



My Awesome God Easter Story Booklet

Here's a way to use the seven stories in this booklet. Beginning with Palm Sunday, read one story each day with your child(ren). On Easter Sunday, read all the stories together and praise God for the miracle of Jesus' resurrection! The suggested activities below accompany the daily readings.

Palm Sunday—Read: *Jesus Rides into Jerusalem*

Reenact Jesus' entrance into the city—lay coats on the floor (the more, the better!) and wave your arms up and down, saying "Hosanna—The Lord saves!" and "Praise God in heaven for Jesus!" You could also cut palm leaf shapes from construction paper or poster board and wave them around while you praise God!

Pray: Thank God for being a good King and for taking care of us.

Monday—Read: *Jesus Prays in the Garden*

Give your child(ren) a small prize or snack. Tell them that you have a really good plan for them that is much better than the prize you gave them. Encourage them to trade their small prize for your good plan. (Have something in store worth much more than the small prize, such as a trip to a park or ice cream shop.) When they choose to give up their small prize, congratulate them for choosing what was best! "Jesus had to give up some nice things to follow God's good plan, but that plan was way better for Jesus and for us!"

Pray: Thank God for helping us see His good plan for us.

Tuesday—Read: *Soldiers Arrest Jesus*

Tell your child(ren) you are going to "arrest" them like the soldiers arrested Jesus. Offer a prize if they hold their hands together behind their backs while you do an activity they might want to help with (e.g. making cookies, playing with toys, etc.). Give the prize if they keep their hands together the whole time. Ask, "How did you feel when you couldn't help me or play with me? Jesus knew that the soldiers would tie Him up and be mean to Him. But Jesus let them tie His hands because God had something wonderful planned."

Pray: Thank God that He wants to be our friend. Tell Him you want to be His good friend, too!

Wednesday—Read: *Pilate Judges Jesus*

Give your child(ren) a snack that is easily divisible, such as graham crackers or goldfish. Divide the snack unevenly, giving yourself much more than them. Ask, "Do you think this is a good and fair way to share the snack? What would make it fair?" Redistribute the

snack evenly and let your child(ren) eat. "When Pilate let soldiers hurt Jesus, that was really unfair. But Jesus didn't complain because He knew He was doing what was best for all of us."

Pray: Praise God that He has never done anything wrong. Pray that He will help people treat others fairly.

Thursday—Read: *Jesus Dies and Is Buried*

Go to a room that gets very dark when you turn off the lights. Tell your child(ren), "When Jesus was on the cross, incredible things happened! The sky became dark." Turn off the lights in the room. "The earth began to shake." Wobble around like the earth is shaking and encourage your child(ren) to do the same. "Many people couldn't even stand up!" Wobble together so much that you all fall over. "God made these things happen to show that Jesus really is God's Son." Lead your child in saying, "Jesus really is God's Son."

Pray: Thank God that He loved us so much that He died to forgive our sins.

Good Friday—Read: *Jesus Leaves the Grave*

Play a game of hide and seek with your child(ren). While the seeker looks for people, have him or her say, "Where is Jesus? I can't find Him." When the seeker finds the hider(s), have them say, "Jesus is alive!" and be joyful and happy. Explain that Mary was sad because she couldn't find Jesus' body. She became very happy when she discovered He was alive again!

Pray: Praise God for being even more powerful than death. Thank Him that Jesus is alive!

Saturday—Read: *Everyone Must Know*

Ask your child(ren) who they could tell that Jesus came to life again. Plan a time for them to tell their friends about Jesus when you can be present (e.g. when the kids are playing together at your house or at a park). After your child(ren) tell their friends, congratulate them for following Jesus' command!

Pray: Thank God for telling us about His wonderful love. Pray that those who don't know Him will hear about Him soon.