



GET READY
FOR EASTER

“He is not here, for He
has risen, just as He said.”

MATTHEW 28:6 (NASB)

Family EnterAction Guide

Dear Parents,

We have just begun our new teaching series, “*Get Ready For Easter.*” This Family EnterAction Guide is designed to help you reinforce with your children what is being taught each week during the weekend services.

Each page has a week’s worth of fun ideas and activities you can do as a family. On the back of each weekly page, you will find the memory verse we are learning for the week.

We suggest that you keep this Family EnterAction Guide on your desk, dresser or kitchen table to remind your family to read it each day.

We pray as your children learn more about how to “*Get Ready For Easter,*” they will “Enter into Action” and will begin to apply what they are learning in their daily life!

The Children’s Staff

Get Ready For Easter

Week One

Word of the week is

“Worship”

Birth – Kindergarten

“Praise Jesus!”

(Paraphrase)

Grades 1 - 6

**“Bless the one who comes
in the name of the Lord!”**

John 12:13 NIV

Get Ready For Easter

Week One – Worship

Day One: What Should I See?

Grab a Bible and look up this week's Bible story in Matthew 21:1-11. Choose someone to be the narrator of the story. Then act out the story using the following characters: Jesus, the donkey, and then people in the crowd. (If you would like to make it more fun, dress up the characters first.) Have the crowd say, "Hosanna. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." Have someone ask the question, "Who is this?" And someone in the crowd says, "It's Jesus from Nazareth."

Day Two: What's the Key?

At meal time this week talk about this together. The key to this story is that Jesus was recognized and treated like a King. A large crowd of people gathered and worshipped Jesus by waving palm branches and laying the coats on the ground in front of Jesus. In those days, that was how people treated a king. Many of the people in the audience had seen Jesus perform miracles and heal people in need, so they honored and worshipped Him. Talk about how our society treats movie stars and rock stars today. Imagine if Jesus were alive on earth today. How would you like to see Him honored? (Roll out the red carpet, see Him on the front of a magazine, have an award show just for Him, etc.)

Day Three: What's That to Me? (One 3 x 5 card needed.)

As we get ready for Easter this year, take some time to think about how you would answer the question, "Who is Jesus to me?" Write the question on a 3 x 5 card and pass it around the table, giving everyone a chance to share their answers. Then go back around the table a second time to play a memory game. This time they must repeat what everyone else said. For example: Dad said that Jesus is his Boss. Mom said that Jesus is her Savior. Cameron said that Jesus is his Healer. etc.)

Day Four: How Should I Be?

We have learned this week that Jesus is worthy of our worship and praise. There are many ways we can worship Jesus. One way is to sing praise songs to Him. The next time you are all in the car together, put a worship CD in and sing praises to Him as a family. When we take the time to praise Him, we are giving Him the honor He deserves.

Day Five: Live-It!

It's time to live out what you learned this week! Here's another way to worship Jesus! Write out a prayer to God thanking Him for three or more things that He has done for you. Here's a few to get you started: He made a way for you to go to Heaven by dying on the cross for your sins. He gave you a family. He has blessed you with a place to live, food to eat and toys to play with. Younger children can draw a picture of the things they are thankful for. Then pray out loud together as a family, thanking Him for all He has done for you.

Get Ready For Easter

Week Two

Word of the week is

“Accept”

Birth – Kindergarten

“I want your way, God.”

(Paraphrase)

Grades 1 - 6

“I want your will, not mine.”

Matthew 26:39b NLT

Get Ready For Easter

Week Two – Accept

Day One: What Should I See?

Read the story of The Last Supper and Jesus' betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane found in Matthew 26:17-50 as a family and then talk about it. Jesus asked Judas this question, "My friend, why are you here?" Talk about how Jesus must have felt to have a close friend betray Him. Did Jesus know that Judas was going to betray Him? Did Jesus know what was going to happen to Him next? Could He have stopped it? Why do you think He didn't stop it?

Day Two: What's the Key?

The key to this lesson is trusting God's plan over our own plan. The word for the week is accept. What does accept mean? Look it up in a dictionary. Then play this game with your family to practice the word accept. A parent gives the child a "mission to accomplish" and says something like, "Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to" Say things like make your bed, wash the dog, run up and down the stairs 3 times, etc. The child then says, "I accept the mission" and most importantly, carries it out! Have fun with this game!

Day Three: What's That to Me?

Jesus knew that He was going to have to suffer and go through some terrible things. He didn't want to suffer, but He wanted to please His Heavenly Father and He trusted Him enough to go through with His plan for salvation. Jesus accepted God's plan and we need to do the same thing. What are some situations in your family that you need to accept and trust God with? Talk about these together, make a family prayer list and then take some time to pray and ask God to help you accept His plan and trust Him in all of these circumstances.

Day Four: How Should I Be?

This week we are reminded by Jesus' example in the garden that we need to learn to accept God's plan for our life even when it is difficult. Maybe your family has been affected by divorce, serious illness or an accident or maybe a big life change, like moving to a new home or going to a new school. Memorize this Practice Point and then "perform it" for your family with FLAIR! *God's plan is always the best; I will trust Him when life's a test!*

Day Five: Live-It!

It's time to live out what you learned this week! Write down on an index card a situation that has you worried or is difficult to accept. Next, look up 1 Peter 5:7 and Proverbs 3:5-6 in your Bible. Copy one of those verses onto the same index card. Then put the card on your bathroom mirror or next to your bed and pray about that situation every morning when you wake up and every night before you go to bed. Give your worries to Jesus and let Him take care of them. Memorize the verse you wrote out so that when you are tempted to worry, God's promises in His Word come back to you.

Get Ready For Easter

Week Three

Word of the week is

“Silent”

Birth – Kindergarten

“Jesus remained silent”

(Paraphrase)

Grades 1 - 6

**“When the priests and leaders
made their accusations against him,
Jesus remained silent.”**

Matthew 27:12 NLT

Get Ready For Easter

Week Three – Silent

Day One: What Should I See?

Read the story of Jesus' trial in Matthew 26:57- 27:2 and Matthew 27:11-25. Count how many times it says that Jesus did not reply or was silent when others were accusing Him. Talk about all the ways that Jesus was mistreated. Why do you think Jesus was silent?

Day Two: What's the Key?

The key to this week's lesson is that Jesus remained silent when He was falsely accused, mocked, whipped and mistreated. Jesus had not done anything wrong, but He did not defend Himself or yell back at those yelling at Him. What happens when you are accused of doing something you haven't done? Do you remain silent? Here's a game you can play to practice being silent. Set the timer for 3 minutes and during that time have the whole family listen to all the sounds around you. When the timer rings, talk about how hard it was to be quiet, not to laugh and to just listen. Imagine how hard it was for Jesus to be silent. Then let everyone share what they heard when they were silent.

Day Three: What's That to Me?

There will be times in our lives when people will say untrue or unkind things about us. How does Christ want us to respond to them? He wants us to respond like Jesus did, by not arguing or being mean right back to them. Arguing or fighting back will only cause more problems. As a family, come up with some solutions that would please God when you go through difficult situations. Write them down on a piece of paper. See how many different ones you can come up with.

Day Four: How Should I Be? (Need a special dinner plate)

Every time we hold our tongues and keep from arguing or yelling, we are making a good choice. God wants us to use our words to encourage each other, not hurt each other. To practice using our words for good, play this game at the dinner table. Start with your mom. Give her a special plate, maybe from the china cabinet. Take turns going around the table and giving your mom a compliment, starting with this phrase, "Mom is special because....." Compliment character traits and actions that are pleasing to God. The next night, pick someone different to have the special plate and go around the table and compliment them. Do this every night until everyone in the family has been honored in this way. See what kind words can do for each other!

Day Five: Live-It!

This week we learned to be silent when others are mean to us instead of using unkind words to get back at them. Ask everyone if they had a chance to "live it" this week at school, at work or at home. If so, let that person share what happened and how they felt when s/he made the right choice in this situation. When each person is done telling the story, everyone should clap and give high-fives and hugs to encourage good choices!

Get Ready For Easter

Week Four

Word of the week is

“Believe”

Birth – Kindergarten

“God loved us and sent His Son.”

(Paraphrase)

Grades 1 – 6

“God loved this world: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life.”

John 3:16 GWORLD

Get Ready For Easter

Week Four – Believe

Day One: What Should I See?

The Bible story this week is found in Matthew 27:26-50. It is a difficult passage to read as we hear about the pain and suffering that Jesus went through for us. After reading it out loud as a family, give everyone a chance to share how they feel about Jesus' death on the cross.

Day Two: What's the Key?

Our word for the week is believe. That is the key to this week's lesson. Read Romans 3:22-25 and Romans 6:23 together. These verses repeat the message of John 3:16 that Jesus died to make a way for us to go to Heaven and have eternal life. He endured pain, suffering and even death on a cross so that we could all have a personal relationship with Him. All you have to do is believe with faith and accept His gift of salvation. Have you ever done that? Would you like to do that now? If so, take a minute to pray right now with someone in your family.

Day Three: What's That to Me? (Art supplies needed)

Draw, paint or color a picture of Jesus dying on the cross for all of our sins. Then write the words, "I believe in Jesus" on the picture somewhere. Hang the picture up where everyone can see it.

Day Four: How Should I Be?

Believe is an action word. It is something you choose to do. Believing in Jesus is pretty simple, but it requires faith. If you have already taken the action step of believing in Jesus and asked Him to come into your heart and be the boss of your life, then you need to continue to learn more about Him. The more you read your Bible, go to church and spend time in prayer with God, the more you will learn about Him. It takes effort to study God's Word. This week, commit to reading your Bible every day and going to church on the weekend. Encourage everyone in your family to do the same thing!

Day Five: Live-It!

How do you live out this week's lesson? By continuing to grow in your faith and belief about Jesus, that's how! The best way to do this is to get involved in a small group. If your family is not in a small group, check with your church to see about joining one. Oftentimes there are discipleship groups available, like Kid's Quest or Break Out, that kids can join which will help them to grow in their faith on a weekly basis!

Get Ready For Easter

Week Five

Word of the week is

“Tell”

Birth – Kindergarten

“We are telling you
what we have seen and heard.”

(Paraphrase)

Grades 1 - 6

“We are telling you what we have
seen and heard, so that you may
share in this life with us.”

1 John 1:3a CEV

Get Ready For Easter

Week Five – Tell

Day One: What Should I See? (Art supplies needed.)

Today's story is quite possibly the most exciting story in the Bible. Read about Jesus' miraculous resurrection in Matthew 27:57-66 and Matthew 28:1-7. Then go to John and read John 20:10-20. Assign each person in the family one of the following characters or items to draw and cut out: Jesus, Mary, Angel, the empty tomb, disciples. Then retell the story together as a family, using the pictures to help tell the story.

Day Two: What's the Key?

The key to this lesson is that Jesus is alive! He overcame death! God had the final victory because Jesus rose from the dead on the third day. That is why we celebrate Easter. Easter isn't all about chocolate bunnies, eggs and the Easter bunny. It is about God's son, Jesus, rising from the dead! Whisper this good news to the person next to you at the dinner table, "God is not dead! He is alive. Tell everybody!" Pass this message all around the table!

Day Three: What's That to Me? (Egg dying kit and hard boiled eggs needed.)

Dye Easter eggs as a family and talk about why Jesus' resurrection is important. Here are some ideas to get you talking! Because of what happened on the cross, I can now have eternal life. I can live forever with God in heaven. I can have His strength to help me now on earth. Draw symbols on the eggs that remind you of the true meaning of Easter, like a cross or an empty tomb and write words or phrases that help tell the story, like "Jesus is alive!"

Day Four: How Should I Be?

God wants us to tell the exciting message of Easter to all of our friends and family. Think of someone you know that doesn't go to church or is not aware of the true Easter Message. Each person in the family should come up with at least one person that s/he can tell about Jesus. Write the names down in a list and commit to praying for that person every day—that they will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Then take the next step and invite them to church next week!

Day Five: Live-It! (Card-making supplies needed.)

Make a special Easter card for a neighbor, friend or elderly person in a retirement home. Be sure to tell them the good news that "Jesus is Alive" on the front of their card. Then take it to them with a special treat and tell them the good news about Easter: Jesus died for our sins and then rose from the dead three days later, proving that He is Lord!