

Maundy Thursday

Holy Week Activity Pack 2

More to think about... Let's Eat and Remember

After Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, He wanted to gather and eat with His closest friends, the disciples. A few days later, He was going to be put to death by people who would falsely accuse Him of doing wrong. This was going to leave the disciples confused, scared and hurt. Jesus ate with them to prepare them for what was going to happen and asked them to remember how he loved others and to remember to always trust God.

Maybe you're like the disciples. Maybe you've had a moment where you were confused, hurt or scared. It's easy to get lost in those moments, but if you just remember how Jesus trusted God no matter what, you'll also be able to get through even the scariest moments. He is always with you.

Question Time:

When is a time you have been scared?

What aspect of Jesus is important to remember in those moments?

What are some ways you can remember Jesus during your day?

Jesus ate a meal with His disciples and asked them to remember Him. He asked them to carry on the mission of bringing hope and freedom to all people. You can remember Jesus today, too. Can you carry on His mission to love, even when you're scared? To bring peace, even when others want you to fight? Remember, Jesus is with you always and you can always talk to Him in prayer.

Luke 22:14-20 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

Next Steps: When it seems dark, when you're scared, take a moment and remember Jesus. A great way to remember Him is to look at the Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John - and see the way He lived.

Can you remember Jesus this week? Maybe during a meal, you and your family or friends can take a moment and say one thing you're grateful for about Jesus' way of living.

Good Friday & Easter Sunday

Holy Week Activity Pack 3

More to think about...

Last is First

It's not fun being last picked. It can be hurtful when people overlook you or say mean things to you. Jesus knew how it felt to have people be mean to Him. The people in charge came and arrested Jesus because they were scared that He was leading an uprising so He could be the one in charge of all the people. He was, but it wasn't an uprising against anybody. It was an uprising for everybody's salvation. He wanted all people to experience love and grace, but the authorities didn't believe that and they wanted to get rid of Jesus.

It's really hard to not be liked. It can feel like you're all alone. But you're not alone. Jesus is with you. When you're picked last, or when people say hurtful things, you have an opportunity to show them Jesus' way. Like those that wanted to hurt Jesus, people expect you to say hurtful things or do something mean. But it's better to give grace, even to those that try to hurt your feelings. When everyone was screaming for Jesus to be hurt and put to death, He didn't turn around and hurt people. He gave His life for them.

Question Time:

What was a moment recently when you felt hurt?

How might you be able to show the people hurting you Jesus' love through your actions?

Jesus was eventually put to death. But here is the good news: He was put to death so that everyone else might live. His death on the cross was a symbol for all people that pain and hurt will not win! But, healing, hope and love always takes the day. People will try to hurt or silence love, but love always wins in the end.

Matthew 27:38-44 Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

Next Steps: This week, instead of responding with more hurtful words or more hurtful actions, try your best to heal by your words and actions.

This is what Easter is all about. It's all about healing, and you can be a part of it. This might come in the form of an apology to someone you know you hurt.

Good Friday & Easter Sunday

Holy Week Activity Pack 3

More to think about...

Life > Death

Easter! Wow, can you believe it... this is what it's all about. It's easy to get lost in all the beautiful colours and chocolate during Easter. It can even be confusing as to why we even celebrate. We celebrate Easter because death has been conquered. Jesus died, even though he was the only person who ever lived who didn't deserve to die. But three days later He came back to life! He came back to life and began to show Himself to His friends who thought He was gone forever.

Remember that hurt never wins. It's true! Hurt, pain, death... it will never have the final say on the life Jesus offers. He gave his life to hurt and death so that you might be able to live a life full of joy forever. If you put your faith in Jesus and believe that He died on the cross and came back to life to pay the price for your sins, you can have joy in this life and for all eternity! That's what we celebrate at Easter. Not only that, but everyone you meet can also see what it means to follow Jesus' way. The good news is this: Jesus was raised from the dead so you can live an eternal life. Believe in Jesus, believe in His way, and you will be healed and filled with joy as you start to live more like Him!

Question Time:

When do you feel most loved?

How can you believe in Jesus?

What happens when put our faith in (believe) Jesus?

Sometimes it's hard to believe when you can't see, and you're not alone. One of the ways we can help others see Jesus is by trying to live like He did. Jesus came to serve, and you can serve others too.

Luke 24:1-8 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' "
Then they remembered his words.

Next Steps: Share the good news of Jesus' resurrection today. Celebrate with your friends and family. Remind each other to live life the way Jesus lived life.

Take a moment and show how He lived so that others might believe.

More to think about...

A New Day, A New Way

We've learned a lot this Easter season, but the good news is that it's not over. Have you ever thought that you don't have power or influence because you're young or small? That's a crummy feeling, and it can make you feel insignificant. The whole purpose of Jesus rising from the grave is so that He can empower you with God's Holy Spirit. You can do the very things He did. You can be small and yet have a BIG impact. The purpose of His Spirit is to give you the very same strength and resolve that Jesus had, even in hard situations. That means there is no task too big and no opportunity out of reach. All you have to do is depend on Jesus and His way, and you can accomplish big things for Him. This doesn't mean that suddenly you're going to be able to have the ability to levitate cookies and drop them into your mouth. This does mean, however, that when you're doing things for God's Kingdom and for His love to be shown, God will help you accomplish ANYTHING.

Question Time:

Have you ever felt small and insignificant?

How does it make you feel to know that you've been empowered by the Holy Spirit?

What is something this week you can do to share the love of Jesus?

Jesus' disciples were scared after He died. They locked themselves in a room, and He came to tell them that He was giving them the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:36-49 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence. He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

You can be given Jesus' power and receive the Holy Spirit if you believe in Him. Don't be afraid, for He is with you always.

Next Steps: Pray for strength in those moments you feel like you can't accomplish a big task. Don't forget that Jesus is with you always, ready to help, all you have to do is ask.