

Easter at home.

Family Easter
Experience Guide



Start here.

Planning:

- Parents, read through this guide beforehand. Decide whether you'd like to print the station instructions or read them from a device during your family adventure.
- Create seven stations in your home. These can either be set up in one large room or you can have kids travel through the house to visit each station - either with you as a guide or as a scavenger hunt.
- Number the stations by simply writing the numbers #1-7 on slips of paper or sticky notes.
- If you cannot come up with all of the supplies listed, that's okay!

Supplies:

- Bible (a kid-friendly version, if possible)
- A travel bag (a suitcase, backpack, etc.)
- Something scented (essential oils, perfume, cologne)
- 30 silver coins (quarters, dimes and/or nickels)
- Juice or water
- Bread or crackers
- Small cup (if your child will be taking communion)
- Small plant (real or artificial)
- Large nail
- Robe (or something similar)
- Twig twisted into a circle or anything that can represent a crown of thorns (or a picture)
- Confetti and/or any other celebratory items (party hats, noisemakers; kids can even make their own confetti by tearing up paper into small pieces or using a paper punch; see notes for Station #7)

Station 1: Find your travel buddy.

Place a Bible inside a travel item (such as a backpack or suitcase) at this station. Have kids open the bag and look inside. Say the following:

Today we are going to go on an at-home adventure to learn about the true story of Easter. Whenever you go on an adventure, it's important to travel with others. Jesus knew this and picked a group of 12 people to travel with.

- **If you were going on an adventure and could only take 2 people with you, who would you take? Why?**
- **What is something special about you that makes you a great person to go on an adventure with?**

Let's read Mark 3:13-19 together, and then see how fast we can memorize the names of all of the disciples! *(For younger kids, have them just recite the names with you.)*

Take the Bible with you to all of the stations.

Station 2: Pack your bags.

Place some essential oil fragrances or other scented items (perfume, cologne) at this station. Give kids a moment to smell the item(s). Read Mark 14:1-9 together and talk about it. Say the following:

In Jesus' time, if a guest entered someone's home, they would get their feet washed in a bowl of water, since they would have just walked through the dusty, dirty roads of Israel. They would add drops of perfume to make the water smell good. The law said to only use a little, because it was important not to be wasteful. However, we see in the story that the woman was so generous in the amount that she poured on Jesus' feet. While others scolded her for being wasteful, Jesus honored her for her generous heart.

- **When has someone been kind to you?**
- **How have you shown kindness to others?**

Optional: Choose a fragrance and allow your child to put some on or spray some into the air.

Station 3: Overcoming obstacles.

Place 30 coins (i.e., quarters) on the table and/or in a container of any sort. Read Matthew 26:14-16 together. Say the following:

The chief priests and other Jewish leaders wanted to capture Jesus and kill him, because they didn't like how popular he was. They were afraid he might take some of their power away. They also didn't believe that he was the son of God. One of Jesus's friends named Judas went to the chief priests and asked for money to help them capture Jesus. So, they gave him 30 silver coins. And from then on, Judas watched for his chance to help them in secret.

- **What made Judas turn his back on his friend Jesus?**

Pick up one coin. Put your hands behind your back while closing the coin tightly in one hand. Then hold your two closed fists out in front of you. Have your child(ren) try to guess which hand the coin is in. You may also invite them to take a turn hiding the coin in their hands while you guess!

Station 4: Refuel.

Place the communion elements (like bread and grape juice) at this station. If you choose to have kids participate in communion, include a small cup for each child. Read Matthew 20:26-29 together. Then say the following:

That evening as Jesus sat eating the Passover meal with his disciples, he broke the bread, blessed it, and said, "Take this and eat it, for this is my body, which I am giving for you. He then took the cup of wine and gave thanks and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood which is poured out for you." Jesus was talking about the fact that he was soon going to die on the cross. Then he said, "One of you will turn your back on me." The disciples asked each other who would do that. But Judas knew he was talking about him and slipped out as soon as he could.

- **Why do you think it was important for Jesus to have a final meal with his friends?**
- **What are some important meals you've had in your life?**

If your child celebrates communion, give him or her the option to participate now! Serve them the bread/crackers and juice to symbolize the events of the Last Supper. Take care to talk to them about the importance of what they are doing. Pray and thank Jesus for what He did for all of us.

Station 5: Trusting the unknown.

Place a small plant (real or artificial) at this station. Turn to Matthew 26:36-46 and read together. Say the following:

From the very beginning, Jesus knew that one of his close friends was going to turn his back on him. After he left the meal, Judas went to the high priests and told them how to find Jesus. And so when Judas took them to Jesus in a place called the Garden of Gethsemane, the soldiers arrested Jesus.

- **What was a time when you were on an adventure and you experienced something difficult? What did you do to push through it?**

Have each family member say one thing that they would need help from someone else to achieve or do. Talk about how the family can help each other with those tasks.

Station 6: Finish strong.

Lay out a nail, a robe, and a twig (or anything similar) twisted in a circle to represent the crown of thorns. Turn to Matthew 27:27-31. Read and talk about the passage. Then say the following:

The soldiers took Jesus to the palace and gathered around Him. They took off His clothes and put a robe and a crown of thorns on Him. They knelt in front of Him and mocked Him. They spit on Him and hit Him on the head again and again. After they had beaten Him up, they led Him away to crucify Him. When they had nailed Jesus up on to the Cross, the crowd began to bully Jesus. For the disciples, this was the perfect time to lose hope, but Jesus trusted God's plan, and knew that this wasn't going to be the end of the story.

- **Put yourself in the disciples' shoes. How would you react as you were watching your friend and leader, Jesus, suffer like this?**
- **Have you ever seen a friend (or anyone) experience something mean and unfair? How did it make you feel? What did you do?**

Let's say a prayer of thanks to Jesus for enduring all this unimaginable suffering so that we can all be saved.

Lead your family in prayer. You might consider having each person take turns saying, "Thank you, Jesus."

Station 7: Celebrate the journey.

Place confetti and/or any other celebratory items (party hats, noisemakers) off to the side for use at the end. (Optional: Provide full sheets of paper and allow kids to rip them up to make their own confetti.)

The next day, Jesus' body was taken down and wrapped in strips of cloth and placed in a tomb. The Romans put their best guards at the tomb and the Jewish Leaders had a massive stone rolled in front of it to make sure that Jesus' body wasn't taken. Early on Sunday, Mary Magdalene and some other women went to the tomb and noticed that the stone was rolled away from the entrance. She ran and got two of Jesus' disciples and told them that Jesus was gone. Peter and John came back to the tomb and found Jesus missing! Mary began to cry until a man appeared and asked her why she was crying. She turned to look at the man properly and saw that it was Jesus. Jesus told her to go and tell the disciples that He was going back to Heaven. So Mary went back and told the disciples all about what had happened and that she had seen Jesus alive!

Though our Family Easter Adventure has come to a close, our adventures with Jesus continue! And just like any adventure we are on— in the celebration, the set-backs, the disappointment, and confusing times— we know we can trust God on our journey, just like Jesus did!

- **Share a time where you had a great celebration. What did it feel like? Who was there? How did you celebrate?**

Allow kids to celebrate the fact that Jesus is risen by throwing confetti and/or using any other celebratory items. Finish by answering any questions your children might have about what you talked about on this adventure. Feel free to contact your campus kid's coordinator if you need any extra support or resources.

**Content adapted from Grow Curriculum's 'Easter Escapade' by Ashley Sider*