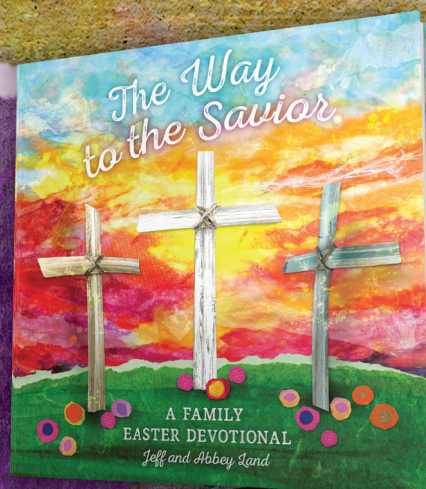


# Jesus' Last Days

A HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL

*based on the book*





# The Elements

Churches choose to observe the Lord's Supper in different ways and at different times throughout the year. At our church, the pastor calls the bread and grape juice we use the *elements* of the Lord's Supper. This practice began with Jesus, thousands of years ago, when He shared a final supper with His disciples.

Jesus knew it was almost time for Him to die on the cross, and He was preparing His disciples. First He showed them the bread and said it represented

His body. Then He showed the disciples the cup that held the fruit of the vine and said it represented His blood. Imagine what the disciples might have been thinking as Jesus led them to eat and drink what was prepared for them. At this point, the disciples didn't fully understand what Jesus was about to go through. Something big was about to happen that would change the world forever.

*Dear God,*

*Help me never forget what the bread and the cup represent—Jesus' blood and sacrifice on the cross for my sins. Amen.*



## CROSS CONNECTION

Review the Lord's Supper as a family. Talk about what each element means.



*As they were eating,  
JESUS took bread,  
blessed and broke it,  
gave it to the disciples,  
and said, "Take and  
eat it; this is my body."*

—MATTHEW 26:26





*Going a little farther, he fell facedown and prayed,  
“My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass  
from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”*

—MATTHEW 26:39





# Are You Sure?

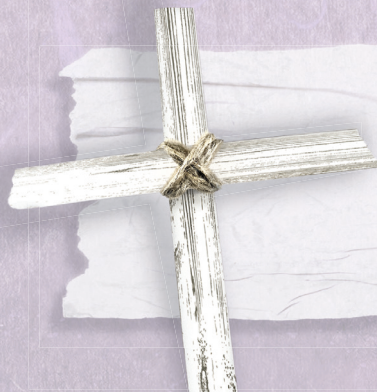
**H**ave you ever known God wanted you to do something, but you prayed and asked again, just to be sure? If God tells you to do something, you better do it, right?

Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, praying. He knew what was about to happen. He was going to be crucified on a cross. Even though Jesus knew what His future held, He was calling out to God, praying, and telling God He was sad. Jesus said to God, “If it is

possible, let this cup pass.” After calling out to God three times, Jesus said, “Your will be done.” Jesus accepted what was about to happen to Him. One of Jesus’ disciples, Judas, appeared in the garden and kissed Jesus on the cheek to betray Him. Jesus was arrested, and He knew exactly what was coming next. Even though Jesus knew what the future held, He was obedient and willingly followed God’s plan.

*Dear God,*

*Help me to always pray to You for guidance when I am scared or unsure of the future. Show me the plans You have for me so I may follow them. Amen.*



## CROSS CONNECTION

What are some of the emotions you think Jesus experienced during His time in the garden?



# Making a Mockery

**L**et's pretend you have a new friend who is visiting from another country. He might have an accent that makes his English difficult to understand. If you were to make fun of the way he spoke, that would be an example of making a mockery of someone.

Many people mocked Jesus after His arrest. He was judged and found guilty of nothing, but the people cried out for Him to be crucified. The crowd even chose to let a famous prisoner named

Barabbas go free while demanding Jesus be crucified. Jesus was beaten, made fun of, and told to carry His cross to be crucified. He was so weak that another man was called in to carry the cross up the hill. A sign was placed above Jesus' head declaring Him "the King of the Jews." This sign wasn't meant as a compliment; it was meant to mock Him. The people wondered what real king would choose to stay on a cross and die if He had the power to escape.

*Dear God,*

*Help me to remember how people treated Jesus on the cross. I want to treat others with love and kindness like You taught me to do. Amen.*



## CROSS CONNECTION

How do you think Jesus felt when He was on the cross and could hear people mocking Him?



*Above his head they put  
up the charge against him  
in writing: THIS IS JESUS,  
THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

—MATTHEW 27:37



*But JESUS cried out again with a loud voice and gave up his spirit. Suddenly, the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom, the earth quaked, and the rocks were split. —MATTHEW 27:50–51*



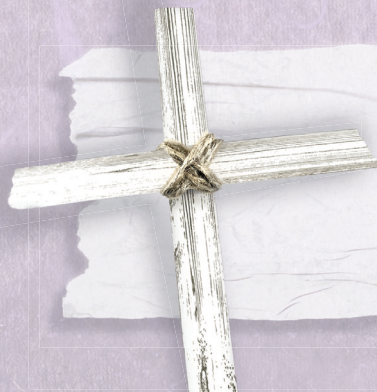
# It Is Finished

**F**irst He was betrayed; then He was beaten and mocked; and finally Jesus was placed on a cross to die. Jesus knew what was coming, but the physical pain He experienced was horrible. At any moment, Jesus could have decided He'd had enough, and He could have gotten down from the cross and walked away. But Jesus stayed on the cross because He knew His purpose. He chose to bear the pain so that you could have the opportunity to choose a forever relationship with Him.

At the exact moment Jesus died, the curtain in the temple tore from the top to the bottom. The curtain wasn't needed anymore to separate a holy place from the rest of the temple. Jesus gave up His body on earth to pay for the sins of all people who would believe in Him. Jesus' dead body was removed from the cross and placed in a tomb. But the story doesn't end there. Tomorrow's reading, Matthew 28, delivers the best news ever.

*Dear God,*

*Jesus didn't have to die for me, but He chose to. I don't ever want to forget the sacrifice He made. Help me to share the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection with others. Amen.*



## CROSS CONNECTION

Why do you think it is important to know that when Jesus died, the curtain in the temple tore from the top to the bottom?



# He Is Risen!

**M**ary Magdalene and another woman named Mary went to Jesus' tomb to prepare His body for burial. When they arrived, there was a violent earthquake. An angel of the Lord appeared and rolled away the stone covering the tomb where Jesus' body had been placed and guarded for three days. The angel then delivered the best news ever: "Jesus is alive. You won't find Him here. Go and tell everyone the good news. He is risen!" What an amazing moment!

Think about the nicest thing anyone has ever done for you. No matter what you thought of, it doesn't compare to what Jesus did for you. He endured physical pain, He was called names and made fun of, and He was crucified on a cross although He wasn't guilty of any crimes. Jesus chose to go through all of that because He loves you. He took your place when you belonged on the cross. You have the choice now. Will you follow the way to the Savior?

*Dear God,*

*I am so grateful that Jesus is alive! Thank You for sending Him to save me from my sins. Help me to share the good news with others who need to hear more about You. Amen.*



## CROSS CONNECTION

Describe what you think it must have been like on the first Easter when people realized Jesus was alive.



*He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there."*

—MATTHEW 28:6-7

