

Jesus and the Journey to the Cross

Family Connection — WEEK 4

Week 4 – Remembering Jesus' Sacrifice for Us

It is often said that there is a red line through the Bible. From the front to back, all points to God's love demonstrated through Jesus' death on the cross. Lent ends where it began, with reflection. Whereas we have spent the first three weeks of lent reflecting on Jesus' death, we now turn to reflection to His resurrection. Paul tells us without the empty tomb, the cross would be of no worth to us. It is in His resurrection that He proves that He is who He says He is and His power for both our salvation and for our sanctification is found in the empty grave.

Family Time with God

Activity

Find a song that speaks of the resurrection of Jesus that works for the ages of your children. Here are some suggestions that are easily found on YouTube: Forever - Kari Jobe; Happy Day - Tim Hughes; Christ Is Risen - Matt Maher; O Praise The Name (Anástasis) – Hillsong; Christ The Lord Is Risen Today (Hymn). Tell your child you will be playing a song about something that is very important. Ask them to listen for what the song tells about. Play the song. What did you hear? How does this make you feel?

Open the Bible

Read or tell Matthew 13:31-33 (you might want to have some mustard seeds or yeast to show)

Think about It and Respond

Jesus told this story to help us compare 2 things – what did he compare in the first story and what did he compare in the second? Take some time to unpack these ideas – talk about the smallness and bigness of the objects in the parables.

Many thought that Jesus' work on earth was just a small thing: he had 12 disciples, one who betrayed Him and there was just 120 followers gathered together when He went back to Heaven So this might make you think that God's Kingdom is small.

But did Jesus' work end with his death on the cross? Why not? Spend some time talking about the events and importance of the resurrection. What will the kingdom be like in the end? (guide an older child to read Revelation 15:4).

Spend some time as a family praising God for His love shown to us in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

** Sentences in italics can be read as written, put in your own words or adapted for your family.*

More Spiritual Conversation Starters

Here are some additional conversation starters that you can use during your Family Time with God, Family Experience, or just in your day to day conversations.

- ◆ Ask your child to contrast Christmas and Easter. Is one more important to the other? Why or why not?
- ◆ Include bread in one of your meals this week. You might make some yeast bread (even using frozen dough from the grocery store will help kids see the effect of leaven). Have your child retell the parables as you eat.
- ◆ Easter week brings about a whole range of emotions. Guide your child to reflect on the events of Easter and how they respond to these.
- ◆ Play more Easter music during your drive time!

KEY VERSE

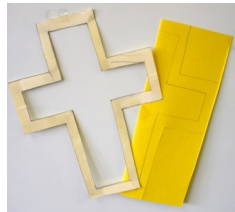
"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said." (Matthew 28:6)

Family Experience — Mosaic Cross

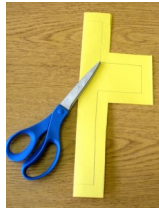
Supplies needed: Old file folder (to create a cross template), 1 sheet of 9"x12" construction paper in a BRIGHT color per student, 2 sheets of contact paper per student (at least 9"x12" in size), lots of tissue paper squares in BRIGHT colors (1 to 2" in size), Scissors, Permanent marker

Experience: Use the following instructions for everyone in your family to create their own crosses. Adjust as needed to work for your family. If you have younger children you may want to do some extra prep ahead time so that the cutting steps are eliminated.

MAKE A TEMPLATE: Fold the folder in half "hot dog" style, draw half of cross, cut out, and you're ready to go. The border is about 3/4" wide.



TRACE: Folding the pieces of construction paper in half "hot dog" style. Trace 1/2 the cross onto the paper. Make sure you are tracing along the fold so the cross will stay connected when it is cut out. You will need to keep the paper folded in half to cut out the cross.



CUT: Guide everyone to cut the tissue paper into 1-2 inch squares that will make up the stained glass effect.

FRAME: Peel the contact paper and place it sticky side up on the table. CENTER THE CROSS ON THE CONTACT PAPER. Your kids might need help so that the cross fits nicely on the contact paper.



DECORATE: Now the fun part. Let everyone fill in the cross with the tissue paper squares. Have them avoid touching the actual contact paper. Some will, but the fewer kids with contact paper stuck to their hands, the better off you will be!

COVER: Use the second sheet of contact paper to "seal" the cross together. This step is optional, but this will ensure that you have loose pieces of tissue paper blowing off by the wind. The simplest way to do this (and avoid wrinkles in the paper) is to place the new sheet of contact paper sticky side up, then flip the cross page onto it.

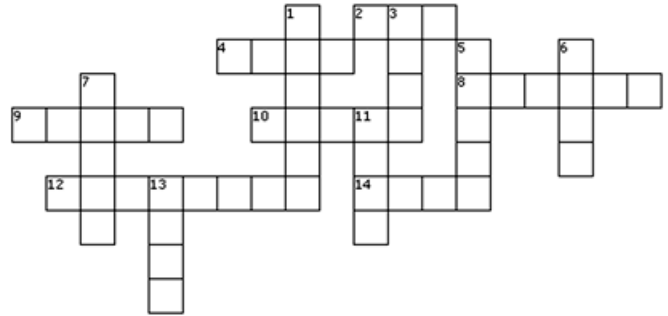


LABEL: Use a sharpie to label the "front" side of the cross with the key verse. You can do this around the edges of the cross. You can also just put the scripture address if that works better.

TRIM: Use scissors to cut excess contact paper from edges and crosses are ready to hang.



He is not here. He has risen!
Words taken from John 20:1-18 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. To shed tears
4. The opposite of alive
8. A heavenly being
9. The thing that covered the entrance to Jesus' tomb
10. The color that is the opposite of black
12. A person who takes care of plants and flowers
14. The name of the woman who discovered Jesus' empty tomb

DOWN

1. The male parent
3. Return to an upright position after lying down; to return from The dead
5. The opposite of late
6. A period of seven days
7. An adult female person
11. A place where someone is buried; another name for grave
13. The opposite of light

