

HOLY WEEK READINGS

SUNDAY Palm Sunday

Remember:

- Israel had been in captivity, under rule of others since Babylon had taken them captive.
- Babylon was the kingdom that ruled when Daniel was alive.
- Persia rules over them. Daniel is still alive. (Daniel in Lion's Den)
- The Persian King allows the Jews to return, Ezra and Nehemiah. They rebuild the walls and temple.
- Some Jews stay in Persia. (Esther)
- Greeks rule during the time between the Old and New Testament.
- When the New Testament opens the Romans rule over Israel. They are not their own nation, but a people group under the rule of another empire.

Read:

Luke 19: 28-44

Revelation 19:11-16

Activities:

Open Resurrection Egg 1

Compare Matthew and Revelation passages.

Make a T chart (2 columns). Both of these passages describe the coming of Jesus. Compare the two. How does Jesus come the first time? What does He ride? What do the people say? What does He do? How does He come the second time? What do the people say? What does Jesus do?

Questions for Discussion:

Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem?

Why does Jesus come differently in His first and second coming? What are the different purposes for His two comings?

MONDAY Jesus in the temple

Remember:

- The temple was the place God set up for Israel to approach Him and worship Him. God set up a means for Him to be able to dwell with man .
- God wants to dwell with man. Exodus 25:8
- God is holy and separate from man. Exodus 40:34-35, Isaiah 6: 3

Read:

Luke 19:45-48

Matthew 21:12-13

Isaiah 56:7

Jeremiah 7:11

Activities:

Open Resurrection Egg 2

Make a list of things that you can pray for.

Questions for Discussion:

What was the temple to be used for? What were the people using it for?

Why was Jesus angry? Is it okay to be angry?

Who was Jesus offended for, Himself or someone else?

Who is righteous anger offended for? Who is sinful anger offended for?

Where do we worship God now?

TUESDAY Jesus and those who reject Him

Remember:

- The temple was the place Jesus went to teach often.
- As a young boy Jesus had gone to the temple to talk, learn, and teach. Luke 2: 41-52

Read:

Read: Luke 20:1-47

Psalm 118:22

Activities:

Open Resurrection Egg 2 again

Look at the 3 main conversations/questions in this passage and break them apart.

- *Pharisees- 20:2* Tell us by what authority you are doing these things? They attack Jesus' authority.
- *Scribes and chief priests' spies- 20: 22* Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? They attack Jesus' ownership/God's stewardship given to Jesus.
- *Sadducees- 20:28* Regarding the woman who married seven brothers, In the resurrection therefore, which one's wife will she be? They mock Jesus' power and plan for Resurrection.

Each time Jesus responded similarly. (He asked a question back) Can you find the questions He asked back to each group? Can you find how they relate to ...

- His authority
- His ownership/stewardship of job
- His power and plan of Resurrection?

Questions for Discussion:

How did Jesus respond to the questions He was asked? What demeanor did He take?

Why do you think He told them a parable?

What was the command He gave His disciples at the conclusion of these conversations? Why?

What

principle can we take away from these 3 conversations?

WEDNESDAY Jesus betrayed

Jesus was betrayed by Judas and denied by Peter. Both rejected Jesus in some form. But their stories ended up differently. These passages will help you analyze the events but also help you look into the motivations and the outcomes. One of the principles to take away with is how to deal with sin.

Remember:

- Both Judas and Peter were disciples of Jesus. They both had walked with Him, seen His miracles and heard His teachings.

Read:

Judas: John 13:21-30; Luke 22:1-6

Peter: John 13:36-38; Luke 22:54-62

Activities:

Open Resurrection Egg 3

(There are 2 optional activities. The second activity talks about Judas' suicide. Parents, you be the judge of appropriate age levels for this topic.)

Option 1- Think through what it is like to be betrayed. Make a list of adjectives that would describe how you would feel.

Option 2- Compare the betrayal of Jesus by Judas and the denial of Jesus by Peter. What is different? What is the same? How did each feel afterwards? How did each end up afterwards?

References: Judas- Matthew 27: 1-10, Peter- John 21: 15-17

Questions for Discussion:

How did Judas get to a place where he was willing to betray Jesus?

How can we make sure we stay faithful to Jesus?

What should we do when we sin?

THURSDAY Passover Meal

Remember:

- The Passover was a celebration 2,000 years before Jesus about God's salvation of the Jews and their deliverance from Egypt.
- Salvation came through the covering of blood.
- Sin was to be eliminated symbolically through no yeast

Read:

Exodus 12

Luke 22:7-30

John 13:1-20

Activities:

Open Resurrection Eggs 4-5

Passover Meal

Simple Passover meal with the main elements. My purpose is to have a picture of what Jesus was doing that night, not exact accuracy of a traditional Passover meal.

Passover meal ingredients:

Roast to symbolize the lamb

Wine or juice to symbolize the cup and the blood

Matzah Bread to symbolize the unleavened bread- no sin- and Jesus' broken body

Charoset to symbolize the mortar for the bricks the Israelites had to make in Egypt

Parsley to symbolize the hyssop Israel used to dip into the lamb's blood.

Bitter herb like horseradish, lettuce, or celery to symbolize the bitterness of slavery

Eggs to symbolize offerings made on the 2nd day of Passover. (We do hard-boiled eggs)

Washing of Feet

We show the idea of servanthood by washing feet. We just use wipes or washcloths and talk about why Jesus did this. The principle being that it was to show He came as a servant, to die.

Charoset Recipe:

3 large apples

½ cup of walnuts

¼ teaspoon of cinnamon

2 Tablespoons of wine or juice

Finely chop all ingredients and mix.

Questions for Discussion:

How is Jesus like the Passover lamb?

Do you think that at the time of the first Passover God had a plan

FRIDAY Jesus Trial and Death

Remember:

- When Adam and Eve sinned man was separated from God.
- God made a solution through sending His son Jesus.

Read:

Read: Luke 22:39-71, 23:1-46

Psalm 22

Isaiah 53:1-9

Open Resurrection Eggs 6-7

Events to point out:

-Agony in the Garden and Jesus' prayer

-The betrayal of Judas and the mob to arrest Him

-The Trial- the trial begins at night. Note that Jesus never rested or slept.

1. Caiphas the High priest- home at night. Jesus was taken to the high priest's home, Caiphas, first. Note that they did this in the middle of the night, or Jewish early morning. They tried to find false witnesses and trump up charges against Jesus. The only thing they could find was a witness who testified that Jesus said he would destroy the temple and raise it up. Then Jesus 'condemns' himself by saying he is the Son of God, blasphemy, deserving of death according to Jewish law.
2. Pilate- governor of Judea. Jerusalem is in the province of Judea so Jesus was sent to Pilate first. When Pilate realized Jesus was a Galilean, he sent Him to Herod, the governor of that province.
3. Herod- governor of Galilee. Herod finds no guilt in Jesus. Since Herod is visiting Jerusalem and not in his jurisdictional area he sends Jesus back to Pilate.
4. Pilate condemns him based on the crowds' testimony, even though he finds no guilt.

Activities:

Open Resurrection Egg 8-10

Other:

- Taste Vinegar
- Make a list of the Accusations against Jesus
- Note the responses Jesus gave.
- Compare the passages of Scripture about Jesus' suffering, Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 with the account in Luke 22 and 23.

Questions for Discussion:

How did Jesus defend Himself?

Why did Jesus have to die?

What was the significance of the temple veil ripping in half?

Is Jesus' death enough? How can you know?

SATURDAY Jesus' Burial

Read:

Luke: 23:50-56

Activities:

Open Resurrection Egg 11

Questions for Discussion:

Where was Jesus when His body was dead? Can you find proof?

SUNDAY- THE RESURRECTION!

Read:

Luke 24:1-48

Psalm 24:7-10

Activities:

Open Resurrection Eggs # 12 (review egg 10)

Questions for Discussion:

What did Jesus accomplish when He died?

What did Jesus accomplish when He rose?

Jesus work on the earth

When Jesus died on the cross God's plan for salvation was accomplished. Sin was paid for. Because Jesus died, men could be cleansed from sin. Jesus satisfied God's wrath for sin. Men could now know the Holy God and approach Him. One of the signs of this new access to God was the temple veil being torn in two at Jesus' death. It is one of my favorite parts of the Resurrection story. Can you imagine being a priest in the temple or being outside in the courtyard? You are doing your normal work, having your normal conversation, or coming to present your offering and you hear that the veil that separates the most holy place in the temple has ripped. This veil was the thickness of a man's hand. It tore from the top to the bottom.

What was the veil?

There were two areas in the temple. The Sanctuary contained the furnishings, the table of showbread, the lamp stand, the altar of incense. The priests were the only ones allowed in the temple. There was another room or section of temple called the Holy of Holies. The veil separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple. The Holy of Holies was the most sacred place of the temple, also called the innermost sanctuary. It is where God's presence dwelt. It contained the ark of the covenant. A box with two cherubs or angels on it. In between the angels was the mercy seat where God would dwell or sit. Only one priest could go past this

veil and only one day a year, on the day of atonement. The veil was a symbol of God's unapproachability.

The Tabernacle was a picture of things to come. God had made a way that man could approach and know Him, the tabernacle. The tabernacle was the place and the sacrifices were the means. The tabernacle allowed men to sacrifice to God to pay for their sins so that they could temporarily commune with. This is as close, as intimate, as revealing, that a holy God could be to sinful man.

The really cool part is that the earthly tabernacle was made after the model of the real one. Hebrews 9:11 "But when Christ appeared as high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;" The real tabernacle is heaven itself. Hebrews 9:12 says, "and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. The Bible never mentions Jesus entering the Holy of Holies in the earthly temple, which would have been a pretty big thing to do and blasphemous to the Jews. The Bible can only be speaking of heaven itself.

Jesus work in heaven

When Jesus died and that veil tore. It was a picture of what He was doing in heaven. The veil being torn symbolized Jesus breaking the barrier between God and man and opening the access to God. But literally Jesus was opening up the gates of heaven for all men to come in. He opened up the dividing wall, door, gate, veil, whatever you want to call it, between a holy God and sinful man. He entered the real tabernacle in heaven where God dwells, seated on His throne of grace (Heb 4:16) guarded also by angels (Revelation 4). He opened God's heavenly sanctuary, the true tabernacle for men to come in.

Jesus was the first man to enter heaven. Do you realize He left heaven a spirit and came back a man? Heaven did not recognize Him, "Who is this King?" the heavenly citizens ask in Psalm 24. The Psalm describes the King as one who won a battle, was mighty, strong and victorious. His victory was over sin.

The real Holy of Holies has been opened up, not just for one man to enter once a year, but for all men to access any time. The presence of God does not sit on a man-made ark with hand-crafted cherubim, but on the ultimate throne of grace surrounded by angels who guard His throne and never cease to worship Him (Rev 4). And we can enter that throne room, that most holy place because of Jesus' work. This was God's plan. The tabernacle, the veil, it all pointed to a perfect sacrifice, a perfect tabernacle, and a perfect solution.