

# Journey with Jesus

from the beginning  
to the cross and beyond

*Inside this plan are some ideas for the week leading up to Easter to help you see the cross in the big story of the bible.*

*Feel free to use as much or as little as you like.*

*You might find it helpful to write down anything you feel Jesus is saying to you in this week.*





Sunday before Easter

## **In the beginning, in the garden**

### **To read**

**John 1:1-5 | Genesis 1:27 - 2:9**

### **To ponder and pray**

Imagine the Garden, the trees, plants and animals to enjoy. You could look out of your window or go for a walk. Praise God for his amazing creation. Imagine being with Jesus in his beautiful creation - at the beginning and right now. What is Jesus saying to you?

### **To do**

You might like to plant some sunflower seeds and enjoy waiting for them to grow in the summer. Marvel at the creativity of Jesus.



A faint, light blue background illustration depicting Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Adam is shown on the right, standing and looking towards the left. Eve is on the left, sitting and looking down. They are surrounded by lush tropical foliage, including palm trees and various leaves. The overall tone is serene and biblical.

## Monday before Easter

# Separated from God

### To read

**Genesis 3**

### To ponder and pray

Even in this difficult passage, notice how God shows love to his people. Imagine being sent away from the garden, away from where God is. Invite God to show you where you are listening to lies and not his voice.

### To do

Sin causes us to be separated from God and to suffer the struggles of that separation. As you journey through today you might have difficult tasks, situations or people to deal with. We know that Jesus has fulfilled Genesis 3v15 and is the man who strikes Satan's head. Invite him to help you overcome in the midst of these situations.



Tuesday before Easter

## **The temple and the curtain**

### **To read**

**Exodus 25:8 and 26:31 33**

### **To ponder and pray**

God wanted to be with this people, even though they kept sinning. But his presence was too holy to allow them to get too close, so he put up a curtain. Spend time letting Exodus 25v8 sink in - God's desire is to be with us.

### **To do**

You are a temple of God's Holy Spirit. God's desire to be with us is the same desire he has for those who do not yet know him. If you connect with other people today, in person, or remotely, invite Holy Spirit to reveal through you his desire to these people.



## Wednesday before Easter Jesus!

### To read

**Matthew 21:1-17**

### To ponder and pray

We've fast forwarded hundreds of years now. God has come to earth as Jesus. Jesus knows who he is and what he has been sent to do. He begins his journey to Jerusalem. Imagine being in the crowds watching on. Notice how the crowds welcome him. What would you be shouting if you were in that crowd? Or what questions might you be asking about him?

### To do

Make a cross and put it somewhere prominent - ideally over or near your main door. Use it as reminder to welcome Jesus into your house as you come in and to journey with him as you go out.

## Maundy Thursday

# The last supper

### To read

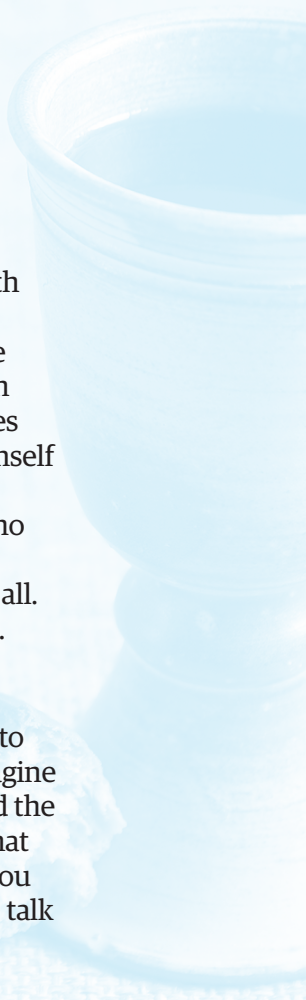
Mark 14:10-26

### To ponder and pray

Jesus shares the Passover meal with his friends. This meal reminded the people of how God rescued the Israelites from the angel of death in the book of Exodus. Now Jesus uses the bread and wine to describe himself and to make a new covenant with people. He is the Passover lamb who will rescue people from death and separation with God. Once and for all. No further sacrifice will be needed.

### To do

Use a small cup of bread and wine to have your own Passover meal. Imagine yourself at the table with Jesus and the disciples, hearing Jesus explain what the bread and wine mean now. If you are with others, you might want to talk about this together.





Good Friday

## Jesus on trial and his death

### To read

Luke 22:47-23:54

### To ponder and pray

Jesus, the only man to never sin is crucified as a criminal. From a human perspective this looks like a tragic miscarriage of justice. From God's perspective something else is going on....a perfect lamb has at last been sacrificed. Notice 23v45, the temple curtain is torn in two. No longer are people separated from God's holy presence. Spend some time contemplating what Jesus went through because he loves you.

### To do

Hold a heavy stone in your hands. Recognise the weight of your sin that Jesus carried on that cross for you that day.

Saturday

## Jesus in the grave

To read

Luke 23:55-56

To ponder and pray

Today all feels like it is lost. Jesus is dead. The grave is sealed. It is a day of rest and nothing can be done. Spend some time reflecting on the events of yesterday.

To do

***Spoiler alert*** We cannot fully imagine what was happening on that Saturday but we know that Jesus overcame the grave, sin and death. Make a list of all the things that have been put to death in the grave, that Jesus has defeated. You might like to shred or burn this list.

Easter Sunday

**He is risen!**

**He is risen indeed!**

**To read**

**John 20:1-18**

**To ponder and pray**

Imagine yourself as Mary in the garden talking to the resurrected Jesus. Hear him say your name. What do you want to say to him in return?

**To do**

As you pull back the curtains, let the light flood in. Let God's presence flood into your home and life as you open the curtains, remembering that the curtain, the divide between God and man has been torn in two! Enjoy a hollow egg - a symbol of the empty tomb.



**Monday**

## **He is alive today!**

### **To read**

**John 20:19 21:23**

### **To ponder and pray**

Imagine yourself in these different scenes, seeing Jesus again after his death! Hear his words of peace and hope. Maybe you need to hear those words again for today or others around you?

### **To do**

Jesus revealed himself as alive to many people. He still wants to do that today! He wants to be with each of us forever. Take a stone and decorate it with a message of the hope of Jesus. Place it somewhere in your community for someone else to find.

