

A vibrant watercolor splash in shades of blue, green, yellow, orange, and red, resembling a rainbow, is positioned horizontally across the middle of the page. The background is a textured, light beige paper.

HOLY WEEK

2025 FAMILY GUIDE

PROMISED, PROVIDED AND RAISED - FOR YOU

APRIL 13 - 20, 2025 | FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH



**THIS GUIDE
BELONGS TO:**

Dear FCC,

As we enter Holy Week this year, we invite you and your family to join us in reflecting more deeply on what Jesus has done for you. This is a sacred time to remember, to worship, and to share with your family the incredible story of God's faithfulness — from His promises long ago, to His provision at the cross, and to the joy of the resurrection.

Our theme this year is "Promised, Provided, and Raised — For You." Throughout the week, we will explore how God was preparing the world for Jesus all the way back in Genesis. We'll see how He was pointing ahead to Jesus in the Passover of Exodus. We'll read about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Ultimately, we'll see that Jesus is the Savior who went to the cross and was raised to life again — so that you might know His love and salvation personally.

This Family Guide is designed to help you engage in Holy Week together. Inside, you'll find:

- **Daily Readings & Reflections** to walk through key moments in the story of God's promise and Jesus' final week.
- **Questions** to spark meaningful conversations with your family.
- **Simple Activities & Prayers** to help you experience the story together.
- **Additional Resources** to deepen your understanding of God's story.

We encourage you to make this week holy — to take time this week at the dinner table, before bed, or during a quiet moment — to pause and reflect on what Jesus has done. This is more than a story—it is your story. Just as Jesus called Mary by name at the empty tomb, He calls each of us into the joy and hope of His resurrection.

May this Holy Week be a time of deep reflection and celebration for your family. We are grateful to walk this journey with you.

Celebrating with You,

The FCC Team

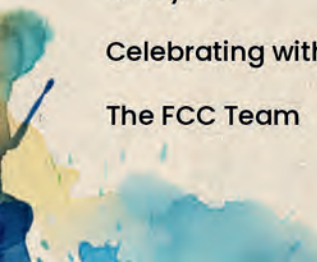


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DAY 1

PALM SUNDAY

JESUS IS THE LONG-AWAITED, PROMISED KING.

READ

Matthew 21:1-11

Take turns reading the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Try to put yourself into this scene. What must it have felt like?

DISCUSS TOGETHER

1. Underline the words that are used to describe Jesus. Look at each word one at a time and talk about what it means. Is this how you think of Jesus? Are there any words that are surprising to you?
2. Imagine that you are a news reporter covering this scene. What sights and sounds and feelings would stand out to you? What kinds of questions would you ask the people who were waving palm branches?
3. Why do you think they were so excited? What were they hoping for?

BONUS: Read Zechariah 9:9-10. This is one of the scriptures that Matthew had in mind as he was writing. What were the people hoping for as Jesus rode into Jerusalem? How did he fulfill those expectations? How might they have felt disappointed?

4. We know that this visit to Jerusalem ultimately ended in Jesus' crucifixion and death. In the gospel of Luke, we learn that Jesus was weeping as he approached Jerusalem. What do you think he was feeling and thinking as the crowds celebrated?
5. How does it make you feel to know that He did this for you?

WORSHIP TOGETHER

Listen to *Christ and Christ Crucified* together. This is a song the kids have been learning in FaithKids and that the congregation has been learning on Sunday morning.

PRAY TOGETHER

Jesus, we praise You as our King! Just like the crowds on Palm Sunday, we celebrate You. But we also confess that sometimes we expect You to work in ways that fit our plans. Help us trust You as the King we need, not just the King we want. We lay our hearts before You today. Amen.

A DEEPER LOOK

THE BIBLE PROJECT | THE MESSIAH (VIDEO)



You can find this on the Bible Project website, or by typing "Bible Project Messiah" into the search bar on YouTube on your smart TV.

DAY 2

HOLY MONDAY

JESUS IS THE PROMISED KING WHO MAKES GENUINE WORSHIP POSSIBLE.

LEADER'S NOTE: This story may seem strange, but Jesus used a fig tree to teach an important lesson. The tree, although it had leaves, wasn't producing fruit. For Jesus, this was a picture of the temple and the entire religious establishment in Jerusalem. They looked good (they had leaves), but they weren't actually bearing the fruit they were supposed to. This is also why he went into the temple and began driving everyone out. The two stories are tightly connected.

READ

Mark 11:12-25

Take turns reading the story of Jesus' return to Jerusalem on Monday. If you have young children, consider reading from a children's Bible or summarizing the story in a way they can understand.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

1. Underline the words that are used to describe Jesus and the temple. Look at each word one at a time and talk about what it means. Is there anything here that is surprising to you?
2. Why was Jesus upset when he saw the fig tree? What is the purpose of a fig tree?

- 4.** What was the temple for? What were the religious leaders supposed to be doing? Why was Jesus upset when He went into the temple?

The fig tree is a symbol of Israel. Jesus used it to illustrate for His disciples what he saw when He looked at the temple and the religion of Israel. They looked good (they had leaves), but they weren't actually bearing any good fruit.

- 5.** What "fruit" does Jesus want to see in our hearts, our prayers and our actions (v.20-25)? What is our purpose, and what were we made for?
- 6.** What do you think it means to trust Jesus for that fruit rather than summoning our own strength to achieve it?

ACTIVITY: CLEANUP

Choose a room or section of your house to clean together as a family. Why is it so hard to keep that area clean? Why does it keep getting messy? Talk about our need for the grace of God to be active in our lives if we're going to have hearts that are clean too.

A DEEPER LOOK

THE BIBLE PROJECT | THE TEMPLE (VIDEO)



You can find this on the Bible Project website, or by typing "Bible Project Temple" into the search bar on YouTube on your smart TV.

DAY 3

HOLY TUESDAY

JESUS IS THE TRUE PASSOVER LAMB WHO MAKES SALVATION POSSIBLE.

READ

Exodus 12:1–32

Take turns reading the story of the Passover. If you have young children, consider reading from a children's Bible or summarizing the story in a way they can understand.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

1. Work together to see if you can summarize this story. It might help to write or draw an outline on a sheet of paper together. Is there anything in this story that's new to you?
2. Make a list of everything God was asking the Israelites to believe – about him and about what was going to happen. How do you think Israel was feeling about this?
3. Why did God tell the Israelites to put the blood of a perfect lamb on their doorposts? What would happen to those without it? What was the blood protecting them from?
4. How do you think the Israelites felt as they prepared the Passover meal and waited to see what God would do?

5. It was obviously important to God that Israel should celebrate this meal every year and remember how He saved them from death and slavery. Why do you think this is so important?
6. In our busy lives, we do not do a good job of creating time to remember and rest. In other words, we don't do a great job of setting aside time to keep it "holy." What has your experience been this week, trying to make Holy Week special? Has it been easy, hard, rewarding, frustrating? What are you learning about taking the time to remember God?

ACTIVITY: THE PRINCE OF EGYPT

If you've not seen it, the film *The Prince of Egypt* is a pretty great adaptation of the Exodus story and worth watching as a family. It ends on a powerful and awe-inspiring note! Take time to give thanks together for who God is and all that He's done.

Ask: how does the Exodus point to the Savior God has promised?

A DEEPER LOOK

THE BIBLE PROJECT | ATONEMENT (VIDEO)

For those who'd like to take a deeper look at how the blood of animals acted as an "atoning sacrifice" and point ahead to Jesus, we recommend this video from the Bible Project. You can find this on the Bible Project website, or by typing "Bible Project Atonement" into the search bar on YouTube on your smart TV.



For teens or adults who would love a really deep dive into the work of Jesus on the cross, you cannot do any better than *The Cross of Christ* by John Stott. Happy reading!

DAY 4

HOLY WEDNESDAY

JESUS IS THE KING THAT WE TREASURE ABOVE ALL ELSE.

ACTIVITY: SMELLING WORSHIP

Today we're going to read about a woman who anointed Jesus on Wednesday evening with a priceless perfume. Jesus called it, "beautiful."

If you have a favorite scented candle, light it ahead of time, and allow its scent to fill the space you're going to meet in. Or you might bring out a favorite perfume and share the smell with your family. Or make some popcorn, or cookies, or something else that smells good to you and your family.

Remember: Beautiful and interesting smells were an essential part of worship in Israel – from the altar to the incense, worship involved all of our senses, and our worship and prayers are often depicted like a powerful scent filling the room.

As a family, talk about how worship can fill a heart, a room, a mind like the smell of your candle or perfume. How is this different from the way we typically think about worship?

READ

Mark 14:1-11

ACT IT OUT: As you read, you might consider acting out the parts. Have someone play Jesus, another person play the woman, another play Judas, and others play the other disciples and people just gathered for dinner. If it's awkward to act this out – that's the point! The woman created a very awkward scene! Talk about what it must have been like to be there that night. What do you think people saw, smelled, thought and felt?

DISCUSS TOGETHER

1. The alabaster flask of ointment that this woman poured over Jesus' head was extremely expensive – some scholars believe that it was worth about a year's wages. What does this tell us about how much this woman treasures Jesus?!
2. Talk about all of the different reactions in this story to what has just happened? Why do you think the different characters react so differently?
3. Take some time to fill the room you're meeting in with prayer and worship just like the scent has filled the room. This might look like singing songs, praising God with your words, or having a dance party for Jesus with some worship music – as long as everyone participates!

DAY 5

HOLY THURSDAY

JESUS IS THE SAVIOR THAT GOD PROVIDED TO ATONE FOR OUR SIN.

READ

Mark 14:12-25 (short) or Mark 14:12-72 (long)

DISCUSS TOGETHER

1. Imagine that you were moving away and would have to say goodbye to your dearest friends. How would you be feeling? How would you want them to remember you? What kinds of things would you want to tell them?
2. What does the Last Supper reveal about how Jesus wants to be remembered? Why do you think He chose broken bread and wine as symbols of His body and blood?
3. In verse 25, Jesus says He won't drink wine again until He drinks it new in the kingdom of God. What do you think that means about what Jesus is looking forward to right now? What do you think of that?

ACTIVITY

Tonight, we're hosting our annual Communion Service. We hope you can join us (a list of all of our Holy Week events is listed on page 19)! **If you can't join us, we would encourage you to share a meal together. Read Mark 14:22-25, and share some crackers or bread and grape juice. Give thanks for God's indescribable gift!**

A DEEPER LOOK

THE BIBLE PROJECT | THE LORD'S SUPPER (ARTICLE)



For those who'd like to share a deeper look at the significance of meals throughout the story of the Bible, we'd recommend this brief article.

DAY 6

GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS IS THE SAVIOR THAT GOD PROVIDED TO ATONE FOR OUR SIN.

Today, we invite you to gather with you family to reflect on the death of Jesus. Let this be a solemn and sacred moment. Take time to pause, reflect, and allow the weight of what God has done in Jesus to sink in. This passage is long, so we encourage you to read it slowly and thoughtfully, as a family, with reverence and quiet hearts.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR READING

1. PREPARE YOUR HEARTS

Before you begin reading, take a moment to pray as a family. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you understand the depth of Jesus' sacrifice and to give you hearts that are open to His love and mercy.

SUGGESTED PRAYER

Lord, we come before You today with thankful hearts. Help us to understand the weight of what You did for us on the cross. Speak to us through Your Word, and may we be moved by the sacrifice of Jesus. Amen.

2. READ MARK 15:16–39 SLOWLY AND REFLECTIVELY

This passage contains deep sorrow and love. As you read, allow each verse to sink in. Take time to pause after each section to reflect on what you've read. You can break the passage into smaller sections and pause for a few moments of silence before continuing.

3. ASK QUESTIONS AFTER EACH SECTION

After reading each section, ask one or two of the questions below to help guide the family's reflection.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- What stood out to you in this part of the story?
- How does this part make you feel?
- What do you think Jesus was thinking or feeling as He went through this?
- What does this teach us about God's love for us?

4. SIT IN SILENCE AND REFLECT

After reading the final section, spend a few moments in silence. This is a time for personal reflection and quiet prayer. You might want to spend a few moments praying in response to what you've read.

5. CLOSE IN PRAYER

End your time together by thanking God for His great love in sending His Son to die for us. Reflect on the significance of Jesus' death and how it brings us salvation. Ask God for hearts that are grateful for His sacrifice and for lives that reflect His love.

OPTIONAL: CROSS REFLECTION ACTIVITY

Place a simple cross in the center of your family space. If you don't have one, you can draw one. After reading, take turns sharing one word that describes how you feel about the cross and what it represents to you. You can also take a moment to quietly reflect on the significance of the cross as a symbol of Jesus' love and sacrifice.

DAY 7

SILENT SATURDAY

**JESUS IS THE SAVIOR THAT WAS PROMISED,
PROVIDED AND RAISED – FOR YOU.**

On Silent Saturday, we reflect on the quiet, somber day between the crucifixion and the resurrection. It is a day to sit in the sorrow and silence of the cross, waiting for the hope of the resurrection to break through. The Fourth Servant Song of Isaiah speaks profoundly about the suffering of the Servant (Jesus), who bore our sins and brought us peace through His suffering.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR READING

1. PREPARE YOUR HEARTS

Before reading, take a moment to settle into the quietness of this day. This is a time to pause, reflect, and prepare your hearts to receive the deep message of Jesus' sacrifice as foretold in the Old Testament.

SUGGESTED PRAYER

Lord, today we reflect on the silence of this Saturday, between the death of Jesus and His resurrection. We grieve the suffering He endured, and we wait in anticipation for the hope that is coming. Open our hearts to understand the depth of His sacrifice and love. Amen.

2. READ SLOWLY AND REFLECTIVELY

As you read through Isaiah 52:13–53:12, take your time. This passage is rich with the prophecy of Jesus' suffering, rejection, and ultimate triumph. Read slowly and allow the words to sink deeply into your heart.

3. PAUSE FOR REFLECTION AFTER EACH SECTION

After reading each section, pause for a moment to reflect on what you have just read. Ask yourself how this passage speaks about Jesus' suffering and why He chose to go through such pain for us.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- What stands out to you about the Servant's suffering in this passage?
- How does it feel to know that Jesus endured this for you and me?
- What does it mean to you personally that Jesus was "pierced for our transgressions" (v. 5)?
- How does the Servant's humility and submission (v. 7) speak to the way we should live as His followers?

4. REFLECT IN SILENCE

After reading and reflecting, spend some time in silence. Silent Saturday is a day to sit in the quiet, acknowledging the pain and the waiting before the hope of Easter morning. You might want to use this time to pray quietly, expressing your gratitude for Jesus' sacrifice and pondering the deep love He demonstrated for us.

5. CLOSE IN PRAYER

After a time of silent reflection, close by thanking God for the Servant, Jesus, and for the hope that we know is coming. Express your desire to live in light of His great sacrifice, while waiting with eager anticipation for the joy of the resurrection.

SUGGESTED CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we reflect today on the great suffering You endured for us. We are humbled by Your love and sacrifice. Though this day is silent and still, we know that the joy of the resurrection is coming. Help us to live in gratitude and anticipation of the hope You have given us through Your death and resurrection. Amen.

OPTIONAL: SILENT SATURDAY CHALLENGE

As a family, we want to challenge you to try spending an entire hour in complete silence today – no phones, no smart watches, no distractions. Give yourselves an entire hour to be alone, to pray, to read and to reflect on the reading today.

JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK AT FCC!

4/13 PALM SUNDAY | 9 AM + 11 AM

4/15 SEDER MEAL | 6–8 PM*

4/17 COMMUNION SERVICE | 7–8:30 PM

4/20 EASTER SUNDAY | 9 AM + 11 AM + 1:30 PM

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER:



***Due to limited availability, no-cost registration is required for the Tuesday Seder event.**

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NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of cream-colored paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.





[FCCHUDSON.COM/HOLYWEEK](https://fcchudson.com/holyweek)

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