain snake by making a paper chain and adding googly eyes, or drawing some on.



Day 3- Wednesday 1st April

Focus: Jesus enters Jerusalem- He is the King!



Read: Matthew 21:1-11

Questions:

1. Why was Jesus riding on a donkey?

Read Matthew 20:17-19

2. Jesus knew that going to Jerusalem meant he was going to be killed- why do you think he still went?

3. The people praised Jesus by putting their cloaks on the road and calling out to him- what are ways we can praise Jesus?

Pray:

Thank God for sending Jesus as the King to save us. Thank him that he was willing to die.

Activity:

Get your children to imagine that they are either someone really famous, or a king or queen etc. Have them come up with and act out how they would make a grand entrance to an event or place.



Day 4- Thursday 2nd April

Focus: Judas agrees to betray Jesus



Read: Luke 22:1-6

Questions:

1. What does betray mean?
2. Why do you think Judas betrayed Jesus?
3. What does it tell us about Jesus that he chose Judas to be one of his disciples, knowing that he would one day betray him?

Pray:

Thank God that even when we do the wrong thing, he loves us and forgives us. Ask him to help us make good choices that will show his love.

Activity:

Start a thankfulness wall... Have a pile of post it notes. Have everyone in the family share something they're thankful for. Thank God and stick the post it note up. Do this every day for the rest of the month and watch as your wall grows and you get into a habit of thankfulness.



Day 5- Friday 3rd April

Focus: The Last Supper



Read: Mark 14:12-31

Questions:

1. How do you think you would have felt if you'd spent years with Jesus seeing him do amazing things and heard his teaching and he told you he was going to die?
2. Jesus wants us to remember him and what he has done; what are some things you can do to help you remember Jesus, say sorry for your sins and be thankful for what he's done?
3. What was the Passover celebrating? (Look up Exodus 12 and discuss how God delivered his people from the Egyptians and how the first born's were safe if blood was on the door. Explain that Jesus goes on to do something even greater than this and that his blood was shed, like the Passover lamb)

Pray:

Thank God for the great gift it is to be friends with him!
Pray for your friends and family who don't yet follow God.

Activity:

Cook a meal (or dessert) together as a family to remember how Jesus shared a meal with his disciples.



Day 6- Saturday 4th April

Focus: Jesus prays in Gethsemane



Read: Matthew 26:36-46

Questions:

1. What did Jesus pray?
2. When you pray to God, what sort of things do you pray for?

Jesus is a loving God. He is also a man who felt real things and was obedient to God; he never sinned.

3. Why does it matter that Jesus never sinned and was fully obedient to God?
4. When do you find it hardest to obey God?
5. What can we do when we don't obey God?

Pray:

Thank God for the gift of prayer and that we can talk to him anywhere and anytime about anything. Pray that we will be obedient.

Activity:

Go outside and pray together in the garden. Walk around the streets near you praying for your neighbours and all who don't know Jesus. Put an invitation in their letterbox to a church event over Easter.



Day 7- Sunday 5th April

Focus: Jesus is arrested



Read: Luke 22:47-53

Questions:

1. Why was Jesus arrested?
2. Jesus' disciples would have liked to stop him being arrested- why didn't Jesus do this?

Pray:

Thank God that Jesus was willing to die for us. Pray that we will be bold and not ashamed of him.

Activity:

Bake some sort of goodies (eg. cupcakes or cookies) and enjoy serving your family a treat. Remembering the great servant Jesus is.



Day 8- Monday 6th April

Focus: Peter denies knowing Jesus



Read: Luke 22:54-62

Questions:

1. Why do you think Peter denied knowing Jesus?
2. What does it tell you about Jesus that he knew Peter would do that?
3. Do you ever get scared about people knowing you are friends with Jesus?

Pray:

Pray that we will be bold in serving Jesus and always grow in him.

Activity:

Using disposable rubber gloves make a rooster. Or draw or journal question 3.



Day 9- Tuesday 7th April

Focus: Jesus with Pilate- The crowd want Jesus to be killed; they insult him and hurt him



Read: Luke 22:63-23:25

Questions:

1. Why did the religious leaders want Jesus to die?
2. Why did Jesus have to die?
3. How does it make you feel that Jesus was willing to die to take your place?

Pray:

Thank God for sending his son, Jesus to die on the cross for us. Pray that we will always remember how much God loves us and know that he is powerful and has a great plan for us.

Activity:

Make a heart use Pinterest or UTUBE how to make a paper heart. Gods love is extraordinary so your heart you made needs to be AMAZING !



Day 10- Wednesday 8th April

Focus: Jesus is put on the cross and died



Read: Luke 23:26-49

Questions:

1. If someone asked you why it's called 'Good Friday', what would you say?
2. How does it make you feel that a perfect person, died a criminal's death?
3. Do you believe that Jesus did that for us and has the power to forgive sins?
4. Give your child(ren) a direct opportunity to think about and respond to Jesus... Do you have a relationship with Jesus? If so, what do you love about having a relationship with Jesus? If not, would you like a relationship with Jesus?

Pray:

Spend some time saying sorry prayers. Share specific things to be sorry for and pray about them. Thank God that he is a loving God and that he forgives us.

Activity:

Cook and eat hot cross buns together and talk about how the cross can remind us of Jesus' death. Ron's recipe is one the back page 😊



Day 11 - Thursday 9th April

Focus: Jesus dies



Read: John 19:31-37

Questions:

1. Did Jesus really die?
2. Why does it matter that Jesus really died?
3. Why is it important that Jesus died without his bones being broken?

Pray:

Pray that people all over Sydney will hear the true meaning of Easter this weekend. Pray that people will love God and live for him.

Activity:

Sing together as a family. Sing a family favourite or check out something new. Some songs you might like to check out:

- "John 3:16" by The Rizers
- "King of Me" by Rend Co Kids
- "Be Strong" by Hillsong Kids Jr
- "Rainbow" By Hillsong Kids
- "Switcheroo" by Josh Goscombe
- "Jesus Christ is Lord" by Seed Family Worship
- "All About Jesus" by Sovereign Grace Kids



Day 12- Good Friday: Friday 10th April

Focus: Jesus is taken off the cross and placed in a rich man's tomb



Read: Matthew 27:57-66

Questions:

1. Where was Jesus put after he died?
2. Why can we see it as a good thing that the tomb was guarded?

Pray:

Thank God that on Easter we remember the sacrifice Jesus made. Pray that we won't just remember it at Easter but live lives changed by that truth every day.

Activity:

Use toilet paper, (maybe not in current times) use sheets instead and wrap one family member up; emphasise that Jesus really died and was wrapped in linen after death.



Day 13- Saturday 11th April

Focus: Earth quake and the stone is rolled away;
angels appear



Read: Matthew 28:1-15

Questions:

1. Why did the leaders want the guards to lie?
2. How do you think you would have felt if you found the empty tomb with the women?
3. Do you find it hard or easy to believe that Jesus rose from the dead?

Pray:

Thank God that he always had a plan to fix our relationship with him broken by sin.

Activity:

As a family re-enact the story.



Day 14- Easter Sunday; 12th April

Focus: Jesus is alive!

Read: John 20:1-21

Questions:

1. What do you think of the idea that we can live again after death because of Jesus?
2. What do you think about Heaven?
3. Who do you want to tell about Jesus being alive?

Pray:

Thank God that Jesus' resurrection means we can live forever with him in Heaven. Pray that more people will believe this truth.

Activity:

As a family share a large hollow egg. Crack it open together and talk about how it's empty, just like Jesus' tomb was.



Extras

'Jesus Loves Me' Lyrics

*"Jesus loves me this I know,
For the Bible tell me so.
Little ones to him belong,
They are weak but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me,
The Bible tells me so."*

Creating your own playdough

Ingredients:

2 cup of flour
1 cup of salt
4 tbs of cream of tartar
2 tbs of oil
Food colouring
2 cup of boiling water

Instructions:

Mix all dry ingredients together.
Add colouring and then the boiling water incrementally, until correct texture is reached.



Reflections

Have each member of your family think about the following questions. Encourage them to express their answers in the way they choose. Some options are:

- Do a drawing
- Write a rap
- Act it out
- Do a dance
- Create a cartoon strip
- Write a journal entry or newspaper article

Questions:

What is something new that stood out to you about the Easter story?

What is the best thing about Jesus?

Share your reflections with the church



Ron's Hot Cross Bun recipe:

HOT CROSS BUNS

2 teaspoons dried yeast	½ cup lukewarm milk	1 level teaspoon sugar
1 level teaspoon flour	4 cups flour	1 level teaspoon salt
1 level teaspoon cinnamon	90g butter	½ cup sugar
1 cup sultanas	1 egg, lightly beaten	¾ cup milk

Add yeast, 1 level teaspoon of sugar and 1 level tablespoon of flour to milk and stir well. Stand in a warm place till frothy – about 15 minutes. Sift flour, salt and cinnamon, rub in butter, add sugar and sultanas. Combine yeast mixture, egg and milk, stir into flour mixture to make a soft dough. Beat in bowl, about 40 strokes. Place dough into a warm, greased bowl. cover and stand in a warm place until dough double in bulk – about 45 minutes. Turn onto a lightly floured surface, knead till dough is smooth and elastic to the touch – about 10 minutes. Cut into 18 pieces, knead each piece well, roll into ball and place in shallow baking tray. Cover, set aside until buns double in bulk – about 20 minutes. Pipe a cross with batter on each bun. Bake at 200°C for 20 minutes or until buns are cooked. Remove buns from tray.

Batter for crosses:

½ cup SR flour about 4 tablespoons of water

Sift flour into a bowl, gradually add water to make a batter consistency. Place into piping bag. Use a fine nozzle to pipe crosses onto buns.



