

Easter Activities for Families

Triumphal Entry - Read Matthew 21:1-9. "The Lord's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem", 5 minutes

- Activity - When Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, the people showed they honored Him by placing palm leaves on the dusty path. The people shouted the word "Hosanna" which was a joyful word indicating their hope and praise. As a family, engage in an activity which focuses on the joy which comes from our knowledge of Jesus. You may want to go on a nature hike offering a prayer of thankfulness for all Christ has done for mankind or have a picnic at your chapel talking about all of the activities which occur inside.

Cleansing of the Temple - Read Matthew 21:12-14; "Jesus Cleanses the Temple" 2 minutes

- Activity – Talk about temples. Remind your children that our bodies are considered temples. Just as Christ cleansed the temple so must we keep our temple, the body given to us by Heavenly Father, clean. Give your children scented soaps or new toothbrushes with an unusually good flavored toothpaste.

Teaching the People - Read Matthew 25, "The Ten Virgins", "The Parable of the Talents", "Ye Have Done it Unto Me" 4 minutes

- During the final week of His life, Jesus taught several parables. The parable of the ten virgins teaches us to walk in the light by being spiritually prepared thus stressing spiritual power. The parable of the talents is an accounting of our talents which become perfected as we serve, thus teaching stewardship. The parable of the sheep and the goats teaches us to reach out in love and serve the one, thus teaching us love for the as well as service. These parables have been called the parables of preparation.
- Activity – Teach one of the parables. For example, you may want to teach the parable of the talents by having family members draw a sheep on a piece of paper. After writing each family member's name on a slip of paper, exchange names without divulging the names. Instruct each family member to do a secret act of service during the week for that family member's name they have drawn, leaving their paper sheep as a clue.

Passover / Last Supper - Read Luke 22:11-20; "The Last Supper" 6 minutes

- Jesus gave the sacrament to His Apostles instructing them to remember Him. When we take the sacrament, we can remember His sacrifice for us and remember our baptismal covenant to follow Him, just as the Apostles did long ago.
- Activity – Cut out small pictures of Christ from old Church magazines. Have your child paste the pictures on cardstock and make them into a little book to look at during the sacrament.
- Draw a heart on the palms of your children's hands. Referring to their right hand, have the name five things the Lord has done for them which shows His love for them. Then have your children look at their left hands. Have them name five things they have done for others to show their love. Tell them to clasp their hands to offer a prayer. This is an activity which may be used during the sacrament as we contemplate our lives and the blessing we have been given. Making a heart with thumbs and forefingers is a verbal clue to remind your child to do this during the sacrament.

Gethsemane - Luke 22:41-62; “The Savior Suffers in Gethsemane”, 9 minutes.

- Activity - Talk about repentance. Read “Kelsey Makes a Mistake” (July 2012 *Friend*) and complete the activity that follows the story.

Trial / Crucifixion / Burial - Read Luke 22:63 to Luke 23:56; “Jesus Is Scourged and Crucified”, 5 minutes.

- Write your testimonies on pieces of paper and enclose them in a plastic bag. Bury them as you would a time capsule. Next year during Easter, dig up your time capsule and add to the testimonies. This activity will teach your children how faith in Christ and active discipleship help testimonies grow.

Night of Darkness – “Jesus Is Laid in a Tomb”, 4 minutes.

- Activity - Turn off the lights with only a flashlight illuminating these scriptures as you read 3 NEPHI 8:20-23, 9:12-18. Using a flashlight repeat verse 18 while shining the light of the flashlight on a picture of the Savior. Direct the light’s path from the picture to each child as you talk about how the light of Christ affects everyone on this earth. This light of Christ intensifies as we are given the gift of the Holy Ghost and listen to His promptings.

Resurrection Day - Read John chapter 20; “Jesus Is Resurrected” video, 4 minutes.

- Activity - Have an early morning Easter service as a family. Sing songs and bear your testimonies of the Savior. You may also choose to have a special Easter candlelight dinner Sunday night. Set an extra place for the coming Messiah. Talk about the Second Coming of the Savior. This is a time the children can become excited about His coming. This is a great time to talk about the increased missionary efforts within the Church as well as how we individually can be missionaries.