



2024

EASTER
devotional
GUIDE

Lifeway kids®



HAPPY EASTER
From
LIFEWAY KIDS!

Easter is an important opportunity for families to celebrate what Christ has done. As you inch closer to this important time, this devotional will help you lead kids through the events of Holy Week, including the Triumphal Entry, the Last Supper, and the death and resurrection of Jesus.

With talking points, devotionals, and guided prayers, our hope is that kids will grow a greater understanding of who they are in Christ and the victorious hope we have in Him as families engage in meaningful gospel conversations.

Happy Easter!



The Triumphal Entry

Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem. As He came to the Mount of Olives outside of a town called Bethany, He gave a special task to two of His disciples. Jesus told them to go into the village and find a young donkey that had never been ridden. The disciples were to untie the donkey and bring it back to Jesus. He told the men that if anyone asked what they were doing, they should say that the Lord needs it.

The disciples did what Jesus told them and found the donkey. While they were untying the donkey, the donkey's owners asked what they were doing. The disciples answered as Jesus had told them and said that the Lord needed it.

Then the disciples laid their robes on the donkey for Jesus to sit on. As Jesus rode along the road, many people spread out their robes on the road in front of Him. Other people spread leafy branches cut from trees. They were honoring Jesus the same way they would honor a king. They joyfully praised God. They shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd were upset by what was happening. They told Jesus to tell His followers to stop shouting. Jesus replied, "If they were to keep silent, the stones would cry out!"

Luke 19:28-40, Mark 11:1-10

The Point: God wants people to worship Him.

Devotional: Praise Him

A great crowd gathered to praise Jesus and honor Him. They were so excited! One day they would understand more about who Jesus was and the mission He was given. On this day, they praised what they knew and understood about Him at that time: He was a miracle worker. He brought the dead to life. He was the promised Messiah. They praised Him for what they understood, and that praise was good.

We don't always understand everything about who Jesus is and the work He is doing in our lives. In those moments, we can praise Jesus for what we do understand about Him. What can you praise Jesus for today?

Prayer:

Jesus, we praise You for who You are, and we praise You for being greater than we can fully understand. Amen.



Jesus Washed the Disciples' Feet

It was just before the Passover meal. Jesus knew that it was almost time for Him to leave this world and be reunited with God, His Father. Jesus loved His disciples and wanted to show them how much He loved them. Jesus also knew that Judas Iscariot was going to betray Him. Jesus did something that surprised His disciples. He got up from the table and tied a towel around His waist. He poured water into a bowl and began to wash His disciples' feet. He then dried them with the towel wrapped around His waist.

Simon Peter didn't want Jesus to wash his feet. Jesus said that if He didn't wash his feet, Peter would have no part with Him. Peter asked that his hands and head also be washed! Jesus told Peter that someone who has bathed doesn't need to wash anything except his feet. He told Peter that he was clean but not all the disciples were clean, knowing that one of His disciples would soon betray Him. When He finished washing their feet, Jesus asked the disciples if they understood what He had done for them. He told them that He did that for them to set the example. He wanted them to wash each other's feet.

John 13:1-17

The Point: People obey Jesus as a response to His love.

Devotional: Are You a Servant?

What does the word servant mean? Does it make you think of someone who is lower than you or someone who has to do everything you command? Would you think of Jesus when you hear the word?

A servant is someone who serves others with love and humility. Jesus was a servant. He did not consider Himself better than others. He wanted to show His disciples He loved them by washing their feet. He wanted to give His disciples (and us) a clear example of serving others.

Who can you serve today? Is there someone at school, at church, or in your community that you can serve? It doesn't have to be something big or expensive—just a smile can brighten someone's day. Make it a point to follow Jesus' example and serve others with love today.

Prayer:

God, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to be the ultimate Servant.
Thank You for the example He set. Help me to serve others
with humility and love. Amen.



The Last Supper

In those days, the Jewish people gathered for feasts such as the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Passover. People gathered to remember how God had rescued His people out of Egypt. On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Jesus told the disciples to go into the city and tell a certain man that Jesus was going to celebrate Passover at his home with the disciples.

When evening came, Jesus was sitting at the table with the disciples. Jesus said that one of the disciples would betray Him. He was talking about Judas Iscariot. While they were eating, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, and broke it. He gave it to His disciples and said, "Take and eat it; this is my body." In the same way, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to His disciples. Then He said, "Drink from it, all of you." He told the disciples that His blood would be shed for many for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus would be arrested and sentenced to be crucified. Jesus had done nothing wrong, but He died so that the Old Testament Scripture might be fulfilled.

Matthew 26:17-30

The Point: Jesus is the Messiah and Savior.

Devotional: Ultimate Hero

Have you ever known someone that you really looked up to? Maybe he was great at basketball? Maybe your hero is your mom or dad? Heroes come in all shapes, sizes, and ages. But there's only one hero that will never fail you; Jesus. He's the ultimate Hero because He's God. He's the only One that can save you from your sins.

Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice for us. He came to earth willingly because He wanted to save His people. Messiah means "Promised One." Throughout the Old Testament, we read of God's promises to send His Savior. God planned from the beginning of time to send Jesus, His only Son, to be the Savior and to die for sinful people. How beautiful is it that our God loves us that much?

Prayer:

God, thank You for always keeping Your promises. Thank You for delivering us from death by sending your Son, Jesus. I love You and praise You for Your goodness. Amen.



Jesus Prayed in the Garden

Jesus and His disciples celebrated the special feast called the Passover. After the Passover feast, the disciples went out with Jesus to a garden called Gethsemane. Jesus asked His disciples to stay awake and wait for Him while He went farther to pray. Jesus prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." When He came back to His disciples, He found them sleeping. He asked them again to stay awake and pray, but His disciples kept falling asleep. This happened three times. Soon, Judas arrived with soldiers who arrested Jesus! Jesus was taken to unfair trials. He was beaten and mocked.

Matthew 26:36-51

The Point: Jesus prayed to God.

Devotional: Trusting His Plan

After Passover, Jesus went to a garden to talk with God in prayer. He knew what was about to happen. Jesus knew He was going to suffer and die on the cross for our sin. Before going to the cross, Jesus spent time talking with God the Father and preparing for what came next. Jesus is human, so He was deeply concerned about what was about to happen, just like many of us can be sometimes. But even though it was difficult, Jesus fully trusted God's plan and obeyed His will.

Where do you go when things feel hard or scary? Where do you look when you need answers to things you don't understand? Jesus teaches us that God wants us to come to Him. When we pray, we can be honest with God. We can tell God what scares us or worries us. We can ask for His help. God wants us to spend time in prayer with Him, trusting Him no matter what.

Prayer:

God, thank You that we can spend time with You in prayer. Please help us to trust Your plans and to obey You in all things.
Thank You for loving us. Amen.



Peter Denied Jesus

Two disciples followed Jesus as the soldiers took Him to the high priest. One disciple knew the high priest and went inside. He spoke to a servant who allowed Peter inside the courtyard. The servant girl asked if Peter was one of Jesus' disciples. Peter lied. He said, "I am not."

Peter joined the other people standing around a fire. They asked him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?" Peter lied again, saying, "I am not!" One man who had seen Peter in the garden when Jesus was arrested asked, "Didn't I see you with Him in the garden?" As soon as Peter denied knowing Jesus a third time, the rooster crowed.

Later, after Jesus had been crucified and raised from the dead, Jesus met with Peter. Jesus showed Peter that He still loved him. He restored Peter by giving him the chance to acknowledge his love for Jesus three times, the same number of times he had denied Jesus.

John 18:15-18, 25-27, 21:15-17

The Point: God will forgive me if I ask Him.

Devotional: Impossible Love

Think of the last time a friend said or did something hurtful to you. Even remembering a moment like that can bring back sad feelings. It's hard to show love to those who have hurt us, even if they didn't mean to do it.

Many of us have denied knowing Jesus in our lives. We often feel like Jesus couldn't possibly love us because of our sins and how we disobey Him. But there is good news! The Bible tells us that just like Jesus loved and forgave Peter, He loves and forgives us too when we believe in Him! Even when we make mistakes or disobey, Jesus is there to forgive us, calling us to repent and turn back to Him. He covers our sin with His impossible love.

Prayer:

God, thank You for Your forgiveness. Thank You for Your love for me that covers all my sin. You are a great God and You are bigger than my mistakes. Help me to follow Your truth. Amen.



Jesus' Trial and Death

After having a meal with His disciples, Jesus went to a garden to pray. While Jesus and the disciples were praying in the garden, Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, arrived with an armed crowd who arrested Jesus. Jesus' disciples were confused, but Jesus assured them that this is the way things must happen. First, they took Jesus to Caiaphas, the high priest, and then to Pilate, the Roman governor. The crowd wanted Jesus to be crucified.

Pilate's soldiers mocked Jesus by putting a robe on Him, a crown made of thorns on His head, and a staff in His hand. They spit on Him, beat Him, and led Him to Golgotha, where they crucified Him.

It became dark as night in the middle of the day. Jesus cried out to God, "Why have You abandoned Me?" Jesus cried out again; then He died.

Matthew 26:47-50,54,57; 27:1-2,11,27-46,50

The Point: Jesus died to pay the penalty for my sins.

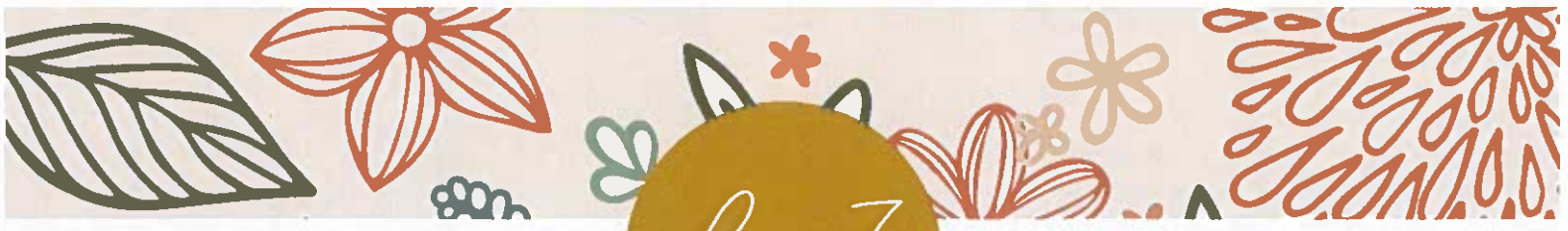
Devotional: Out of Love

Think about how much your parents love you. What if one day you accidentally broke something expensive in a store and had to pay for it? You probably would not be able to. Out of their responsibility and great love for you, your parents would choose to make that payment on your behalf, even though it was your fault.

This is like Jesus choosing to die on the cross for us. He knew He would suffer, and He still paid the price for our sins. He loves us more than our parents ever could. Jesus is God the Son. He is the only One who could ever save us from our sins. Jesus wanted us to be completely forgiven.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for giving Your life for me on the cross.
Thank You for loving me that much. Amen.



Jesus' Burial

After Jesus died, when it was evening, Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in clean cloth, and placed it in a new tomb. He had a large rock rolled in front of the entrance. The chief priests asked Pilate to put guards at the tomb. On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to Jesus' tomb. The earth shook and an angel dressed in white clothes came down, rolled the stone away from the entrance, and sat on it. He told the women not to be afraid. The angel knew they were looking for Jesus. He told them, "He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said." The angel told the women to go quickly and tell the disciples that Jesus is alive!

Matthew 27:57–28:10

The Point: God cares when we are sad; He never leaves us alone.

Devotional: God Is with You

Have you ever had a friend or a loved one move away? This can make you feel very sad and lonely because you miss them and wish you could see them. After Jesus died, Jesus' friends were very sad. They probably thought they would never see Him again.

But we know from the Bible that Jesus did not stay in the tomb. He rose from the dead! Jesus' friends didn't have to be sad anymore because He was with them. God raised Him from the dead. When you feel sad and lonely, God will always be there for you too.

Prayer:

God, thank You for sending Jesus to die for our sins. Thank You for bringing Him to life again. Help me to remember that when I am sad, You are always with me. Amen.



Jesus Is Alive!

After the Sabbath, early in the morning, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and another Mary went to view the tomb where Jesus had been buried. Suddenly, a strong earthquake shook because an angel came down from heaven. The angel rolled back the heavy stone from the entrance of the tomb. The angel, who looked like lightning and was wearing a pure white robe, sat on the stone. The guards standing at the tomb were so afraid they were like dead men and could not even move!

The angel told the women not to be afraid. He knew they were looking for Jesus. The angel told them the best news ever. He said that Jesus was alive just as He had promised. The angel told the women to go quickly to the disciples to tell them the good news that Jesus has been raised from the dead! The women left quickly and joyfully. They ran to tell the disciples the good news that Jesus was alive. Suddenly, Jesus met the women and said, "Greetings!" The women ran to Him, took hold of His feet, and worshiped Him! Then Jesus told them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there."

Matthew 28:1-10

The Point: Jesus died on the cross and is alive.

Devotional: The Best Surprise

Do you like surprises? Imagine on your birthday you are dropped off at a grandparents' house to mow their lawn or do a chore. You would probably feel disappointed and think your family had forgotten your birthday! But imagine you get back home and there's a surprise party waiting for you! Your parents had a plan to give you an amazing birthday the entire time.

The women went to the tomb feeling disappointed and sad that Jesus was dead. They got the best surprise ever when they found it empty! Even though the women didn't know it, God had a plan the entire time. The plan was for Jesus to defeat death so that we can forever have a relationship with Him. That's way better than a surprise party!

Prayer:

God, thank You so much for sending Your Son to save us from our sin by dying on the cross and rising again. In Your name we pray, Amen.



LET'S BE
Friends!

Get free resources, discipleship tips,
crafts, family activity ideas, and more
from your favorite Lifeway Kids
social media account.

 @lifeway_kids

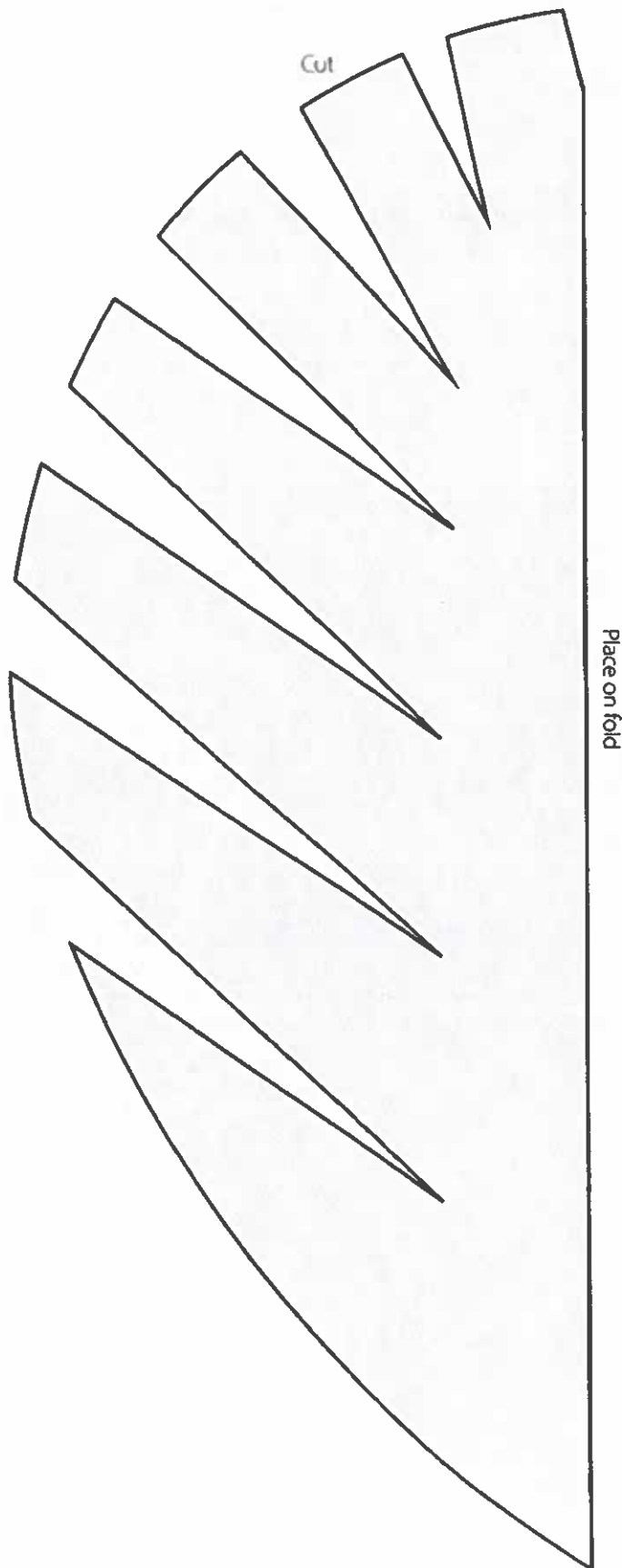
 facebook.com/lifewaykids

 @lifewaykids

Subscribe to our
Kids Ministry 101 Blog
and Podcast at
lifeway.com/kids.

Lifeway kids

PALM BRANCH TEMPLATE



PALM LEAF



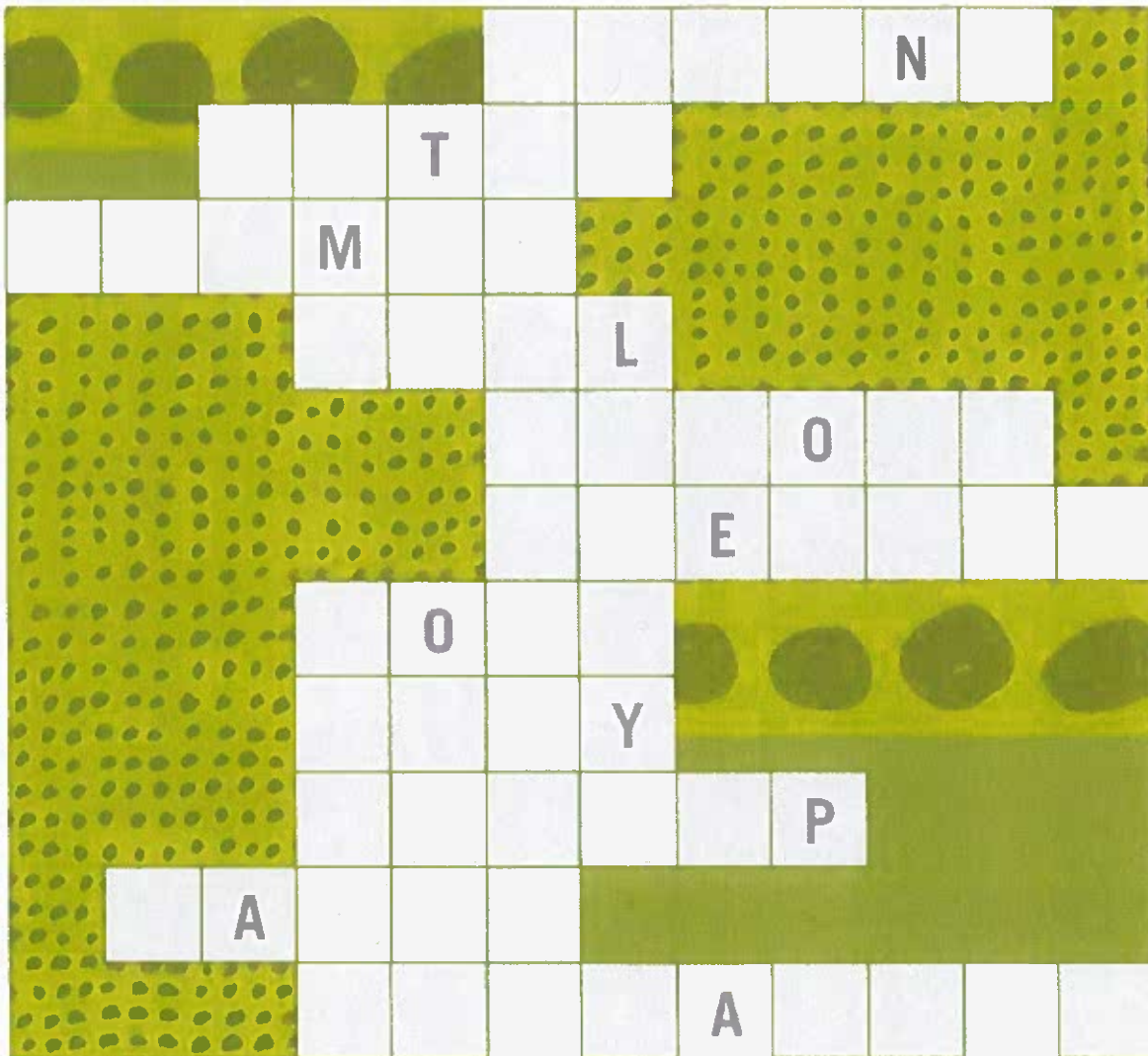
Cut template and position it onto folded green construction paper.

Trace and cut, then open fold and glue a green craft stick for the stem.

PUZZLE 2

EASTER SUNDAY

THE NEW TESTAMENT GIVES US SPECIFIC NAMES OF PEOPLE WHO SAW EITHER THE EMPTY TOMB OR THE RISEN SAVIOR. FIT THESE WITNESSES INTO THE PUZZLE BELOW AND THEN READ THE SHADED BOXES.



Mary *Matthew 28:1*

Salome *Mark 16:1*

Peter *Luke 24:12*

John *John 21:1-2*

Philip *Acts 1:13*

James *1 Corinthians 15:7*

Joanna *Luke 24:10*

Thomas *John 20:27*

Saul (Paul) *Acts 9:4-5*

Cleopas *Luke 24:18*

Nathanael *John 21:1-2*

AN EASTER CRAFT ... WITH A PURPOSE

Use this Easter centerpiece to help kids better understand what Jesus did for us.

- 1 Cut out a white cardboard cross, using the template on the following page.
- 2 Write the days of the week and the Bible verses on the cross, or use the squares below.
- 3 Wrap the bottom of the cross with plastic wrap. Set it in a container partly filled with soil.

During the week before Easter, have a child read each day's Bible passage.

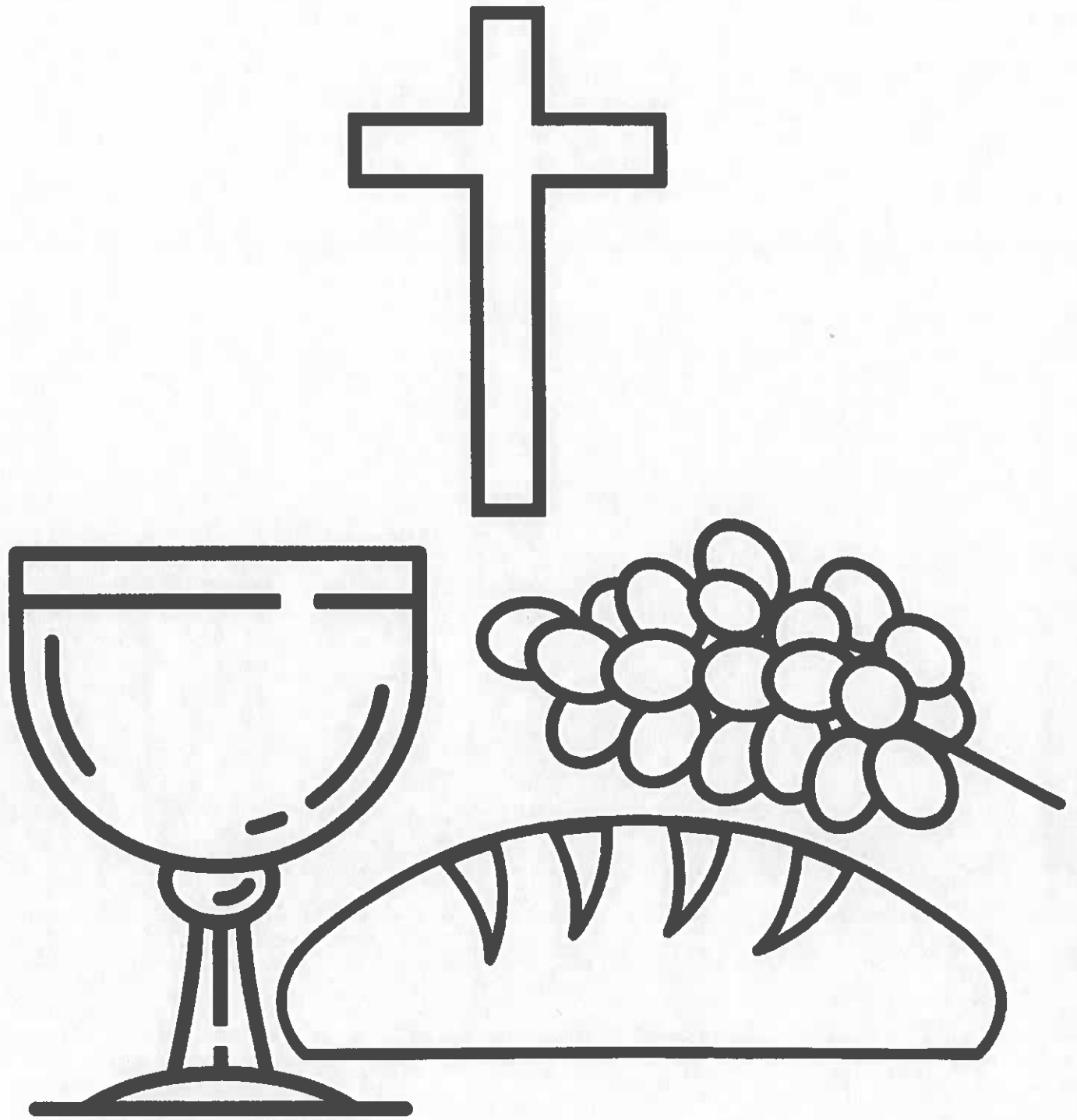
ON EASTER MORNING, READ MATTHEW 28:1-10.

Remove the cardboard cross from the container and plant flowers to remember Jesus' resurrection.

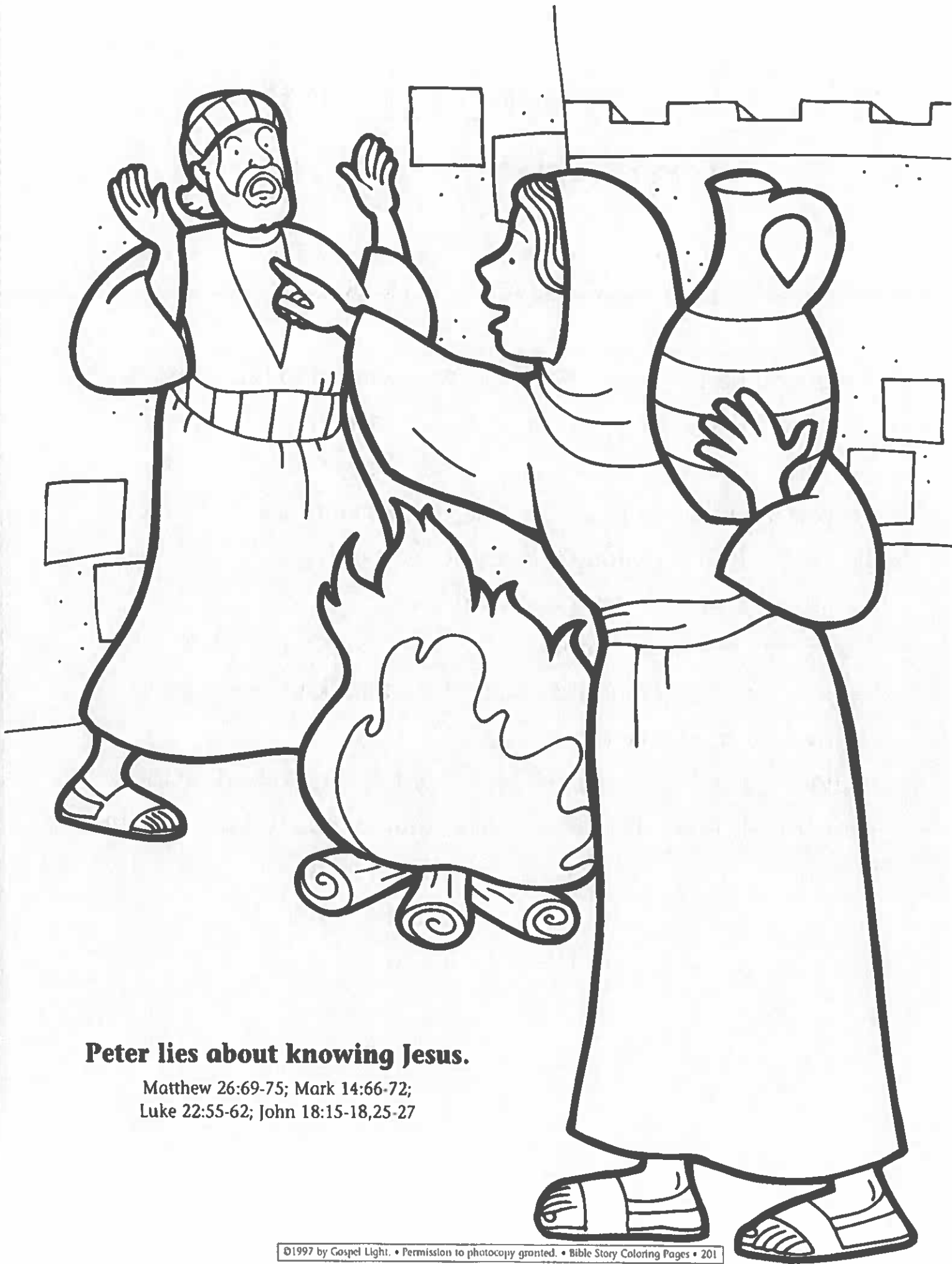
—Susan Sundwall



<p><i>Monday</i></p> <p>MATTHEW</p> <p>16:21</p>	<p><i>Tuesday</i></p> <p>LUKE</p> <p>19:47-48</p>	<p><i>Wednesday</i></p> <p>JOHN</p> <p>11:47-50</p>
<p><i>Thursday</i></p> <p>MATTHEW</p> <p>26:26-29</p>	<p><i>Friday</i></p> <p>MARK</p> <p>15:22-25</p>	<p><i>Saturday</i></p> <p>LUKE</p> <p>23:50-54</p>



DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.



Peter lies about knowing Jesus.

Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72;
Luke 22:55-62; John 18:15-18,25-27

Jesus dies on the cross.

Matthew 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-41;
Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-37



**Jesus talks to Mary
in the garden.**

John 20:10-18



