

# HOLY MOMMY'S 15 Minute Devotional WEEK

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# HOLY WEEK

## Mommy's 15 Minute Devotional

You're Invited...

To the party of the year.

It's a "come as you are" event.

No flashy lights. No fancy clothes.

Stains and wrinkles are just fine.

It's **the feast** you'll be telling all your friends about.

So, come find your seat at the table.

And be fed.

*Friend, I've put together this 15-minute daily devotional guide to help prepare our hearts and homes for Holy Week.*

*Whether you don't know Jesus yet or consider yourself best buds, my prayer is that you realize the significance of this invitation to join in **the greatest celebration of all time.***

-Jaclyn

# HOLY WEEK TIMELINE

PALM SUNDAY – Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

MONDAY – Jesus leaves Bethany, curses fig tree, cleanses temple.

TUESDAY – Jesus finds fig tree withered; Olivet Discourse.

WEDNESDAY – Silent Day, Judas and Sanhedrin prepare for Jesus' arrest.

MAUNDY THURSDAY – Jesus establishes Lord's Supper; agony and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

GOOD FRIDAY – Trials of Jesus; Jesus crucified to take the punishment for our sin.

SATURDAY – Jesus' tomb sealed and guarded.

EASTER SUNDAY – **Jesus rises from the dead** and makes 5 appearances.

# DAY ONE: PALM SUNDAY - JESUS' TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM.

"As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to Daughter Zion 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." Matthew 21:1-11

# FOCUS: BEHOLD THE LAMB

At this point in Jesus' ministry, He had generated a significant following. He had demonstrated His authority in teaching God's will; He had revealed His power over sickness and death and had even claimed the supernatural ability to forgive sin (Matthew 9:6). Yet, Jesus did not approach His Kingdom with arrogance or pride. Instead, He came humbly in peace. In scripture, Jesus is described as both a Lion and a Lamb.

Take some time to revisit the account of the first Passover in the Old Testament Book of Exodus, Chapter 12. Consider how God was gracious to warn the people of the horrific judgement that would occur should they disobey His command to cover their homes with the blood of the lamb. Read Leviticus 17:11 and discuss how this passage relates to God's plan to address sin. Understand atonement means forgiving or pardoning of sin.

Finally, spend some time in prayer as you thank God for His ultimate sacrifice and gift of grace. Consider His human emotions as He approached what He knew would be the most agonizing week of His life as He took upon Himself the sin of all humanity for all of time. He knew the giant He faced. Still, He pressed on. Whenever fear or doubt or guilt or insecurity creep in, remember you have access to the power of Jesus and can face each battle with confidence, because He is with you. He came to give us new life.

# DAY TWO: MONDAY

## JESUS LEAVES BETHANY, CURSES FIG TREE, CLEANSES TEMPLE.

The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it. On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." Mark 11:12-17

# FOCUS: PRAYER

Perhaps, you've heard the term "righteous anger." It's NOT the same reaction I demonstrate while losing my temper over my son's backtalk or another spill. No, it's actually a hurting heart response to an offense against God or His Word. And it's exactly the attitude Jesus displays on that Monday of Holy Week.

At first, the fig tree catches me off guard a bit, but it reminds me every created thing was made to obey God and reflect God's goodness. And Jesus is also fully man and hungered just like I do. Jesus will soon use this encounter to demonstrate His sovereignty yet again. The Temple event is much more relatable, as we know how easily people can put our own interests above the will of God. And Jesus came to help right the things we so easily make wrong.

I'm reminded to keep our hearts and minds in tune with God's will through daily prayer. Today, let's focus on listing praise reports and prayer requests we can take to the Lord and study the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. Find a notebook you can begin recording prayers and reflect on the many ways God personally intervenes in each difficult situation. Begin asking God for gentleness when you face situations that anger you. Consider ways to surrender any bitter feelings and ask God to strengthen your faith. Lord, purify us today.



# DAY THREE: TUESDAY

## JESUS FINDS FIG TREE WITHERED; OLIVET DISCOURSE.

"In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!" Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." Mark 11:20-25

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." Matthew 24:42-44



# FOCUS: REDEMPTION

One of the many qualities I love about Jesus is His kindness to affirm our work for His Kingdom. He uses these final days of His earthy ministry to preach His power into our lives. He knows He will be going away, but the Holy Spirit will be coming to enter into our actual bodies to carry out work we could never do on our own. He explains faith can move mountains, and so much peace comes from keeping our eyes on Him. *Friend, I can surely testify to the truth in that statement.*

Jesus uses this opportunity to not only prepare His disciples for His earthly departure but to also let them into God's plan to redeem His people and come back again. I can't help but consider this message as a pep talk, as He already knew the hardships they'd face up ahead. He knew the struggles and temptations we would face today, too.

Consider Jesus' statement that we must be ready, because He will return at a time we least expect Him (Matthew 24:44). How can we prepare ourselves and the people we love for His glorious return? How often do we consider the price of His redeeming love? Pray and thank God for His promise to come back and destroy evil for good.

# DAY FOUR: WEDNESDAY SILENT DAY, JUDAS & SANHEDRIN PREPARE FOR JESUS' ARREST.

The Gospels do not document specific activities this day; however, Jesus was likely preparing for Passover, and Judas and the Sanhedrin were making final plans to arrest Jesus and end His righteous movement.

# FOCUS: REST

Today, we will set aside special time to be still and sit with Jesus.

Read and memorize Psalm 46:10. Write it on a card and post it in your home as a daily reminder to make time to be still and hush the noise, so we can enter into fellowship with the Lord.

Talk to God about any worries ahead and ask Him to give you strength and courage.

Have your children share any fears on their hearts and join in prayer together, trusting God will be with us every step of the way.

# DAY FIVE: MAUNDY THURSDAY

## JESUS ESTABLISHES LORD'S SUPPER; AGONY AND ARREST IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

"When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!" They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this." Luke 22:14-23

# FOCUS: SERVING

Read John Chapter 13 and discuss what else Jesus does during the Last Supper. What is the significance of the foot washing? Jesus explains that serving others leads to blessings.

We no longer make it a practice to wash each other's feet, but we can still put love into action as we look for ways to serve. Consider ways we serve our families each day. Many times, we get frustrated over repetitive chores and question the significance of the work we do. Be encouraged that we are working for the Lord and honoring Him in the ordinary tasks we complete with a thankful heart.

Talk to your children about ways to serve and the importance of humility. Make note that Jesus even washed the feet of His betrayer. We are taught to be kind to everyone.

# DAY SIX: GOOD FRIDAY

## TRIALS OF JESUS; JESUS CRUCIFIED TO TAKE OUR PUNISHMENT FOR SIN.

"The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews. They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!" In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him. At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said. With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" Mark 15:16-39

# FOCUS: SACRIFICE

Read John 3:16 and John 15:13 and discuss how we can know God loves us.

It is important to remember that it is our sin that nailed Jesus to the cross. He came to accept the punishment we deserve from living in rebellion against a Holy God. In doing so, He pardoned us from the wrath of God and gave us freedom from our sin.

Consider ways we can follow Jesus to the cross and leave our sin there. We know there is no way to live a sinless life, but we can ask God to help us sin less.

Read and discuss the implications of Galatians 2:20. How can we trade our will for God's will. Let's ask God to strengthen our faith and remind us even though today may be dark, Sunday's coming!



# DAY SEVEN: SATURDAY JESUS' TOMB SEALED AND GUARDED.

"So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard." Matthew 27:66

# FOCUS: THE WAIT

Read Matthew 12:38-42 and discuss how Jesus' prediction was coming to pass.  
Why do you think God included this wait period between Jesus' death and His resurrection?

Do you recall a time you had to wait on something important? A pregnant mother would likely love to rush time to welcome her new baby into her arms. Jesus even refers to birthing pains as He discusses the sorrow of His Earthly departure in John 16:21-22.

The wait can often be difficult, but it can produce a joy like no other.

Spend some time in joyful anticipation of the great victory we celebrate tomorrow on Easter!

# DAY EIGHT: EASTER SUNDAY

## JESUS RISES FROM THE DEAD!

"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" John 20:1-2

"Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her." John 20:11-18

# FOCUS: PARTY

Continue reading John's resurrection account in Chapter 20. The end of the chapter closes with this promise "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." Glory, hallelujah!!! Friends, we can eat all the candy and do all the celebrating today, because our Savior is ALIVE!

This is good news for a world doomed to an eternity apart from God, because of a choice man made to rebel in the Garden of Eden. Jesus overcame death itself and invited us to join Him! We've been given a new choice – to go God's way instead of our own.

We'll close out our study by reading Revelation 19:6–9.

Friend, do you know Jesus personally wrote your invitation to join Him in His Kingdom today? All you have to do is trust He is who He says He is and ask Him to forgive you and help make you more like Him. There's no one prayer. There's no ritual or magic. It's simply a matter of you spending time with Jesus and asking Him to be your best friend forever. If you feel Him stirring in your heart, keep seeking Him. And RSVP today.

Love,

*Jaclyn*



Jaclyn Warren is a daughter of God, student of Jesus, grateful wife and busy boy mama. She blogs about Jesus, crumbs and cuddles at [www.mommys15minutes.com](http://www.mommys15minutes.com) and you can find her at *Mommys15Minutes by Jaclyn Warren* on Facebook and on Instagram and Twitter at *Mommys15Minutes*. Email: Mommys15Minutes @ gmail.com