



# EASTER

## DEVOTIONAL

8 DAYS OF DEVOTION TO PREPARE  
YOUR HEART FOR EASTER



## DEAR PROVIDENCE FAMILY,

Early on Sunday morning, three days after Jesus died on a cross, a few faithful women went to His tomb to anoint His body. To their surprise the large stone, which sealed his tomb, had been rolled back exposing the entrance. As they entered the tomb, an angel said, *“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said”* (Matthew 28:5 - 6).

**Jesus has risen from the dead!** We say and sing this a lot, but don't let it grow old. It means our sins can be removed from us, and His righteousness can be given to us!

As Easter approaches, I encourage you to be intentional in preparing yourself to celebrate. It is possible to celebrate even if this Easter finds you going through a difficult or lonely time. Let me share a few considerations as we enter this special week.

† **Be on lookout for Jesus.** Family, food, eggs, and chocolate will be part of the week, but don't get so distracted that you fail to give attention to what Jesus has accomplished.

† **Be on lookout for humility and joy.** None of us can look at the empty grave and rightly conclude that we are the hero. Easter invites many things, but never pride or boredom. So give yourself (and your family), some margins this week to think about the resurrection and to examine your heart. If you find sin, confess it. A forgiven heart is a joyful heart.

† **Be on lookout to share the gospel.** Our joy in anything is maximized when we talk about it with others. This is especially true of Jesus. Let's all ask God for an opportunity to tell someone why we are so thankful to celebrate Easter this year.

Each day, beginning on Palm Sunday, we read a passage from the Bible that highlights a big event leading up to Jesus' resurrection. To add a visual, we use candles, similar to Advent. (Candles are optional, but with our boys, fire is always a win!) At Christmas, we light candles to remember the light coming into the world. For Easter, we begin with six lit candles and each day as we read, we blow one out to remember the darkness on the earth when Jesus died. Then on Easter morning we relight all six candles to celebrate Jesus' victory over the grave.

You can do this alone, with some friends, or with your family. Whether you follow this plan or not, let me simply encourage you to do something. Jesus rose from the dead to give us eternal life. We have reason to celebrate!

In Christ,

*Brian*

**BRIAN FROST**

## **PALM SUNDAY**

# **JESUS' ENTRANCE**

With all six candles lit, blow out one candle and read

**JOHN 12:12 - 26**

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- + What do you think was going through minds of the people as they saw Jesus enter Jerusalem?
- + What do you think was going through Jesus' mind?
- + How do we demonstrate our admiration and love for Christ today?

## **MONDAY**

# **JESUS' HUMILITY**

With five candles lit, blow out one candle and read

**JOHN 13:1 - 17**

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- + What do you think you would have done if Jesus had knelt before you to wash your feet?
- + Would you rather have someone wash your feet or be the one washing his feet?
- + What does it look like for us to follow His example?

**TUESDAY**

## **JESUS' TEACHING**

With four candles lit, blow out one candle and read

**JOHN 15:1 - 17**

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- † What does it mean to abide in Jesus?
- † As Jesus was preparing to go to the cross, why do you think he used some of his last words to teach his followers about love?
- † How does Jesus enable us to love one another?

**WEDNESDAY**

## **JESUS' ARREST**

With three candles lit, blow out one candle and read

**JOHN 18:1 - 11**

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- † What do you think was going through the minds of Jesus' disciples when Judas appeared?
- † When Jesus said the words, "I am he," why do you think the soldiers fell to the ground?
- † What clues show us that Jesus was still in total control?
- † What do we learn here that gives us hope during our trials?

**THURSDAY**

## **JESUS' CONDEMNATION**

With two candles lit, blow out one candle and read

**JOHN 19:1 - 16**

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- † What emotions or thoughts come to your mind when you read this?
- † Why do you think that Jesus was so peaceful when evil men were treating him so violently?
- † Why did Pilate try to release Jesus?
- † Why did Jesus allow Himself to go through so much pain and ridicule?

**GOOD FRIDAY**

## **JESUS' CRUCIFIXION**

With one candle lit, blow it out and read **JOHN 19:17 - 37**

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- † Why did Jesus have to die in order to save us from our sin?
- † What does it show us that Jesus would care for his mother while hanging on the cross?
- † How should we respond to the news that Jesus died for our sin?

## SATURDAY

# JESUS' BURIAL

With no candles lit, read **JOHN 19:38 - 42**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- † What do you think was going through the disciples' minds when Jesus was in the grave?
- † Why do you think Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus were willing to bury Jesus?
- † Why did they do this in secret?
- † What would the world be like if Jesus had been buried and never risen from the dead?

## EASTER SUNDAY

# JESUS' RESURRECTION

Light all six candles and read **JOHN 20:1 - 21**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- † How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus?
- † Why was it so significant that Jesus rose from the dead?
- † Have you put your faith in Jesus?
- † Who do you know that needs to hear that Jesus died for sin and rose from the dead?

**EASTER**

