



FAMILY VERSION

Welcome to our special adventure, exploring the story of Jesus together! We're really excited to share this journey with you, where we'll learn all about the important moments leading up to Jesus' death on the cross.

As we go through this adventure, we'll watch short videos that help us understand each part of the story better. Plus, we've got some fun activities planned that will let us dive deeper into what these moments mean.

You can read some special stories from the Bible at your own pace after each video. Take your time and think about what these stories mean to you. If you're with your family or friends, you can take turns reading out loud to each other.

At some parts of our journey, there will be special activities that you can do. These activities are like treasure hunts that help us discover more about Jesus' journey and what it means for us.

We hope this adventure helps you feel closer to Jesus and understand just how much He loves us. Thank you for joining us on this special journey!

Items to gather:

Communion: bread/crackers & juice

Rock

Paper and pen

1 - A Lavish Act of Worship

Mark 14:3-9 NLT:

While Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had previously had leprosy, a woman came with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard. She broke open the jar and poured the perfume over His head.

Some of those at the table were indignant. "Why waste such expensive perfume?" they asked. "It could have been sold for a year's wages and the money given to the poor!" So they scolded her harshly.

But Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. Why criticize her for doing such a good thing to me? You will always have the poor among you, and you can help them whenever you want. But you will not always have me. She has done what she could and has anointed my body for burial ahead of time. I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman's deed will be remembered and discussed."

Interaction:

In the story, a kind woman named Mary shows her love for Jesus by pouring very special perfume on him. Mary liked to sit quietly and listen to Jesus, even when there were many other things to do. This teaches us that what really matters to God is not how busy we are but how much we love and listen to Him.

Family Activity: (Pick your favorite)

- **Finding Quiet Time:** Talk about how everyone can have a special quiet time with Jesus, just like Mary did. Ask each family member to think of one way to spend time with Jesus this week, such as reading a Bible story, praying, or drawing a picture for Him.
- **Sharing Your Heart:** Discuss what it means to give Jesus your "best" — not just things, but your attention and love. You can each share something you love about Jesus or say a thank you prayer to Him for always being your friend.
- **Creative Offering:** Create a "perfume" of your own by writing down or drawing pictures of acts of kindness and love you want to offer to Jesus and others this week. You can put these drawings or notes in a special box or jar as a reminder to give your best to Jesus, just like the perfume Mary gave.

2 - His Last Meal

Mark 14:22-26 NLT:

As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then He broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it, for this is my body." And He took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And He said to them, "This is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and His people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many. I tell you the truth, I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new in the Kingdom of God." Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

Interaction:

Communion

Taking communion isn't something that we take lightly. The Bible teaches us that is shouldn't be treated like a snack time or another meal. This is a special time when we remember what Jesus did for every one of us.

(Parents: if your kids don't understand that Jesus' sacrifice is what gives us forgiveness for our sins, we recommend you explain that He loved us so much that He gave us the greatest gift that anyone could ever give, but we don't give them communion until they have a greater understanding of what He did for us.)

Without food and water, we can't survive.

Without Jesus, we can't survive. This meal and what it symbolizes is so important.

Take bread (a representation of Jesus' broken body) and dip it in juice (representing His blood).

Hear the voice of Jesus: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many.

His sacrifice was made for YOU. YOU have been forgiven. We take time to remember because we so easily forget.

Take, eat, drink and *remember*.

3 – His Will Be Done

Mark 14:32-36 NLT:

They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, "Sit here while I go and pray." He took Peter, James, and John with him, and He became deeply troubled and distressed. He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass Him by. "Abba, Father," He cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Interaction:

In a garden filled with old olive trees called Gethsemane, which means "place where olives are squished to make oil," Jesus faced a very hard time. Just like olives are pressed to get their oil, Jesus was about to go through something very difficult because he loves us so much. He knew God had a plan for him to help everyone, even though it meant he would have to suffer.

Jesus talked to God and asked if there was any other way, but he also said he would do whatever God wanted because he trusted God's plan. This shows us that it's okay to feel scared or sad and to talk to God about anything we're feeling.

Family Discussion Time:

What are some things that you get worried about or that scare you? Did Jesus get scared?

Jesus was God's son, and He even got scared and worried. When we get scared or worried, we can go to God and talk about them. We can pray that he gives us courage.

4 - A Broken Man

Mark 14:70-72 NLT

A little later some of the other bystanders confronted Peter and said, "You must be one of them, because you are a Galilean." Peter swore, "A curse on me if I'm lying—I don't know this man you're talking about!" And immediately the rooster crowed the second time.

Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me." And he broke down and wept.

Interaction:

In a garden long ago, Peter told Jesus he would always stand by him. But later, when Jesus needed his friends the most, Peter was scared and said he didn't know Jesus, not just once, but three times. It's a reminder that sometimes, even when we want to be brave and do the right thing, we might get scared or make mistakes.

Sometimes, we might not act or speak in ways that show we follow Jesus, like not sharing, being mean, or not telling the truth. It's like we're saying we don't know Jesus with our actions, even though we love Him.

Family Activity:

Pick up a small rock or item that is kind of heavy. Think about it as if it's a mistake or a time you weren't very kind or loving. It feels heavy, doesn't it? That's how our hearts feel when we make mistakes.

This represents the times or places when we have done something wrong. It could be saying something mean, being dishonest, cheating or not obeying our parents. When we do these things it makes our insides feel real icky and heavy.

Now imagine a rock for every wrong thing you've ever done. That would be so big and heavy.. We can't handle something so heavy and so it makes us act badly to our family and friends. Jesus wants to help us with our weight.

This is how Peter felt in that moment he recognized he did something wrong.

5 - A Crucified King

Mark 15:33-37 NLT:

At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. Then at three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought He was calling for the prophet Elijah. One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to Him on a stick so he could drink. "Wait! Let's see whether Elijah comes to take Him down!" he said. Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last.

Interaction:

Jesus did something amazing for all of us. He was kind and good, the best person ever, but he chose to take on all the hurt and wrong things in the world, even though he never did anything wrong himself. This was so we could be friends with God and so that we could be with him one day in heaven. He chose to take our sins so we don't have to carry around the heavy feelings of doing wrong things.

Think about when you scrape your knee and how it hurts, but then your mom or dad puts a bandage on it, and it starts to feel better. Jesus' love is like that bandage for our hearts when we do things that aren't so great.

Family Activity:

Rock Symbol: Everyone picks a small rock. This rock is like the wrong things we've done – it's heavy when we hold onto it.

Writing Down: Take a piece of paper and write or draw something you wish you hadn't done. It's okay, you don't have to show anyone; it's just between you and Jesus.

Prayer Together: Now, as a family, you can say a prayer. You can thank Jesus for being so loving and ask him to help you feel better about the things you wrote down. You're asking Him to take away that heavy feeling, just like dropping the rock.

Letting Go: After the prayer, do something special with the rock and the paper to show you're letting go of those heavy feelings. You could bury the paper in the garden or tear it up and throw it away. Then, put the rock somewhere outside, maybe in a park or your backyard, as a way of letting go of those wrong things.

Freedom Celebration: Celebrate the light feeling of being forgiven.

6 - Son Of God

Matthew 27:50-54 NLT

'Then Jesus shouted out again, and He released his spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead. They left the cemetery after Jesus' resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people. '

Interaction:

Long ago, there was a very special place called the Temple. It was where the presence of God lived. Not everyone could go inside; it was mostly just for certain leaders, on special days. There was a big curtain that separated the most holy place because it was believed that was where God was. When Jesus came, something amazing happened. He made it so everyone could be close to God, not just the leaders or on special days. When Jesus died on the cross for us, that big curtain was torn in half, showing that now everyone could be close to God anytime.

A soldier who had seen many things noticed how special Jesus was when he was brave. He realized Jesus was not just anyone; he was the Son of God. This teaches us that we can talk to God and ask for help anytime because of what Jesus did for us.

Join us for the last song as we celebrate what Jesus did for each of us.