

COUNTDOWN TO EASTER

Abby Lawson, justagirlandherblog.com

SUPPLIES

- 8 Paper Bags
- Hole Punch or Stapler
- Ribbon
- Hershey's Kisses or Other Treat (optional)
- Palm Branches (Mine are leaves from faux flowers.)
- Small LED Light or Tea Light
- 30 Silver Coins
- Basin and Cloth (I used a mini mason jar and a small piece of fabric.)
- Communion Cup and Bread (I used a votive holder and crackers.)
- Small Cross (I made one out of scrap shims.)
- Torn Piece of Cloth
- Days/Verses Printables, Included in This Packet



DAILY DETAILS

DAY 1 - PALM SUNDAY



Symbol: Palm Branches

Verses: Luke 19:28-44 (also found in Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, and John 12:12-19)

Details: Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey to a warm welcome. The people are shouting, "Hosanna! (which means "Save now!") Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" They wave palm branches and lay their cloaks on the road for Jesus to ride over. They think Jesus has come to save them politically, not knowing that what he is about to do is even more important--redeeming the sin of the world.

Make It Memorable: This would be a great part of the Easter story for your kids to act out. As you read about the Triumphant Entry, have them wave palm branches, lay out their coats on the floor, and shout "Hosanna!"

DAY 2 - MONDAY



Symbol: LED Light or Tea Light

Verses: John 12:20-36

Details: After the Triumphal Entry, Jesus tells his disciples, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light...Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light." (v. 35-36) Jesus had already declared, "I am the light of the world" in John 8:12 and challenged them to "let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16) In his last days, Jesus encourages his disciples to

soak up all of his "light" that they can while he is still there in person so they can carry it on when he is no longer with them.

Make It Memorable: Go into a room of your house that has no light and turn on the little light from their box or a small flashlight. Talk about how a little light can illuminate a large part of the room, just as we can affect those around us by showing Jesus' light in us. Come up with a way you can "be a light" to someone this week.

DAY 3 - TUESDAY



Symbol: 30 Pieces of Silver

Verses: Matthew 26:14-16 (also found in Mark 14:10-11, Luke 22:1-6)

Details: Judas agrees to betray Jesus to the chief priests for thirty silver coins, thus setting into motion the plan to have Jesus arrested and eventually crucified.

Make It Memorable: Make it real for your kids by asking them what someone would have to give them in order for them to give up their mom, dad, or someone else who is important in their life. Hopefully they conclude that no amount of money would be worth it!

DAY 4 - WEDNESDAY



Symbol: Basin and Wash Rag

Verses: John 13:1-17

Details: Washing guests' feet was a job delegated to the lowest servant. Think about it: they only wore sandals, so their feet were exposed to everything, including mud, dust, animal droppings, and even raw sewage. No one wanted to be the foot-washer...can you blame them?! By washing his disciples' feet, Jesus, the only human who has ever been perfect, humbled himself to the lowest place and demonstrated that to be human was to serve others.

Make It Memorable: Get out a large bowl and cloth and wash your kids' feet. If they want, they can also wash yours. Determine to try to serve one another, just as Jesus humbly served his disciples.

DAY 5 - MAUNDAY THURSDAY



Symbol: Communion Cup and Bread

Verses: Luke 22:7-23 (also Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26)

Details: "Maundy" comes from the Latin mandatum, which means commandment, and refers to John 13:34 where Jesus commands his disciples to love one another. During the Passover meal, Jesus also breaks the bread and tells his disciples, "This is my body given for you," and the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." The parallels here are undeniable. They are sitting here celebrating the Passover, a feast to remember when God protected the Israelites

during the final plague in Egypt (Exodus 11 & 12) by having them slaughter a lamb and paint the lamb's blood on the sides and top of their doorframes so that they would be "passed over," and their firstborn son would survive. In the same way, Jesus' blood is about to be shed so that all who believe in Him are "passed over," spared from an eternity separated from God.

Make It Memorable: Have crackers and grape juice for a snack today and be thankful to Jesus for all that he has done for us.

DAY 6 - GOOD FRIDAY



Symbol: Cross

Verses: Mark 14:43-15:32 (also found in Matthew 26:47-27:44, Luke 22:47-23:43, John 18:1-19:27)

Details: Good Friday commemorates the death of Jesus on the cross. You may want to go into more or less detail about the crucifixion, depending on the ages of your children.

Make It Memorable: Make a crown of thorns out of play doh and some tooth picks. Talk about the fact that Jesus was willing to endure all of that pain and eventually death in order to save us.

DAY 7 - HOLY SATURDAY



Symbol: Ripped Cloth

Verses: Mark 15:33-47 (also found in Matthew 27:45-61, Luke 23:44-56)

Details: After Jesus breathed his last breath, the curtain of the temple, which separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple, was torn in two. Previously, only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies into the presence of God once a year; the curtain denoted a separation between God and men. Now that Jesus had given himself as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins, there was no longer that separation. We can access God directly

because Christ erased our sins when he died for us.

Make It Memorable: Hold up a sheet between you and your child, showing how people were formerly separated from God. Then drop the sheet so they can see how freely we can come to God because of Jesus.

DAY 8 - EASTER SUNDAY



Symbol: Empty Bag

Verses: John 20:1-18 (also found in Matthew 27:62-28:10, Mark 16:1-19, Luke 24:1-12)

Details: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Because Jesus left the tomb empty and conquered death, we can live for eternity in Heaven!

Make It Memorable: Go to church with your family and celebrate!

HAPPY EASTER!









