

**Crossing Kids Family Devotional
2019**

Dear Parents,

Thank you for attending our Family Movie Night featuring *Inside Out*. Just like Joy, it might be easy for us to think that the only good or important emotion we can have is happiness. God didn't just give us one feeling, though. He gave us many different emotions that help us process everything we experience. Even more than that, God became a person—Jesus—who experienced all of these emotions perfectly.

Did you know that Jesus felt sad? Once his friend Lazarus was very sick and died. Jesus went to see his sisters and the place they buried Lazarus and Jesus cried. The Book of Isaiah even calls Jesus a *"man of sorrows or sad things, someone who knew all about pain."* Did you know that Jesus felt overwhelmed? Right before Jesus died on the cross, he went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray because his heart was so heavy. Did you know that Jesus felt angry? When Jesus saw that God's temple had been turned into a place for people to be greedy, he overturned tables and benches and drove out the people selling things rather than creating a place of worship.

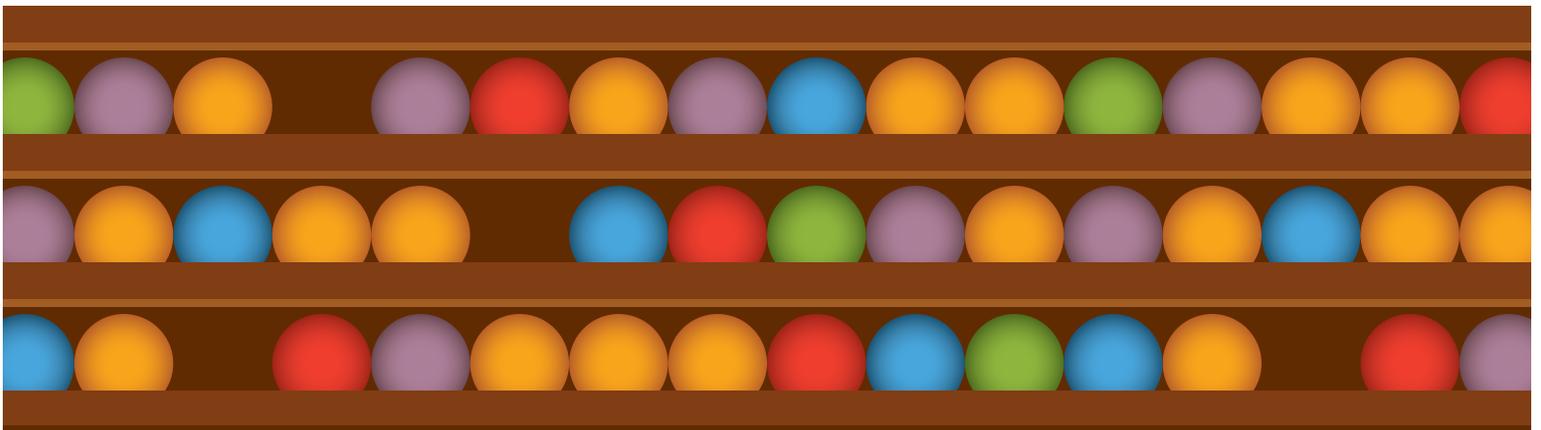
Because He was fully human, Jesus experienced all of the feelings that you and I do, not just the happy ones. Because He was fully God, He experienced all of these things without sin.

In a few weeks, we will celebrate Easter. Sometimes it's easy for us to focus on the happy parts of Easter, especially the happiest part of all—when Jesus rose from the dead. But before you and I can celebrate the happy parts, we need to remember that the empty tomb only comes through the cross where Jesus took our sin, bled, and died so that we could have new life in Him. The happiest day of all comes after one of the saddest.

This six-day devotional walks you through the events of Holy Week and every emotion Jesus and his followers experienced from Palm Sunday to Easter. Additionally, we are providing a Holy Week playlist on Spotify that you can listen to together as a family. We are praying these resources help each person prepare to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection in a special way this year.

Sincerely,
Crossing Kids

*This devotional was written by Emily Pilkington.



Emotion 1: Excited

Holy Week Event: Palm Sunday

Read:

Read pages 1-2 of *Holy Week: An Emotions Primer*, stopping at the picture of Jesus riding a donkey into Jerusalem.

Discuss:

Have everyone share a time that they were **excited**.

Say: In today's story the people who gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast were **excited**. When Jesus rode into town on a donkey, it was the first time the people had seen him since he raised Lazarus from the dead. They heard about the incredible things Jesus had done and they wanted to catch a glimpse of him.¹ Let's read more about it together now.

Scripture Reading:

Choose one of the following options and read the story together as a family.

- Pages 612-613 of *The Action Bible* (Elementary)
- Luke 19:28-44 (All Ages)

Ask:

Why did people throw their coats on the ground and wave palm branches? *(To worship Jesus. They were **excited** to see him. They thought he was the King who was coming to save them. He was, but not in the way they expected.)*

What did the people say while they waved palm branches? *(Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna means, "Salvation or saving is here! Hurray for salvation! It's here! Salvation! Salvation!"² They were **excited** and celebrated their coming King even though they didn't understand how Jesus would save.)*

How can we worship King Jesus today? *(Take responses.)*

Pray: Jesus, like the people who came to worship you as King on Palm Sunday, we shout "Hosanna! Hosanna!" Salvation and saving is here through you. Hurray for the saving you offer us through your death and resurrection! Help us to recognize that you are the King of our lives. Help us to worship you with the **excitement** you deserve. Amen.

Holy Week Trail:

Place the Palm Branch sticker on the "**Excited**" portion of your Holy Week Trail.

Additional Activity:

Act out the story of Palm Sunday by making palm branches out of paper, shouting Hosanna, and having a dance party to one of the Hosanna songs on our Holy Week playlist.

¹ <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/easter-week-in-real-time/>

² <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/hosanna>

Emotion 2: Angry

Holy Week Event: Jesus Clears the Temple

Review:

Read pages 1-4 of *Holy Week: An Emotions Primer*, stopping at the picture of Jesus clearing the temple.

Discuss:

Have everyone in the family share a time that they were **angry**. What are some things that we do or say when we're **angry**?

Say: **Anger** is a tricky emotion. Sometimes you and I feel **angry** for reasons that are right or good. For example, if someone calls a classmate or your brother or sister a rude name or does something unkind, anger might be the right way to feel. Something bad has happened. Someone has been hurt. The tricky part about anger, though, is that sometimes our anger can happen for reasons that are sinful or selfish. We want something that someone else has so we take it from them. Someone does something annoying so we yell at them. We might become so **angry** at someone that we try to hurt them with our words or our bodies.

One of the best things that we can do when we feel **angry** is to use our words to tell someone that can help us figure out what to do with the mad we feel inside.³

Anger is an emotion that God gave us. It's an emotion that Jesus experienced. Unlike us, though, Jesus' **anger** was always perfect. In today's story, Jesus is **angry** because God's temple had been turned into a place for people to be greedy rather than a place of worship. Let's read what happens next now.

Scripture Reading:

Choose one of the following options and read the story together as a family.

- Pages 614-615 of The Action Bible (Elementary)
- John 2:13-22 (All Ages)

Ask:

Why was Jesus angry? (*Greedy people had turned God's temple into a place for making money rather than a place for worshipping God.*)

Does Jesus' response surprise you at all? What do we learn about Jesus from this event?

(*Take responses. He takes the worship of God very seriously. He is **angry** at the way the religious rulers are teaching untrue things about God.*)

Pray: Jesus, unlike us, your **anger** is perfect and shows us just how seriously you take sin. Give us hearts that are **angry** for the things that make you **angry** and help us to respond in the way that you would respond. Help us to know what to do with the mad that we feel. Help our homes and our churches to be places that worship you in the right ways and for the right reasons. Amen.

Holy Week Trail:

Place the Overturned Table sticker on the "**Angry**" portion of your Holy Week Trail.

³ http://www.neighborhoodarchive.com/music/songs/what_do_you_do.html

Emotions 3 and 4: Loved and Thankful

Holy Week Events: Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet and the Last Supper

Review:

Read pages 1-8 of *Holy Week: An Emotions Primer*, stopping at the picture of Jesus breaking bread at The Last Supper.

Discuss: Have everyone in the family share a time that they felt **loved** or **thankful**.

Ask: What is a chore or job that no one in our family likes to do?

Say: In today's story, Jesus shows that he is a different kind of King, a King that didn't come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45.) Before Jesus and his disciples enjoyed the Passover meal together, Jesus took off his robe, picked up a bowl of water, knelt down, and washed his disciples' feet. He did the job of the lowliest servant, a job that no one liked to do as a way to **love** his disciples. Let's read more about it together now.

Scripture Reading:

Choose one of the following options and read the story together as a family.

- Pages 286-292 of The Jesus Storybook Bible
- Pages 619-624 of The Action Bible
- John 13:1-17 and Luke 22:17-20

Ask:

Why did Jesus wash his disciples' feet? *(Because he **loved** them and was showing them/us how to **love** each other.)*

What does this story tell us about Jesus? *(He **loves** in a way that serves and sacrifices. He's the King who serves.)*

What did Jesus and his followers eat at the Last Supper? (Bread and Wine)

What do the bread and wine remind us of? *(The bread reminds us that Jesus' body was broken for us. The wine reminds us that Jesus' blood was poured out for our sin.)*

Say: We celebrate this special meal together at church when we celebrate communion or The Lord's Supper. When we share this meal, we give **thanks** and remember that Jesus gave his body and blood for us on the cross so that we could be forgiven.

Because Jesus **loved, served, and laid down his life for us first, how can we do the same at home or at school?** *(Take responses.)*

Pray: Jesus, you are the King who didn't come to be served but to serve and give your life as a ransom for many. Thank you for loving us the way that you loved your disciples. Thank you for laying your life down and sacrificing everything so that not just our feet but our hearts can be clean and we can have new life in you. Help us to **love** and serve others the way that you have **loved** and served us. Amen.

Holy Week Trail:

Place Feet/Bowl of Water sticker on the "**Loved**" portion of your Holy Week Trail and the Wine/Bread sticker on the "**Thankful**" portion.

Additional Activity: Take turns washing each other's feet. Listen to "Jesus, Thank You" from the Holy Week Playlist as you share a meal together.

Emotions 5 and 6: Overwhelmed and Frustrated

Holy Week Events: The Garden of Gethsemane and Jesus on Trial

Review:

Read pages 1-12 of *Holy Week: An Emotions Primer*, stopping at the picture of Pontius Pilate shrugging his shoulders.

Discuss:

Have everyone share a time they felt **overwhelmed** or **frustrated**.

Say: In today's story, Jesus knows that the time has come for him to die on the cross. He knows that one of his friends (Judas) will betray him, another friend (Peter) will deny him, his followers will scatter and hide, God the Father will leave him for the first time in eternity, he will be beaten, mocked, and die a gruesome death on the cross. His heart was greatly troubled as he faced all of this for you and me. When Jesus felt **overwhelmed** by the hard things he faced, he did what you and I should do when we feel **overwhelmed**—he prayed. Let's read more about this together now.

Scripture Reading:

Choose one of the following options and read the story together as a family.

- Pages 294-301 of The Jesus Storybook Bible
- Pages 360-370 of The Big Picture Story Bible
- Pages 625-634 of The Action Bible
- Mark 14:32-42 and Luke 23:13-24

Ask:

What does Jesus do when he is overwhelmed? *(He goes to a quiet place and prays.)*

What does Jesus pray? *(He says, "Everything is possible for you." He asks God to take away this "cup" (hard thing) from him. "Yet, not as I will but as you will.")*

Why did Jesus face the great sadness, loneliness, and pain of the cross? *(Because of his great love for you and for me. He was willing to lose everything so that you and I could have new life in him.)*

Jesus was arrested, placed on trial, and taken to Pontius Pilate who had the authority to put someone to death. Did Pilate think Jesus was guilty? *(No. He was **frustrated** that the people wanted to kill Jesus, but because the people persisted he gave in and had the soldiers take Jesus away to be killed.)*

Pray: Jesus, when we feel afraid or **overwhelmed**, when we face something hard, remind us that you too experienced these feelings at the Garden of Gethsemane. Help us to know what the cross cost you. Help us to understand just how great your love for us is. Help us to come to you in prayer first when we feel **overwhelmed**. Amen.

Holy Week Trail:

Place the Praying Hands sticker on the "**Overwhelmed**" portion of your Holy Week Trail and the Pontius Pilate sticker on the "**Frustrated**" portion.

Additional Activity:

Spend some time praying for someone you know who feels **overwhelmed** by a difficulty they are facing.

Emotions 7 and 8: Scared and Sad

Holy Week Events: Jesus is Crucified and Buried

Review:

Read pages 1-16 of *Holy Week: An Emotions Primer*, stopping at the picture of the dark tomb.

Discuss:

Have everyone share a time they felt **scared** or **sad**.

Say: **Scared** and **sad** are two feelings that often go together. In today's story, Jesus is crucified for our sin. His followers are overwhelmingly **sad** and **scared**. Those who put Jesus to death were terrified when they realized that Jesus really was God's son. When you and I read this story together, we might also feel some of those **scared** or **sad** emotions. That makes sense because Good Friday, the day that Jesus died on the cross for our sin, is the **saddest** day in all of human history. Let's read more about it together now.

Scripture Reading:

Choose one of the following options and read the story together as a family.

- Pages 410-419 of The Rhyme Bible
- Pages 372-381 of The Big Picture Storybook Bible
- Pages 302-309 of The Jesus Storybook Bible
- Pages 635-640 of The Action Bible
- Luke 23:33-56

Ask:

If you were one of Jesus' disciples, how would you feel? (*Sad, confused, afraid, etc...*)

All of this happened on a day we call "Good Friday." Why do you think Christians can call what happened on this day "good?" (*In order for our sin to be forgiven and for our relationship with God to be restored, Jesus had to die on the cross. Even though it is a day of much sadness, it's a day of hope. Because of what happened on the cross, we are forgiven if we trust in Jesus as our Savior.*)

Pray: Jesus, thank you for loving us so much that you willingly suffered and died in our place. Thank you for taking our sin so that we could have your righteousness. Help us to trust in you as our Savior. Amen.

Holy Week Trail:

Place the Cross sticker on the "**Scared**" portion of your Holy Week Trail and the Dark Tomb sticker on the "**Sad**" portion.

Additional Activity:

Listen to "Hey Man" or "Jesus Came to Save Sinners" on your Holy Week Playlist.

Emotions 9 and 10: Surprised and Joyful

Holy Week Events: Jesus Rises from the Dead and Appears to Disciples

Review:

Read *Holy Week: An Emotions Primer* from start to finish.

Discuss:

Have everyone share a time they felt **surprised** or **joyful**.

Say: When we last left off, Jesus' followers had just experienced the saddest day in history. Jesus died. They took his body down from the cross, and they buried him. Nothing made sense. They were scared and sad. How could Jesus have died? Thankfully, the story of Holy Week doesn't end with fear or sadness. It ends with the greatest news of all, Jesus is alive! Let's read more about this together now.

Scripture Reading:

Choose one of the following options and read the story together as a family.

- Pages 420-429 of *The Rhyme Bible*
- Pages 384-395 of *The Big Picture Storybook Bible*
- Pages 310-321 of *The Jesus Storybook Bible*
- Pages 641-644 of *The Action Bible*
- Luke 24:1-12; 36-43

Ask:

What happened when Jesus' followers reached the tomb on Easter Sunday? *(They saw that it was empty! They weren't sure what had happened. An angel told them that Jesus was not there and that he had risen.)*

What happened when Jesus' followers saw the risen Jesus? *(They were **surprised** and their hearts were filled with **joy**. They worshiped him and they couldn't wait to tell other people.)*

Why do you think it was important for Jesus to rise from the dead? *(It shows that sin and death have no power over Jesus or those who believe. Just as he rose from the dead, someday we too will rise again and live forever with him in the new heaven and the new earth if we trust in Him as Savior. His resurrection guarantees our own.)*

Pray: Jesus, you have power over all things including sin and death. Thank you for rising again. Thank you for keeping your promises and inviting us to have new life in you. Help us to share this good news with others and experience the **joy** of your resurrection fully this Easter. Amen.

Holy Week Trail:

Place the Empty Tomb sticker on the "**Surprised**" portion of your Holy Week Trail and the Risen Jesus Sticker on the "**Joyful**" portion.

Additional Activity:

Have a dance party to "Happy Day" or "Christ is Risen," or "Go" on your Holy Week Playlist. Bake resurrection rolls by googling the recipe.

Holy Week Playlist

| TITLE | ARTIST |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Hosanna Rock | Little Praise Party, Yancy |
| Hosanna - Live | Passion, Christy Nockels |
| Jesus, Thank You | Sovereign Grace Music |
| New Creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) | Seeds Family Worship |
| Hey Man (Romans 5:8, 6:23) | Seeds Family Worship |
| Eternal Life (John 3:16) | Seeds Family Worship |
| Jesus Came To Save Sinners | The Village Church |
| The Life (John 14:6, 1 John 5:11-12) | Seeds Family Worship |
| Happy Day | Fee |
| Christ Is Risen | Matt Maher |
| Go (Matthew 28:19) | Seeds Family Worship |

Use this QR Code to find the playlist or find it on the Crossing Kids Facebook page.

