

**EASTER**



**DEVOTIONAL GUIDE**

# FOR THE READER

This booklet has been designed for you to use with your kids with the craft or activity box as you celebrate Easter weekend in COMMUNITY together.

I focused on Jewish culture because I felt it was important for kids to understand the context of the time in light of what scripture says. It's our job to understand the acts and decisions of people like you and me, in light of what happened Easter weekend long ago.

Kids love heroes - the 'good' and 'bad' guys. The only hero of the Easter narrative is Jesus. The rest of the people - the chief priests, disciples, the crowd, and the women were no different than you and me. People who needed to be saved from their sins, who acted out of hate, fear, pride and anger.

They, and we all need Jesus and what he did on the cross. Forgiveness.

The timeline I use in this booklet is, of course, approximate. The Jewish culture at the time of Jesus did not have the same demand for scheduling as we do today, yet we are given some direction on a timeline to understand the events, as if God knew we here, in this century, would need some point of reference. Maybe you don't - I sure do!

Please feel free to adapt lessons based on your needs - whether it is the age of your children, your resources, your space.

And show us! Take lots of pics and email them to [anna@ridgebaptist.ca](mailto:anna@ridgebaptist.ca) or tag us on instagram (@ridgekids). We hope and pray this is an exciting and fun time together as a family, understanding and remembering the celebration of Easter.

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# GOOD FRIDAY

## **ASK THE KIDS**

What do we do at these times of the day?

6AM:

9AM:

12PM:

3PM:

6PM:



## **LET'S LEARN**

Talk about confusing – the day is called GOOD Friday, but it seems like it should be called SAD Friday. Usually the mood for this day is sad so why do we call it GOOD? It's important to understand a few things before we talk about what happened on Good Friday.

During the wee hours of the night and into early Friday morning, Jesus was arrested, beaten, and then put on trial. God's Word does not change – that means we can learn today from events that happened thousands of years ago. Here is what that Friday, that we now call GOOD Friday could have looked like in real time.

## **WHAT HAPPENED?**

4-6am: Jesus is brought before the Jewish synagogue leaders for the trial with Annas and Caiphas

6-8am: Jesus is brought for his trial before the Roman governor, Pilate

8am: Jesus is condemned to death

8:30am: Jesus carries his cross with help from Simon of Cyrene

9am: Jesus is hung on the cross

11am: Jesus shares with the thieves there on either side of him

12pm: Darkness covers the land for the next three hours

3pm: Jesus says 'it is finished', and dies on the cross. At this time, there is the earthquake and the temple curtain is torn. The soldiers then pierce Jesus' side, take his body down, and then Joseph of Arimathea is given the okay to prepare Jesus' body to be buried

6pm: Jesus' body is placed in the tomb and the tomb is sealed with a large stone

# GOOD FRIDAY

Nothing about what this day sounds like it should be called GOOD. When Jesus taught he turned normal ideas into revolutionary (which means life changing) truths – like, “the last shall be first” (Matthew 20:16) and told everyone kids were super important to God’s kingdom (Matthew 18:1-5). Most importantly Jesus taught that God sent him to save ALL the people (John 12:44-50). These teachings would have sounded new and opposite to the culture of the day, and some, like the Jewish leaders, were upset enough about these teachings they looked for every reason to silence Jesus, even if it meant death.

!We can call the terrible events that happened today GOOD because all these sad events had to happen so that on Easter Sunday the whole world would see Jesus beating death. t’s revolutionary! Jesus dying and coming back from death means that through the power of what he did on Good Friday, we get to have a relationship with God. THAT is why we can call this day GOOD instead of sad.

## **PRAYER**

Jesus, thank you for every single minute of what you did on that Friday so that now that I know about what happened three days later on Sunday, I can call all those things GOOD.

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

Take some time to look up the following verses to get a sense of the events of Good Friday.

4-6am: Jesus’ trial before the synagogue rulers. (Mark 14:53-65)

6-8am: Jesus is brought Pilate (Mark 15:1-5) and condemned to death (Mark 15:15)

8:30am: Jesus carries his cross with help from Simon of Cyrene (Mark 15:21)

9am: Jesus is hung on the cross (Luke 23:33-34)

11am: Jesus shares with the thieves on either side of him (Luke 23:39-43)

12pm: Darkness covers the land (Matthew 27:45)

3pm: Jesus says ‘it is finished’; the earthquake happens, the curtain is torn, tombs are open and the dead resurrected (Matthew 27:52-54)

6pm: Jesus’ body is placed in the tomb and the tomb is sealed with a large stone (Mark 15:42-47)

# GOOD FRIDAY

## PRESCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

GOD loves us. God keeps His promises, and God's greatest promise was sending His Son Jesus.

It's sad because Jesus had to die. It's sad because Jesus did not do anything wrong. God loved the world so much that He sent His Son Jesus to save the people.

This day seems sad, but it is actually really GOOD!

### **READ ALOUD STORY**

Jesus was God's Son (point up).

He never did anything wrong (thumbs down).

There were people who thought Jesus did wrong things. But the Bible ( open your hands like you are reading a book) tells us Jesus was perfect.

People made fun of Jesus (laugh).

On Good Friday, people arrested Jesus (put wrists together as is in handcuffs).

They hit him and made fun of him.

But he never did anything wrong!

Long, long ago, God made the world. He made people (point to child and you).

They were Adam And Eve. Adam and Eve made a bad choice (thumbs down).

They made a choice to not listen to God.

When we don't listen to God (put hand next to ear), it is called sin.

Sin is also when we don't listen to our parents, or we don't share. We all sin.

God does not like sin.

So God made a promise. He was going to send His perfect SON to die for everyone's sin.

He sent Jesus for everyone:

The people who hurt Jesus

The people who arrested (put hands together as if in handcuffs), they were all sinning.

But Jesus died for them. And for you and for me.

# (WAITING) SATURDAY

## **ASK THE KIDS**

Look around your house. What are some devices you can use to not have to wait? What is something that is really hard to wait for? (Christmas? Birthday?)



## **LET'S LEARN**

Waiting is not something we do well in our culture today. Before microwaves, you would have to stick that pizza pop into an oven and wait 15 minutes. Before text messages, you would mail a letter and wait for someone to write you back. Back before the lightbulb we had to wait for daytime light. Now we can turn light on in the middle of the night if we want!

Saturday seems like the sandwich day of Easter. We have the sad events of Good Friday, and then the joy of Easter Sunday, and in the middle, there is Saturday... where we wait. What are we supposed to do with Saturday?

In order to understand the importance of Saturday, let's look at real time again. In Jesus' time, Friday was called Preparation Day, which meant you did whatever you had to in order to prepare for the coming Sabbath. In the Jewish faith, the Sabbath, or Holy Day, is on a Saturday. We go to church and rest on a Sunday, but Jews celebrate on Saturday. The Sabbath for a Jew would mean complete rest, with no permission to do any work according to laws in the Old Testament.

Sabbath starts with a special dinner on Friday at sundown (6pm-ish). That indicates the start of Sabbath. From then on until Saturday at sundown, Jews worship, rest and reflect on God.

The Bible is quiet on what happened on Saturday. When we look at scripture as a whole, we can piece a few things together:

# (WAITING) SATURDAY

## The Chief Priests:

Matthew 27:62-66 is the only scripture which tells us anything about Saturday. The chief Jewish priests meet with Pilate requesting for guards to be placed in front of the tomb. Hold the phone – should they not have been, oh I don't know, RESTING?! They do this at a time where no one would notice what they were doing.

## The Disciples:

We are told they scattered and hid because they were afraid of being arrested too (Mark 14:50). They would have been tired, shocked, and sad – how could this have happened to someone they truly believed was God's Son who would not die? And he died! What now? They were waiting. Either for Jesus or for the Roman soldiers to come and arrest them.

## The Women:

On Friday, after Jesus died and his body was taken off the cross, we are then told that the women went home to prepare spices for the burial, but because the Sabbath starts on Friday at sundown (6pm) The women had to stop what they were doing, as Jewish law said they had to (Luke 23:55). (Hint hint: That is why they went back to the tomb on Sunday – to give Jesus' body the proper care for burial. Only his body was not there!

Remember how on Good Friday Jesus said "*It is finished*" and then he died? Well, Saturday was a day of rest and waiting because it all was finished. Jesus did what he had come to do - take the consequences for our sins. When God made the world, He rested. When Jesus saved the world, he rested too. The world did not go quiet. It simply waited.

## **PRAYER**

Jesus thank you for the reminder to be okay to wait. It's hard and confusing to wait, but thank you for reminding me that even though it's hard, it's worth it.

# (WAITING) SATURDAY

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## ***DIGGING DEEPER***

Here are some passages to go through with the kids to see what people did while they waited.

The Chief Priests: Matthew 27:62-66

The Disciples:

- What they did when Jesus was arrested: Mark 14:50; Luke 22:54-62;
- What they did while waiting: John 20:19

The Women: Luke 23:50-55

# (WAITING) SATURDAY

## PRESCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

WHAT IS THIS? (show picture)

That's right! It's a clock.

What do we use clocks for?

To tell time.

Is it hard to wait for things sometimes? Maybe when mom said you can go for ice-cream but you have to WAIT until she is done her work?

Or maybe you are WAITING for your birthday. I bet you that is hard too!



We learned on Good Friday that Jesus died for our sins. He was perfect and never did anything wrong. Jesus died and his friends were very sad. They were sad, but they were also scared. See, they were scared that people were looking for them to do the same thing to them as they did to Jesus.

So they waited. They hid, and waited to see what would happen next. Jesus told his friends many times that he would not stay dead - he would rise again. His friends did not understand what he meant.

After Jesus died his friends waited to see what would happen. We know God loves us and keeps His promises. God sent Jesus, and Jesus died for all of us. For his friends too.

# EASTER SUNDAY

## **ASK THE KIDS**

Imagine you found a hidden amusement park that had free rides. It was the best thing you had ever been at. The games are all free, and so is all the cotton candy, because someone paid for it all already. Would you keep it a secret, or tell your friends so you can share the fun together?



## **LET'S LEARN**

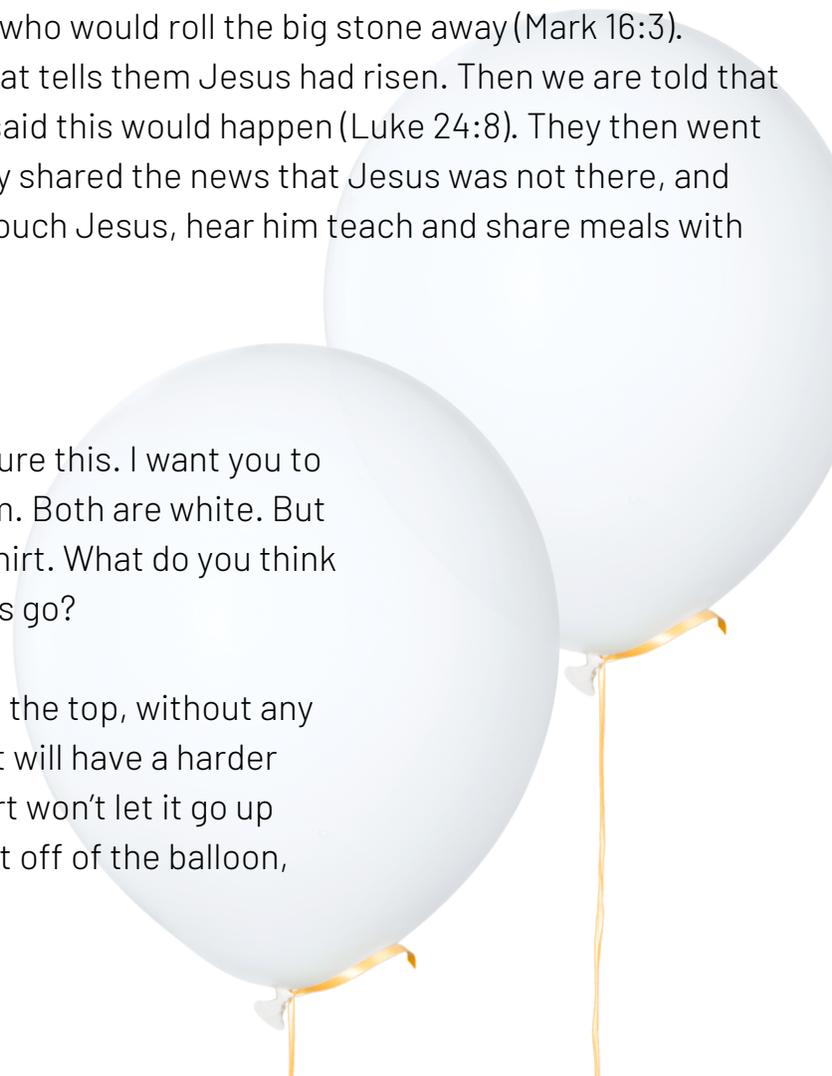
Yesterday we read the women were getting spices ready on Friday, but because they had to rest for Sabbath starting Friday night to Saturday night, they had to stop.

So, they headed to the tomb morning of Sunday (the first day of the week for the Jewish people), with their spices, wondering who would roll the big stone away (Mark 16:3). Instead of Jesus they find an angel that tells them Jesus had risen. Then we are told that the women remembered that Jesus said this would happen (Luke 24:8). They then went and told the disciples (Mark 16:7). They shared the news that Jesus was not there, and later on the disciples got to see and touch Jesus, hear him teach and share meals with him. He was not dead – he rose!

## **IMAGINE THIS**

I want you to close your eyes and picture this. I want you to think of two balloons filled with helium. Both are white. But the one balloon is wearing a black t-shirt. What do you think will happen when you let both balloons go?

Well, the one white balloon will rise to the top, without any trouble. The one with the black t-shirt will have a harder time, because the weight of the t-shirt won't let it go up higher. When we take the black t-shirt off of the balloon, then it goes up just as quickly!



# EASTER SUNDAY

In our story, the one white balloon is Jesus. The other one is you, and the t-shirt is the sin we carry. Sin is what keeps us from being with God – it's things like lying, stealing, being prideful, and selfish. That stuff weighs us down - big time.

When Jesus died on the cross, through the power of what he did and his resurrection (which means he came back to life) it means that we no longer have to carry our sin. When Jesus said "It is finished", it meant that you and I no longer had to do anything to get rid of our sin, because Jesus did it for us.

THE BIBLE SAYS:

'When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life. That's because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done. – Romans 6:23

What Jesus did is not a secret saved for special people. It is for everyone, and no one is 'good' or 'bad' enough to receive the gift of Jesus.

You just have to ask!

RIDGE

kids

# EASTER SUNDAY

## PRESCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

When Jesus' friends came to the tomb, they found it empty! On no! Where did their friend go! How do you think his friends would have felt when they saw Jesus was not there?



**HAPPY**



**SAD**

Then, all of a sudden, an angel tells Jesus' friends that he is not there because he is not dead! He is alive! How do you think Jesus' friends thought then? Were they:



**HAPPY**



**SAD**

Then, Jesus showed himself to all his friends! They had food together, Jesus taught them, and they spent time with Jesus. Jesus was not dead, he was alive! God kept His promise. He sent Jesus, and Jesus did not stay dead. How do you think his friends felt?



**HAPPY**



**SAD**

**He is not here; he has  
risen, just as he said.  
Come and see the place  
where he lay.**

**MATTHEW 28:6**