

Easter at Home Week 7

March 31st

Hi Parents and Kids of West Springs Church! Welcome back to the final week of Easter at Home! We hope this experience of exploring Lent and Easter with your family has grown your collective faith and helped develop exploration. We hope and pray that throughout your time with Easter at Home you connected with your family and had space for God to be present and speak to you. We also want to encourage you to continue doing projects and work like this as a family, starting at the end of May we will be sending out Kid's Church at Home, a collection of everything we talked about that month of kids church with some follow up questions and activities you can do as a family, we hope and pray you will join us in that journey.

This week we will be discussing Easter and the Cross. We will be finishing up Easter at Home and with it's end we will be looking ahead to future weeks and how we can continue to connect with God and our families at home, especially in the common season between Easter and Christmas.

The material this week focuses on the Easter Cross and the Resurrection of our Lord. The activity for this week is one where you should be actively involved with your children as you work through it, taking the time to help them as they have questions and discover more of their faith. It is an activity that requires little supplies and is easy to do together.

Scripture

John 20:1-18

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She

turned and said to him in Hebrew,^[b] 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

-Take a moment to discuss the resurrection story with your family and explore why Mary was the first to see Jesus, and why the disciples even after seeing the empty tomb did not understand what Jesus had told them.

Reflection Question

Over the course of Lent;

- What have you found to be easiest and hardest?
- What did you like or not like?
- What have you learned about Jesus and following Him?
- What have you learned about yourself?

Activity

For this week's activity, as a family draw a picture of the empty tomb with the stone rolled out of the way, think of what this scene might look like, who is there, what time of day is it, what is next to the tomb like flowers or a sign? And then write around the tomb all the things you have learned about Lent and Easter. If it helps, go back through the other weeks of EaH and write down different scriptures, ideas, stories, questions. Use this time as a family to reflect on Lent and what we have learned about Jesus and how much God loves us. Put this up next to your Lent promise sheet from week 1 so that you can remember Lent and Easter once we are done after this week. Even though Lent will be over does not mean we have to stop giving God time to speak and move in our lives.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

We thank you so much that you died on the cross for us, that even when we choose to run away from you, or hurt other people, you keep loving us, asking us to love other people just like you love us. Thank you for Easter and for Lent. Thank you for the chance to learn more about you and to grow to become more like you. Please be with us in this week to come and help us to continue to give you time in our week.

We pray this in your loving name, Amen!