

FULL OF FUN DEVOS & ACTIVITES FOR AN INTENTIONAL EASTER

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# DAY ONE

# SCRIPTURE

"Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So, he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him." John 13:3-5

#### DEVO

In today's Bible passage, we read that Jesus did something interesting with his friends toward the end of his life. While he was spending time with them, he got water and a towel and started washing his friends' feet! YUCK!!

You may be wondering why in the world Jesus decided to do this. But you see, back when Jesus lived on earth; there were no cars or bikes or trains or airplanes. In order to get anywhere, people had to walk. They didn't have very fancy shoes either, so their feet would get VERY dirty and smelly. They needed to be washed.

Jesus was a very important person, God's son!! Even though He was very special, He wanted His friends to know that they were special and loved by God too. So, He decided to take time to serve his friends by washing their feet. He saw something that his friends needed, and he took time to help them. He did this to show them that He loved and cared about them very much. He wanted them to see how good it feels to be served, to encourage them to serve too!

#### PRAVER

Jesus, Thank you for leading by example and showing us how to love others by serving them. We love you and we thank you for the opportunities that you give us to serve others. Please help the people that we choose to serve throughout our lives to know how loved and special that they are. Amen

# FAMILY ACTIVITY

Today, work with your family to create a plan to serve others. Maybe you can take the time to bake something yummy to give to a neighbor, or maybe you can work together to do yard work or cleaning projects for someone you know. Maybe you can make Easter cards for a local nursing home or clean up trash at a local park. There are lots of fun ways to serve other people! How do you plan to serve people together this week?



Share photos of your family serving! Tag @victorychurchpa and @victorykids.pa

# DAY TWO

# SCRIPTURE

"Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and He said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray." He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and He became anguished 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 bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." Matthew 26:36-39

# DEVO

Have you ever felt scared or overwhelmed about something? Maybe the chores have piled up at home, or someone close to you is sick, or maybe something in your life is coming up soon that you are NOT looking forward to (like a doctor's appointment or a big test). We all face situations that make us feel scared and overwhelmed sometimes. Even Jesus knows what it is like to feel this way.

Jesus was kind and loving throughout His life on earth, but many people still did not like Him. They were so jealous of His amazing goodness and power, that they wanted Him to die. So, they created a plan to arrest Jesus and take His life. Jesus knew that this was going to happen, but that God was going to use this situation to give Him the opportunity to sacrifice His life to save the world. Even though He knew that this hard situation was for an important purpose, He was still scared and overwhelmed about the pain that He was going to have to face. Jesus knew how important it was to pray and talk to God. He did this whether He was happy, sad, or scared. In today's Bible passage, we see that when Jesus was faced with this scary and overwhelming situation, He talked to God. He told God that He would follow His plan no matter what. He connected with God and talked to Him by taking time to pray; and He brought some friends with Him so that He didn't have to be alone.

# PRAVER

Jesus, Thank you for showing us how important and special prayer is. Thank you for listening to us when we talk with you. Even though life can get busy, please help us never to forget to spend time with you. We love you. Amen

# FAMILV ACTIVITY

Prayer is a great way for us to connect with God too! Think about what you can pray for and take some time to share those things with God today. You can even do this together with your family and friends!



# DAV THREE

#### SCRIPTURE

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life." John 3:16

#### DEVO

Have you ever been punished for something that you didn't do? Well, Jesus was too! But what is super special about Jesus, is that He chose to take on this punishment, because He didn't want us to have to!

You see, everyone in this world has struggled with sin. This means that all of us have done things that have gone against God by doing things that do not honor Him. For example, God asks us to show love and respect to others and to ourselves. In the Bible, God even told a man named Moses, to write down a list of ten special rules called the ten commandments (check them out in Exodus 20), that show us how to do this. But if we are honest, all of us have broken these rules and done things that do not honor God. Some of us have disrespected our parents, or lied to a teacher about a homework assignment, or taken something that wasn't ours. Before Jesus, the world was so full of sin that there was no promise of eternal life in Heaven with Jesus because of how much sin had separated people from God.

But then Jesus came. He is God's son. Jesus came to earth as a baby boy, and is the only person who never ever sinned against God even once. He seriously never did one bad thing! But people were jealous of how good and pure he was, and they decided to make up a reason to punish him, arrest Him, and nail Him to a cross (which was the punishment for criminals back in those times). Even though Jesus had the power to stop this from happening (because He is God's son), he didn't stop it. Three days after Jesus died on the cross, he defeated sin and death by coming back to life. He is now in Heaven preparing a place for us. Jesus gave us the gift of the promise of hope and eternal life with Him, by taking the punishment for our sins. Have you chosen to receive this gift in your own life? You can make that choice today! Today's prayer is meant to guide you in accepting this AMAZING gift.

### PRAVER

Jesus, Thank you for taking the punishment for our sins. Today, we receive the gift of eternal life that you have offered to us. We trust you and invite you to lead us and guide us through our lives. Thank you for loving us so much. Amen

#### FAMILV ACTIVITY

Read along with today's prayer and then come celebrate all that Jesus did for us at Good Friday Night of Worship! We'll see you at the Greenfield Campus at 7pm! There is childcare available for birth through kindergarten, but register ASAP as space as limited. All the details are at www.victorychurch.org/easter

> Share photos of your family at the worhsip night! Tag @victorychurchpa and @victorykids.pa

# DAY FOUR

#### SCRIPTURE

"Early on Sunday morning as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb.

Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you."

Matthew 28:1-7

#### DEVO

Sometimes, people will go visit a cemetery to leave flowers by the stone where a loved one is buried. In today's Bible passage, Jesus's friends were going to do something similar. They were going to visit the tomb where Jesus's body was placed after He died. But when they arrived, Jesus wasn't there!! An angel told them that Jesus had risen from the dead, just like we talked about yesterday! JESUS IS ALIVE!! Jesus defeated sin and death to give us the gift of eternal life with Him!! This is such amazing news!

Jesus does not want us to keep this news to ourselves! He wants everyone to know about this gift, so that they can have it to! When the angel showed Jesus's friends the good news, the angel told them to go tell other people also. The Bible also tells us that when Jesus appeared alive to His friends before going up to Heaven, He asked them to spread the good news to others! He wanted everyone to know that they have hope of eternal life in Heaven, because He defeated sin and death!

How do you know about Jesus? You probably learned about Him from someone else! Well, now that you know about Jesus and the amazing gift of hope and eternal life that He offers, it's time to share the good news with other people too. Let's celebrate today!

# PRAVER

Jesus, Thank you for all that you do for us! We are so happy that you are ALIVE, and we want other people to know this good news too. Please open our eyes to opportunities to share this good news with other people. We love you. Amen

# FAMILY ACTIVITY

Decorate your driveway or the sidewalk in front of your house to let your neighbors know that Jesus loves them, and that He is ALIVE. Even invite them to church! Also, you can bake a yummy snack of Resurrection Rolls with your family to help you remember this good news.

Share photos of your family's chalk walk or resurrection rolls! Tag @victorychurchpa and @victorykids.pa

God is an expert at making dead things live again! He revives, restores, and renews all things. Come celebrate the good news of Jesus this Easter weekend, at one of these service times at all of our campuses:

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH @ 4:30pm SUNDAY, April 5th @ 9am & 10:45am

# FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

www.victorychurch.org/easter