

FRIDAY/SATURDAY (Apr 3/4):

1) **Review the Palm Sunday story** with kids before Sunday morning's service:

- a. Read [Luke 19:28-44](#) (CLICK FOR LINK)
- b. Watch [THIS FUN VIDEO](#) by Saddleback Kids that also tells the story

2) **Make your own palm branches** to use during the live stream Sunday morning!

Ideas:

- a. Print out, colour and then cut out **PAGE 10 of the attachment "Walking Through Holy Week"** included in Covenant's original email. Add handles from sticks, etc.
- b. Trace a hand on a piece of green paper (or coloured afterwards). Cut out to make palm branch. Add a handle.
- c. Follow the instructions [HERE](#) to make newspaper trees.

SUNDAY (Apr 5 – PALM SUNDAY):

1) Get those palm branches ready and tune into the morning service at 10:00!

Take photos or videos of your families participating in the service that we can share with one another. Email them to Trisha at worshipassistant@covenantcrc.ca!

a) Have paper and colours available during the live stream so that your kids can draw out stories that they hear during the service (play-doh can also work if your kids are more tactile). They can draw anything that they hear or learn or experience during worship. Engage with kids and ask them to tell you about what they've created.

2) Daily family devotional: Day 1: Jesus enters Jerusalem

Read [Mark 10:32-34; 11:1-10](#) (CLICK FOR LINK)

1. When Jesus came to Jerusalem riding on the donkey, there were also thousands of other people streaming into Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. Why do you think the people were so happy to see Jesus arriving at the city?
2. The people had seen Jesus' power displayed in many miracles. They thought that He was coming to Jerusalem to free them from the Romans and to begin ruling as God's chosen king of the nation. But Jesus knew that wasn't going to happen. What did Jesus say was going to happen to Him in Jerusalem? (See Mark 10:33.)
3. Why do you think Jesus wanted to go to Jerusalem, even though He knew He would die there?
4. If the people who lined the streets to cheer and welcome Jesus to Jerusalem had understood that He was coming to the city to die for them, to open a way for them to live forever with God, what do you think they would have cried out to Him as He passed by? What would you have cried out?

Pray

Pray to Jesus together. Tell Him what you would like to have said to Him as He passed by on His way to Jerusalem.

Celebrate!

Role-play Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, or simply have fun horsing around - with mom or dad offering "pony rides" on their back for as long as their energy will hold out!

MONDAY (Apr 6):

1) Daily family devotional: Day 2: A very special gift

Read [Mark 14:3-9](#) (CLICK FOR LINK)

1. Why do you think the woman poured the expensive perfume over Jesus?
2. How did the people watching react?
3. Have you ever been criticized for something you did out of love for Jesus?
4. How do you think Jesus feels when you do things to show your love for Him?

Pray

Thank Jesus for giving you each other to grow and play and laugh with together. Ask Him to help you show your love for Him by always being kind to others.

Celebrate!

Focus on each member of the family, one at a time. Have everyone say one thing that they love about that person. Then spray the person with a small amount of perfume or rub a deodorant stick on them as a reminder of your love. If you would like to avoid scented products, a basic cooking oil can be used.

TUESDAY (Apr 7):

1) Daily family devotional: Day 3: Washing feet

Read [John 13:1-17](#) (CLICK FOR LINK)

1. What would it be like to have someone so important serve you by washing your smelly, dirty feet?
2. Why do you think Jesus told the disciples to wash one another's feet?
3. How are ways that we can serve others?

Pray

Think of all the people who serve you—family members, coaches, teachers, people from church and community helpers. Offer a popcorn prayer of thanks for these people, jumping in and naming them whenever you are ready. End your prayer by asking God to help you serve others too.

Celebrate!

Experience your own foot-washing ceremony. Fill a bucket with water and grab a few towels. Take turns washing one another's feet and praying for each person.

WEDNESDAY (Apr 8):

1) Daily family devotional: Day 4: A special meal

Read [Mark 14:12-16](#); [John 13:18-14:7](#) (CLICK FOR LINKS)

1. In Jesus' day, the Passover meal was a very special celebration. For generations, the Jews had been sharing this special meal together year after year as a way to remember the miracles God had done long ago, in Moses' time. As Jesus and His disciples shared the Passover meal together, Jesus told the disciples some startling news. What did He tell them?
2. How did He want the disciples to react to the news that He was leaving?
3. What did Jesus mean when He said, *My Father's house has many rooms . . . I am going there to prepare a place for you?*

Pray

Jesus commands us in this passage to love one another, as he has loved us. Ask Jesus who you can show love to. Ask Him how you can show that person your love in a very special or surprising way.

Celebrate!

Because of Jesus, God is waiting to welcome everyone home to heaven when their life on earth is over. God's house in heaven has plenty of room for everyone. How much room do you have for everyone in some of the corners of your house? It's time to find out by playing a squishy game of sardines!

2) Optional: watch this Saddleback Kids VIDEO on the Last Supper

3) Optional follow-up activities: Bake bread together as a family. See **PAGE 2 of the attachment "Walking Through Holy Week"** for an easy homemade bread recipe.

Break it together and eat it at suppertime.

If you're REALLY ambitious, you can experience the Easter story in a completely new way, through a traditional Passover meal, the Seder. For full details on how to do this as well as a grocery list you will need to get started, **see PAGES 5-9 of the attachment "Walking Through Holy Week"**.

THURSDAY (Apr 9 – MAUNDY THURSDAY):

- 1) Sit down as a family and watch the Tenebrae service we will post on Covenant's YouTube Channel (follow the "WATCH ONLINE" link at covenantcrc.ca).

Before beginning, gather 7 light sources/candles and some pots/pans to drums on or anything to make noise during the strepitus near the end of the service.

- 2) **Optional follow-up activity:** In Jesus' day, when criminals were hung on a cross as punishment for serious crimes, a sign was nailed to the top of the cross telling what they had done wrong. Pilate couldn't find anything that Jesus had done wrong, so the sign on Jesus' cross simply said "King of the Jews."

Take a dinner plate and washable markers. Think about something that you did wrong in the last few days. In words or pictures, make a "sign" on your plate that tells what you did wrong. Next, fill the sink with warm soapy water. As you wash your plate in the sink say, "Father, forgive me, because Jesus paid for my sins on the cross." Your "sign" – the record of your sin – has gone!

FRIDAY (Apr 10 – GOOD FRIDAY):

1) Daily family devotional: Day 6: Strange signs

Read [Matthew 27:45, 50-66](#) (CLICK FOR LINK)

1. Several strange things happened as Jesus hung on the cross. What were they? (Darkness from noon until 3 p.m.; right after Jesus died the curtain in the temple tore in two all by itself; there was an earthquake; and dead people who had loved God came back to life.)
2. How do you think the people felt when they saw all these unusual events?
3. What was the special significance behind the temple curtain being torn in two? (The curtain had hidden the special holy place in the temple where God's presence resided. Only one priest could enter there once a year. The tearing of the veil symbolized that God was no longer "hidden." Through Jesus, everyone could now come into God's presence.)
4. Who asked Pilate for permission to take Jesus' body and put it in a tomb?
5. Why was that a brave thing to do?

Pray

Thank Jesus for being brave enough to go to the cross. Ask Him to make you brave enough to always do what is right.

Celebrate!

Make a pretend "tomb" by draping blankets over a table. Take turns wrapping each other in sheets and laying the "body" in the tomb. Then pretend you are the chief priests and Pharisees: pile up cushions over the entrance of the tomb to make sure no one can get in to steal the "body."

SATURDAY (Apr 11):

- 1) Take a morning walk. Talk about how much spring reminds us of the new life Jesus gives us. Point out the signs of new life that are starting to appear.
- 2) Daily devotional: Watch [THIS VIDEO](#) reviewing Jesus' Sacrifice

SUNDAY (Apr 12 – Easter):

1) Tune into our Sunday morning Easter service!

- a. Just like the week prior, we encourage you to have paper and colours available during the live stream so that your kids can draw out pieces of the Easter story that they hear during the service (play-doh can also be used).

2) Optional activity: EASTER SCAVENGER HUNTS

Your children can find these items that symbolize parts of the Easter story:

- A ROCK (the tomb), 2 STICKS (a cross), SOMETHING BLACK (sin), SOMETHING RED (blood), SOMETHING WHITE (a clean heart), SOMETHING GREEN (growing in Christ)

JESUS' LIFE SCAVENGER HUNT: See **PAGES 15-18 of the attachment "Walking Through Holy Week"**. Slips of paper that highlight key events in Jesus' life can be printed, cut out and then stuffed into eggs. Once kids find the eggs, they work to put the slips into chronological order. A version of the game is available for ages 3-5 (PAGE 15) as well as for older children (PAGES 16-18).

DIGITAL EASTER SCAVENGER HUNT: Older children can also go on a digital scavenger hunt, taking photographs of items that remind them of Easter. Send your images to Trisha's email!

3) Daily family devotional: Jesus is alive!

Read Luke 23:55-56; 24:1-20, 28-53.

1. When the women told the other disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead, what was their initial reaction? How did the disciples react?
2. Why do you think Jesus asked for something to eat?
3. What did the disciples do after Jesus left?

Pray

In Jesus' time, the priests offered sacrifices and prayers at the temple every morning. When they had finished, they would lift their hands over the people and bless them, reciting [Numbers 6:24-26](#). When Jesus lifted His hands over the disciples, they could see the wounds from the nails that held Him to the cross. Now, the priests and animal sacrifices would no longer be needed. Jesus was the final, all-sufficient sacrifice who would bring God's blessing to everyone who believes in Him. Have an adult in the family raise their hands and pray aloud from Numbers 6.