

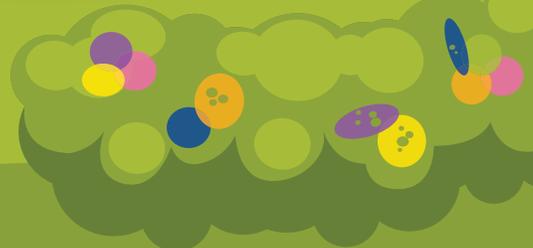
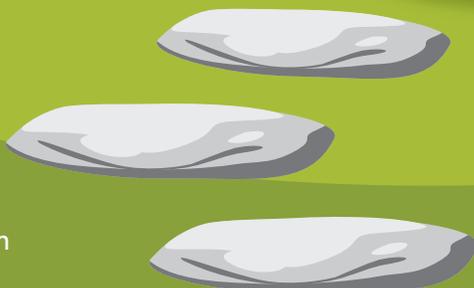
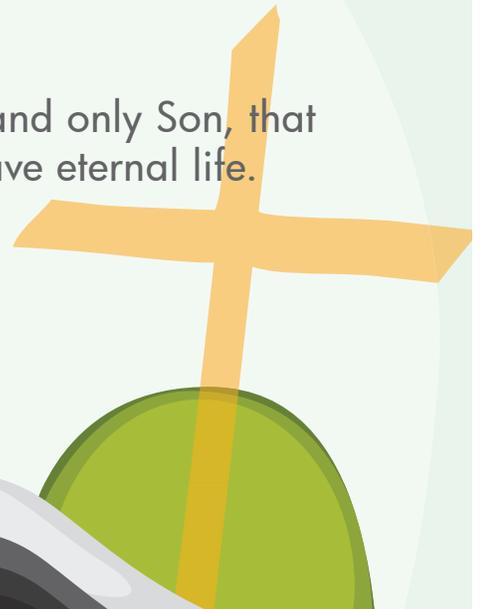
# Seeds of Easter

Family Easter Celebration

## Memory Verse:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16



\*This devotional was written  
by Emily Powell.





# Day One: Garden #1

## Introduction:

What are some things that you know about gardens? (Take responses.)

You're exactly right, usually when we think of a garden, we think of a place where plants grow. That's exactly what our garden is going to do over the next few weeks. This garden also has another purpose, though. It's a garden that will help us prepare our hearts for Easter. It's also a garden that can remind us of two different important gardens in the Bible. We are going to read about one garden tonight and another garden later this week.

## Bible Discussion:

**Read:** "The Terrible Lie" on p. 28-37 of *The Jesus Storybook Bible* or Genesis 3.

**Ask:** What happened in the Garden of Eden? (God had made a perfect place for Adam and Eve to live, but they disobeyed God and a terrible lie came into the world. This terrible lie was sin. Sin separated Adam and Eve from God. It is still what separates us from Him today. From now on everything would die—even though it was all supposed to last forever.)

What did God do when this happened? (He made clothes for Adam and Eve. They had to leave the garden. Everything came under a curse, but God also made a promise. A promise that the destruction of sin wouldn't always be so. One day, He would rescue His people, get rid of the sin and the dark and the sadness, and make all things right again.)

**Say:** The Garden of Eden was such a beautiful place. More beautiful than anything we can even imagine, I'm sure. But the Garden of Eden was also a very sad place, the place where sin entered the world.

I love that even at the end of this story God didn't end with sadness, but with a promise. A promise He would keep at Easter.

## Memory Verse, Prayer and Water Garden:

Let's practice our memory verse together. (You may decide to break the verse into parts or create motions for younger children.)

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

**John 3:16**

**Pray together. Thank God for sending His Son to take away the sin of the world that started all the way back in the Garden of Eden.**

Listen to "Eternal Life" on the Seeds Family Worship CD you received at Family Easter Celebration. While you listen, water your garden.



# Day Two: Garden #2

## Introduction:

In our Day 1 devotional, we learned about a garden. What do you remember about that place? (The Garden of Eden was a beautiful, perfect place that God created. Adam and Eve lived there in perfect relationship with God and each other until they believed the lie told by Satan/the snake and disobeyed God. They had to leave the perfect garden. At the end of the story, though, God made a promise that someday He would send a rescuer to save His people from sin and make all things new.)

The Garden of Eden was a beautiful place, but also one of sadness. It was the place that sin entered the world. Tonight we're going to read about another garden. Something sad happens in this garden too, but even though there is sadness, there is hope in this garden. You see this garden was an important part of God's special rescue plan. Let's read more about it together.

## Bible Discussion:

**Read:** "A Dark Night in the Garden" on p. 294-301 of *The Jesus Storybook Bible* or Mark 14:32-50.

**Ask:** What happened in the Garden of Gethsemane? (Jesus took His disciples there to pray with Him. Jesus prayed to God. His heart was heavy because He knew how difficult it would be to repair what had happened in the Garden of Eden. He knew it would cost Him His life and that He would have to be separated from God in our place. His friends betrayed Him in the Garden.)

Just like the Garden of Eden, Gethsemane had some very sad things happen in it. These sad things were needed, though, for God to keep His greatest promise of all. It's just like our memory verse says. Let's practice it together and listen to it on our Seeds Family Worship CD.

## Memory Verse, Prayer and Water Garden:

Let's practice our memory verse together. (You may decide to break the verse into parts or create motions for younger children.)

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

**John 3:16**

**Pray together. Thank Jesus for facing all of the sadness and pain of the Garden of Gethsemane in order to bring us back to God.**

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# Day Three: Cross

## Introduction:

Today we're going to add two new parts to our Easter garden. The first thing we will add is the cross. Let's place it on the top of the hill and read more about what this part of our garden reminds us of. (Have child place the cross in the garden.)

## Bible Discussion:

**Read:** "The Sun Stops Shining" on p. 302-309 of *The Jesus Storybook Bible* or Mark 15:21-47.

**Ask:** 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 us to no longer be separated from God, Jesus had to die on the cross. Even though Good Friday is a day of much sadness, it's a day of hope. Because of what happened on the Cross, we are forgiven if we believe and trust in Jesus to be our Savior.)

When we look at the cross in our garden, what does it remind us of? (Jesus taking on the sin of the world and dying in our place so that we can someday live with Him if we believe and trust in Him as our Savior.)

**Say:** We have one more part to add to our garden tonight. Does anyone know what that could be? (A stone.) At the end of tonight's story, they placed Jesus in the tomb and rolled a large heavy stone in front of it so that no one could get in or out. To help us remember this part of the story, let's place a stone in front of the tomb in our garden.

## Memory Verse, Prayer and Water Garden:

Let's practice our memory verse together. (You may decide to break the verse into parts or create motions for younger children.)

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.  
John 3:16**

**Pray together. Thank Jesus for facing the pain of the cross to rescue us from the power of sin.**

Listen to "Eternal Life" on the Seeds Family Worship CD you received at Family Easter Celebration. While you listen, water your garden.



# Day Four: Resurrection

## Introduction:

Yesterday, we added two new parts to our garden. What did we add? (A cross and a stone in front of the tomb.)

In tonight's story, we're going to change something. Let's read more about it together and see if you can guess what we need to do.

## Bible Discussion:

**Read:** "God's Wonderful Surprise" on pp. 310-317 of *The Jesus Storybook Bible* or Mark 16.

**Ask:** What happened to the stone in our story tonight? (It was rolled away!)

Let's move our stone together to remind us that Jesus is no longer there. He is alive!

Why do you think it was important for Jesus to rise from the dead? (To show that sin and death have no power over Him or over those who believe. Just as He rose from the dead, someday we too will rise again. We will live with Him forever in heaven when we die, if we believe and trust in Him as our Savior.)

What did Mary do when she discovered Jesus was alive? (She went and told the good news to others!)

When we hear the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection, we don't want to keep it to ourselves. We want to share it with others. Who are some people we could share this good news with? Tonight when we pray, let's thank Him for the good news that comes through the cross and the empty tomb. Let's also ask God to help us share this with other people we know.

## Memory Verse, Prayer and Water Garden:

Let's practice our memory verse together. (You may decide to break the verse into parts or create motions for younger children.)

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

**John 3:16**

**Pray together. Thank God for dying on the cross and rising again to rescue us from our sin. Pray for the people you want to share this good news with.**

Listen to "Eternal Life" on the Seeds Family Worship CD you received at Family Easter Celebration. While you listen, water your garden.