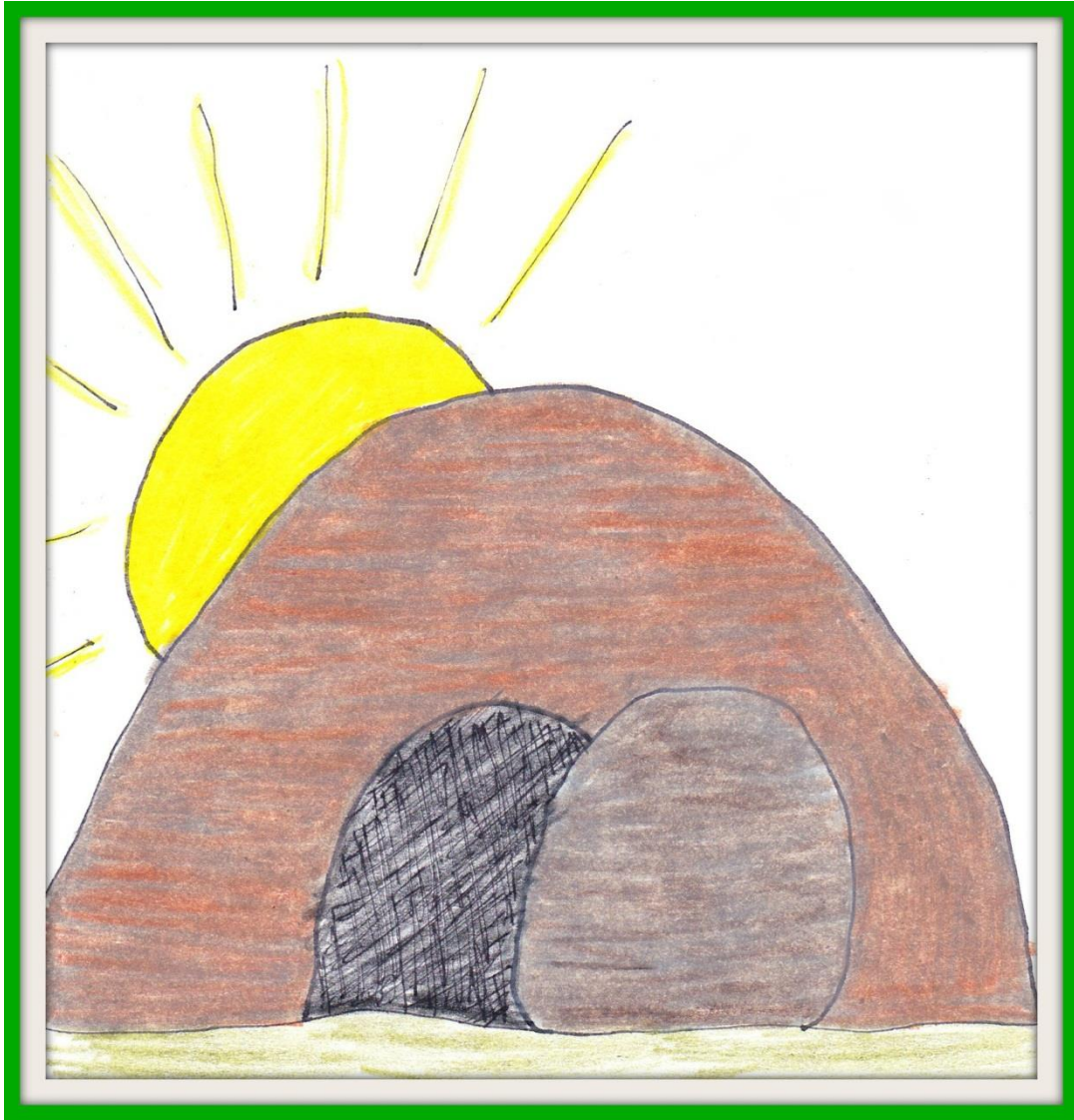


Holy Week Devotional



This devotional is designed to be taught and gone through as a family. It's written in such a way that your elementary aged child can lead their family through the devotional. It's not a requirement, but it's a nice way to let them start to make their faith their own.

It is also designed vaguely along the lines of the Wordless Book. If you are not familiar with that then let me fill you in briefly.

Gold stands for Heaven. God lives in heaven and is perfect. The gold color reminds us of heaven because God's glory shines so brightly in heaven we don't need a sun or any lights, God lights our way. But, there's a problem and that leads me to:

Sin, black stands for sin. Sin is anything we say, do, or think that displeases God. Everyone has sinned, it says in Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God," because of our sin we are separated from God forever. But God had a plan and that leads me to:

Jesus, red stands for Jesus blood. Jesus came to the earth and lived a perfect life, he did nothing wrong. But one day some men were very angry with him and took Jesus and nailed him to a cross where he died. That's pretty sad, but the good news is Jesus came back to life three days later. The tomb is empty and because of that:

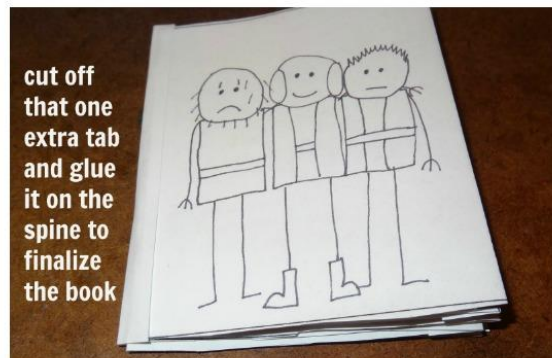
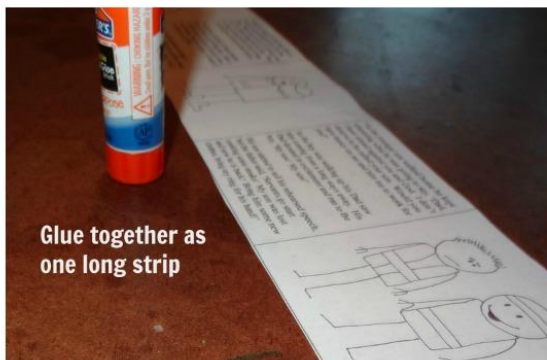
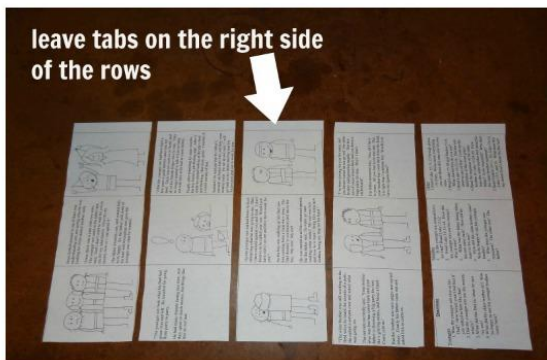
We can be forgiven. This white page reminds me that my sins can be wiped clean because of Jesus death and resurrection on the cross. The Bible says in 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will purify us from all unrighteousness.” When we choose to accept the free gift Jesus is giving us we get three things: forgiveness of our sins, a home in heaven when we die, and Jesus as our forever friend. But Jesus doesn’t just want us to just get saved, he wants to be our friend, so:

We need to grow, that’s what this green stands for. And here’s a really easy way to remember what to do: G is for GO to church, R is for READ your Bible, O is for OBEY your parents and teachers, W is for WORSHIP God and pray.

That’s the quick rundown of the Wordless Book, now let’s get into this devotional.

Palm Sunday

Jesus taught by telling stories. Stories are powerful. This week we are going to be teaching a bigger lesson using stories of Jesus life, but first let's take some time to read a story Jesus taught about a boy who ran away.

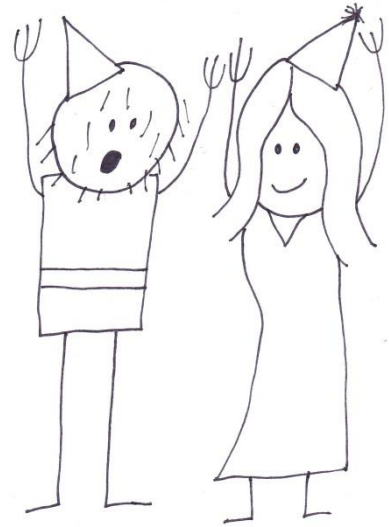




Jesus looked around to see if there was understanding yet, not seeing what he was looking for Jesus started another story.

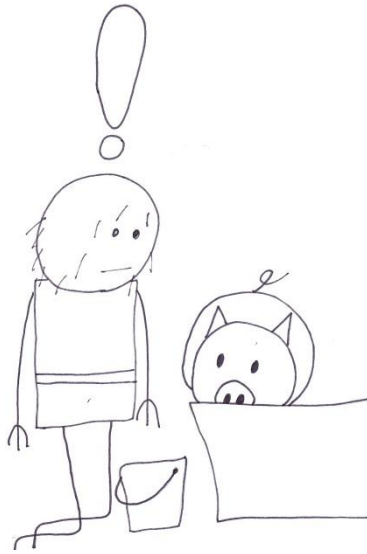
“Once there was a man with two sons. The younger son came to his father and said, ‘Dad I don’t want to wait for you to die for my inheritance. Give me my money now so I can spend it.’

The father loved his son, and wanted him to be happy. So, the father sold some of his land and belongings and gave his younger son what he wanted.



“The younger son took what his Dad had given him and left. He traveled far going from party to party.

He had many friends during this time, and they spent so much money, but things like this do not last.



“After the younger son had been there a few years a great famine came into the land. There was no work to be found, and all of his friends forgot who he was. They no longer wanted to talk to him or hang out with him as he had no more money.

Finally after searching for many months the boy found a job feeding pigs. After a while he started looking at the pig’s food and thinking, ‘that looks good. I wonder if I could eat any of that.’

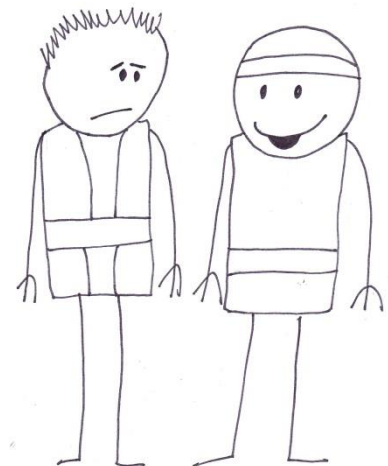
Suddenly he realized that his father’s servants ate better than him, and they were treated better. He sat up and said, ‘I will go back to my father and beg him for forgiveness and ask to work for him.

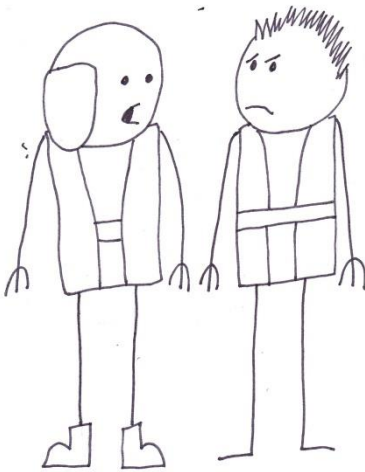


“As the younger son walked home he kept rehearsing what he was going to say, ‘Dad, I have sinned against you and God. I don’t deserve to be called your son. Would you have mercy on me and hire me to work for you?’

As the boy was walking up his Dad saw him coming from a long ways away. His Dad shouted in excitement and ran to the boy, ‘My son! My son!’

His son started to tell his rehearsed speech, but the father said, ‘Servants go start cooking some steaks! My son was lost and now he is back! Bring him some new clothes, bring my ring for his hand!’



<p>“The older brother was still working in the field when he heard the sounds of a party. He called a servant over and asked what was going on.</p> <p>The servant excitedly said, ‘Your brother who was lost has come back and your father is throwing a big party for him. He’s grilling steaks, and hired a band. Come join us.’</p> <p>But the brother was very angry and turned away. Finally his father came out and asked him to come in.</p>		<p>‘I’ve been slaving for you for years, and you haven’t even let me go out,’ the older brother said gesturing angrily. ‘But this son of yours comes back and you throw a huge party for him. Why? I don’t understand!’</p> <p>His father answered him, ‘Son, all I have is yours. All you had to do was ask. But, your brother has come back from the dead, it is right that I celebrate this. Would you have me ignore him?’”</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Questions</u></p> <p><u>Youngers</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the younger son nice to his Dad? How would your Dad feel if you talked to him like that? 2. Did the younger son use the money wisely? 3. What did the Dad do when he saw his son? 4. What did his older brother do? Was he happy to see his younger brother come back? 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Middles</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the younger son respectful to his Dad? Read Luke 15:12. 2. Read Luke 15:13-14. How did the younger son use his money? Was it wise? 3. What was the father doing when his son came back? How did he react to his son? 4. How did the older brother react? Was he happy to see his younger brother? 5. Who does the younger son represent? The older son? The father? 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Older</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Luke 15:11-12 through about 10 times. Write down everything you see about this man and his two sons. 2. Read Luke 15:18 and Psalms 51:4. What similarities do you see? 3. Read Luke 15:22-24. Did the son deserve any of this? Look up the definition of the word grace. 4. Read the response of the older brother in Luke 15:29-30. How does the older brother feel about his father? Is he respectful? Who does the older brother represent? 5. Read Ezekiel 34:11, 16, Luke 19:10, Luke 15:7, and 10. What does this say about God’s heart for the lost?

Discussion questions are in the book itself

Monday

Jesus Calms the Storm (Luke 8:22-25)

Jesus is powerful. He created the world, and when He was on earth He had power over storms. He can keep you safe in the scariest times (GOLD)

Take turns shaking the bottle to create the heavy storm, and when the story comes to where Jesus says, “Peace be still,” stop shaking the bottle.



Questions to discuss as a family:

Why were the disciples afraid in the storm?

What did the disciples do when they were afraid? What do you do when you're afraid?

How did Jesus solve the problem? Can you calm storms? How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus calmed the storm?

Tuesday

Jesus Feeds the 5000 (John 6:1-14)

Jesus is personal. He cares about your needs and your wants. He fed 5000 people who were hungry because He loved them. (GOLD)

Today eat a snack of goldfish and crackers as you listen to the story.



Questions to discuss as a family:

Why did the crowd follow Jesus? What did they want Jesus to do?

How did Jesus react to the people? How would you react when you saw a large crowd of people?

How did the disciples react to the crowd? Who would you react like? Jesus or the disciples?

Wednesday

The Woman at the Well (John 4:1-45)

Everyone sins and Jesus knows all of your sins and He still loves you.
(BLACK)

In the story Jesus said He was Living Water. Drink a bottle of water and notice how pure it is. Jesus said if we drink from His Living Water, we will never thirst again.



Questions to discuss as a family:

Why do you think she was coming in the middle of the day with no one else to talk with?

Why do you think the woman was so excited about the water Jesus talked about?

How did the townspeople react to the woman's news?

Thursday

Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

Jesus forgives and loves sinners. Jesus met Zacchaeus. Zaccheaus took money from people, but one day he met Jesus and learned he was sinning. He changed and followed Jesus. (BLACK, transition to RED)

Fold aluminum foil into the shape of a coin and decorate it with a sharpie marker. OR, buy some chocolate coins to share.



Questions to discuss as a family:

Why is Zacchaeus excited Jesus is coming?

What did Zacchaeus do wrong? How did he make it right?

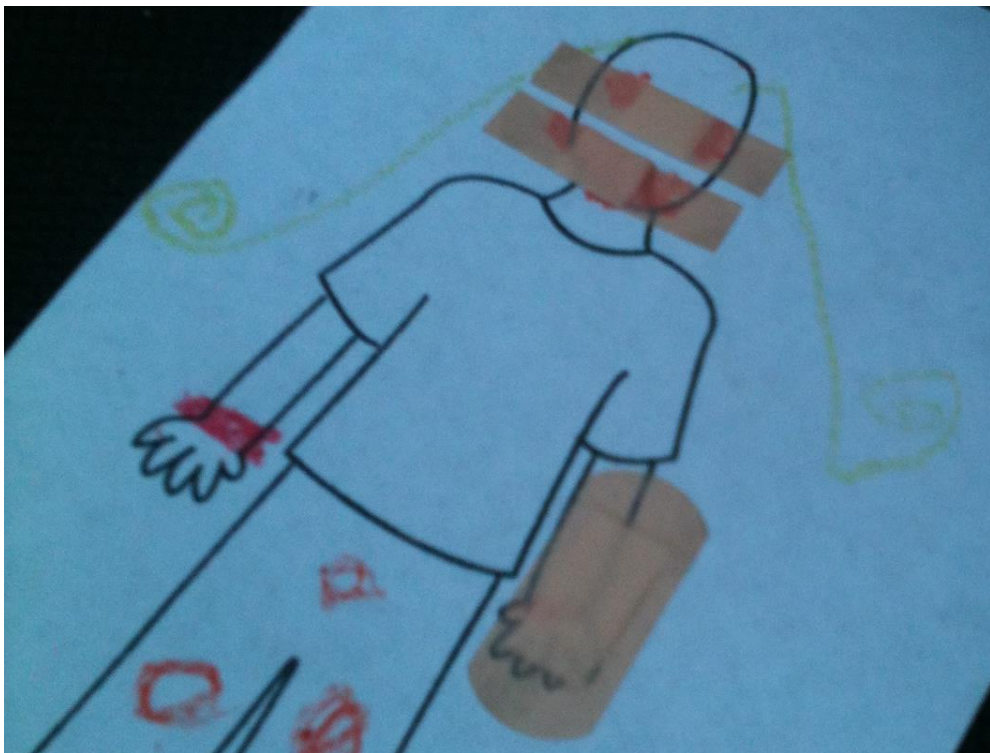
What is Zacchaeus' response to meeting Jesus?

Friday

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

The Good Samaritan paid the price of other people's sins. He helped the man that everyone else wouldn't help. He helped the man to the inn, and he paid for the injuries caused by someone else. Jesus paid for our sins in the same way. (Red and White)

Take turns bandaging each other, either with pretend bandages made of cloth or real band aids. Try helping your brother or sister to walk while they pretend to be injured.



Questions to discuss as a family:

What question is Jesus answering?

Who helped the person and who didn't? Why didn't they help the hurt person?

Who is your neighbor? What are ways you can help him or her?

Saturday

Crucifixion and Resurrection (Matthew 26:1-28:10)

Jesus came and paid the price of our sins. We can now all go to Heaven because of what God has done, but we must choose do we want that new life, or do we want to stay in this old life. (White)

Lilies have become a symbol for Easter because they become dormant in winter and “die,” but in spring come back to life and bloom. Make a handprint lily.



Questions to discuss as a family:

Did Jesus want to be crucified? What was he praying to God? What did Jesus decide to do? Do you think it was hard?

Why do you think Peter denied knowing Jesus? Have you ever lied to protect yourself?

Did anyone think Jesus was going to come back to life? What was their reaction when they found out he had come to life?

Easter

Pentecost and the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-41)

After the disciples believed Jesus had risen, they waited just like they were told. Then the Holy Spirit came and they went and did just like Jesus had told them. They taught others about Jesus and grew in Him.

Make a flame popsicle stick to represent the flames of the Holy Spirit that appeared.

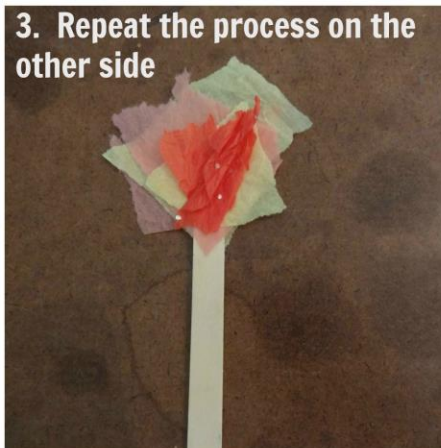
1. Tear tissue paper into small squares (about 1 inch)



2. Glue the paper on, layering it to look like a fire



3. Repeat the process on the other side



Questions to discuss as a family:

1. What were the disciples doing when the Holy Spirit came? Why do you think they were hiding?
2. What did the disciples do after the Holy Spirit came? Would you go out and tell your friends?
3. What friends can you go out and tell about Jesus?