

## **Easter at Home Week 5**

### **March 17<sup>th</sup>**

Hi Parents and Kids of West Springs Church! Welcome back to week four of Easter at Home! We are excited you are continuing this journey of exploring Lent and Easter with your family. We hope and pray that throughout your time with Easter at Home you can connect with your family and make space for God to be present and speak to you. We also want to encourage you, throughout each week of Easter at Home, take photos of you and your family working through the activities, prayers, and discussions, we would love to see how it is going and share it with our church community!

This week we begin to really focus on the cross and the Easter story. This week's material is focused around exploring Christ's sacrifice and His call to us to follow, what does that look like and why? And then the activity is having you ask, can we keep our Lent plan going even after Easter, making time for Jesus every day, not just during Easter.

### **Scripture**

#### **John 12: 24-26 (Message Version)**

<sup>24-25</sup> "Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal.

<sup>26</sup> "If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you'll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment's notice. The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves me."

- This passage in John is a wonderful window into our calling as Christ followers, especially with the Easter cross in mind. However, I chose the message version for this scripture as I think it gives a good articulation of the core themes of this scripture while also opening it up to be easier to read and engage with. As you read and discuss this scripture with your family, ask them what they think letting go of their life to Jesus and experiencing that love would look like?

### **Reflection Question**

How has your understanding of Lent and Easter changed over the past 5 weeks? Do you think you will try Lent again next year? Why or why not?

## **Activity**

(This week's activity is connected to the first weeks activity, so if you didn't create a Lent plan, go back to the first weeks work and make one then come back. All of the Easter at Home content is on the West Springs Website)

As a family go through your first week Lent plan and see how well you have stuck to your promise to give something up for Lent. Then as a family decide if you want to keep going with your Lent plan after Easter is over, is there room to change your Lent promises so that you can keep them up for a week or a month after Easter. If you need to, make a whole new plan for after Easter and put it up next to your current Lent plan.

Use this time to ask your family do we make enough time for Jesus in our day to day, Lent is meant to give us time to spend with Jesus, and help us develop our relationship with Him, can we keep that going after Lent?

## **Prayer**

Dear Jesus,

We thank you for this week, and for all the ways that you have supported us and cared for us in this week. We pray that we may learn to love those around us like you love us, teaching us to be kind when we want to be angry, be calm when we are overwhelmed, love instead of hate. Please be with me Jesus in this week to come and help me to trust you in everything that I do.

Amen