

MOUNT OF OLIVES AT DETHPHAGE SUNDAY, MARCH 28

Bible Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus did everything He came to do. The donkey and the colt were brought to Jesus, and He sat on them. The Bible said it would happen, and it did! Open the cloth bag for Sunday, and you'll find a dancing scarf or streamers. This may remind you of how the people laid down their cloaks and branches for King Jesus. With great excitement, the people shouted!

Imagine being in the crowd. Some of the people ran in front of him and the others followed. Can you see how the people were excited? They hoped that Jesus would be a king that would change everything for them. Wave your scarf or streamers and shout with the people, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

Use the scarf or streamers to dance to <u>God of All Nations</u> by Ellie Holcomb.



JESUS CLEANSES THE TEMPLE MONDAY, MARCH 29

Bible Reading: Mark 11:15-19

Open the cloth bag for Monday, and you'll find edible coins. The coins may remind you of how people cheated the visitors who came to the temple. Instead of welcoming and serving the visitors, they charged them extra money and made it hard for the visitors to worship God.

Entering the temple, Jesus overturned the tables of the money-changers and drove out people selling and buying things in the temple. He quoted the Scripture, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations." He noticed the outer court of the temple. It should have been a place where the people of the nations were praying, but instead it was a den of thieves. Jesus made a way for the people of the nations to pray to God.

Pray for the people of many nations who live in Birmingham, Alabama. Pray that you will find ways to show them God's love.



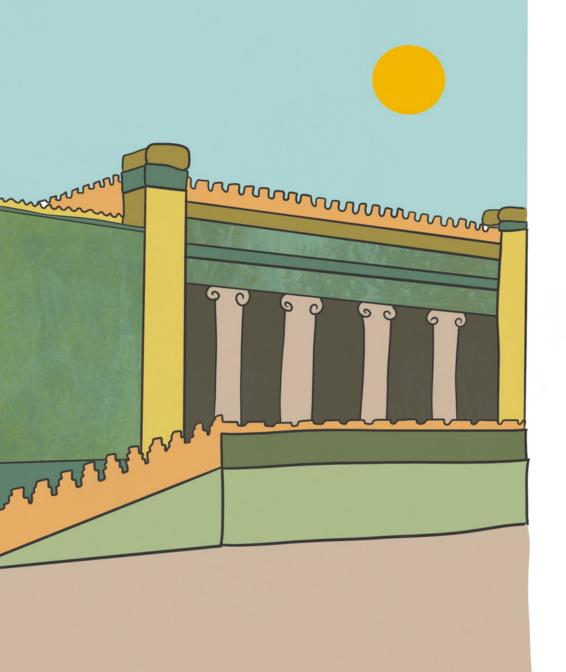
JESUS TEACHES IN THE TEMPLE TUESDAY, MARCH 30

Bible Reading: Luke 19:47-48

Open the cloth bag for Tuesday, and you'll find five tiles. Carefully write the five letters, **J-E-S-U-S**, on each of the five tiles. Cut the magnet tape into five equal-sized pieces and add to the back of each tile. Hang the word in a place where you will see it and remember how the people were hanging on His words.

Pray and ask God to help you study and know the Bible well. It is God's truth you need each day. Sadly, "the chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people" were more interested in power than in loving the words of life spoken by Jesus. They were looking for ways to destroy Jesus. They did not understand God's love.

Pray that your heart will be seeking to love the words of life. Pray for forgiveness of sin during these days leading us to the celebration of Easter Sunday.



THE PALACE OF THE HIGH PREST WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

Bible Reading: Luke 21: 37-38; Matthew 26:3-5

Open the cloth bag for Wednesday, and you'll find some character cards. Cut these out and act out the story as you read the passages together. It's sad to see that while Jesus was teaching in the temple, the rulers were meeting to plan how they would arrest and kill Jesus. Jesus taught the people how to have abundant life, while the priests and rulers plan His death! However, you know that the plan was actually a plan of God for redemption. It was His perfect plan!

Death would not hold Jesus. God's plan was to raise Jesus from the dead.

Pray that God will help you share the love of Jesus with those who don't know Him during this Easter season.



THE LAST SUPPER THURSDAY, APRIL 1

Bible Reading: Mark 14:17-26, 32-35, 43-50 and Luke 22:14-23, 39-53; Matt. 26:58,69-75

Open the cloth bag for Thursday, and you'll find a recipe for making a simple kind of unleavened bread. Make the tiny flatbread and imagine the importance of remembering how God delivered the Jewish people at the first Passover. They were to make unleavened bread and were told to be ready to leave quickly after the last plague.

Jesus told the disciples to take the bread and the cup and to remember that it is His body being broken and His blood being given for them. Jesus would be the Passover lamb.

Jesus washed their feet. Those who would be great, would need to be servants of all.

God's plan was carried out.

Pray that God will help you remember the precious gift Jesus gave on the cross. Let us not deny Jesus, but follow Him and point others to Him.



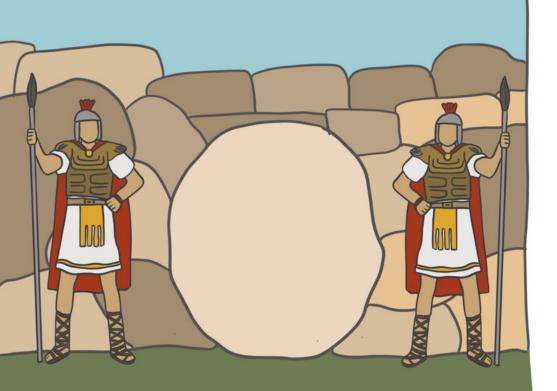
THE CROSS FRIDAY, APRIL 2

Bible Reading: Mark 15:16-39 and Luke 23:26-49

Open the cloth bag for Friday, and you'll find some Wikki Stix. As you read the passages, create some of the objects you hear in the Scripture. Twist them into a crown of thorns, Simon of Cyrene, Golgotha, the cross, and other objects in the verses. Jesus gave His life for each of us. The cross reminds us that sin separates us from God. What great love Jesus shows by giving His life for our sins and providing a way for us to be saved.

Pray that God will show you clearly His gift of love. Thank Him that when you were still sinners, Jesus died for you.

Song: <u>Fear Not</u> by Ellie Holcomb



THE TOMP SATURDAY, APRIL 3

Bible Reading: Matt. 27:62-66

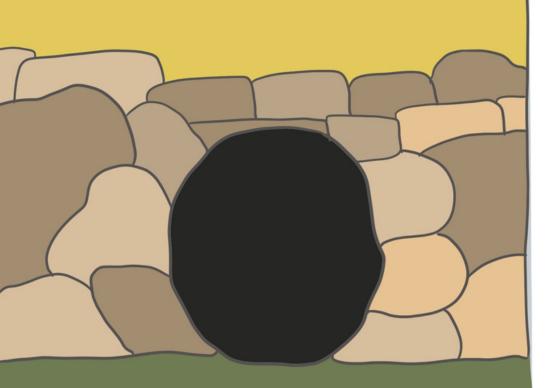
Open the cloth bag for Saturday, and you'll find a soldier. As you read the passages and look at the soldier, think about the many plans the rulers made to stop others from following Jesus. Which of those plans seemed to work? Which ones did not work? Why do you think guarding the tomb was part of their plan?

Jesus was placed in the tomb after He was taken down from the cross. Imagine how the disciples must have felt on the day after Jesus died. What might they have been thinking?

The high priests and Pharisees remembered that Jesus said, 'After three days I will rise.' Maybe they thought that guards could keep God from raising Jesus from the dead.

Pray and thank God for His true promises.

Song: <u>Find You Here</u> by Ellie Holcomb



THE EMPTY TOMP SUNDAY, APRIL 4

Bible Reading: Luke 24:1-12

Today you have a sensory bag. As you read the passage, celebrate! Jesus is alive!

The women brought spices to prepare Jesus' body, but instead they heard this good news, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

They did remember! Today, thousands of years later, you still tell people the Good News that God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus provided a way of Salvation for all people who confess their sins, ask Jesus into their hearts, and follow Him.

Celebrate with confetti and resurrection rolls for breakfast! Jesus is alive!

Pray and thank God for His perfect plan.

Song: <u>As Sure as the Sun</u> by Ellie Holcomb