

ROCK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

 **HOLY WEEK 2020**
Daily Devotional Guide

CONTENTS

Palm Sunday - Messianic Presentation.....	3
Monday - The Clearing of the Temple.....	5
Tuesday - Jesus Foretells of His Death.....	7
Wednesday - The Anointing at Bethany.....	9
Thursday - The Last Supper.....	11
Friday - The Crucifixion.....	13
Saturday - The Burial and the Quiet.....	15
Resurrection Sunday.....	16

PALM SUNDAY: MESSIANIC PRESENTATION

"Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout in triumph, Daughter Jerusalem! Look, your King is coming to you; he is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." ~ Zechariah 9:9

Read Matthew 21:1-11

The city gates of Jerusalem would have been a place where many Kings had passed as they entered the city. When we read through the triumphal entry, we can see that the people are welcoming Jesus in the same way. The people had heard of Jesus and His miracles and are beginning to believe that Jesus could be the King or Messiah that the prophets said was coming to rescue Israel. In Luke 19:41 we read that Jesus was crying as He approached Jerusalem. He knew that they people didn't understand who He was or why He was coming.

In the Old Testament when the prophets talked about the Messiah coming, they also talked about that He, the Messiah, would be bringing in a new kingdom. As Jesus entered Jerusalem people stood on both sides of the road shouting and cheering for him. The people thought Jesus was coming to be their king here on earth. They thought he'd defeat the Romans, who ruled over them, and then they'd be free to rule themselves.

The people were so excited. They laid palm branches on the road in front of Jesus as he passed by to show Him honor. Some even threw down their cloaks! And all the people shouted, "Hosanna! Hosanna!" which means "save us!" The people praised Jesus as he entered the town because they thought he was going to be their new earthly king. But Jesus had a greater plan that they didn't understand. Jesus was about to bridge the gap between Heaven and Earth. The people thought their biggest need was to be rescued from Rome, but God knew they had a greater need. A need to be forgiven of their sins so that they could be together with Him for eternity. Jesus was sent to fulfill this need and offered up His life as payment for our sins. This Palm Sunday let's celebrate together that Jesus came not as the King we wanted, but as the King we actually needed.

Family Activity:

Materials Needed: No materials needed

Have Children stand with you in the middle of the room.

Tell the children that in the beginning God created the Earth and made a place where God and People could be together in a community. But something terrible happened, the enemy of God convinced the people they could be like God and the people made a decision to follow their way instead of God's way. When they did this sin entered the world. Sin separates us from God.

Stand on one side of the room and have the children go on the other side of the room across from you.

Tell the children that God and man were apart from one another because of man's sin. Ask the children to try to come to you without touching anything or anybody in the room. (Let them think for a bit). After they have tried and guessed, tell the children it's impossible for them to get to where you are because there is nothing they can do. They are totally helpless and can't even help themselves. Tell them there is only one way for them to be able to come over to where you are, that is for you to go to where they are and offer them a way to the other side.

Walk across the room to where the children are and pick them up one by one and carry them across the room.

This is the hope that is found in Jesus. This is why the Jews were excited when Jesus came into Jerusalem. The people didn't understand that the messiah wasn't coming to save them from Rome, but from the death and destruction that we deserve because of our sin. Jesus made a way for us to be with God, by coming to earth and dying for our sins. Our sin separated us from God, but Jesus came to where we are to offer up His life so that we would have the opportunity to be with God forever if we ask Him to forgive us of our sins and be in charge of our lives.

Prayer Point:

What do you do when Jesus doesn't seem glorious to you? Talk to God about how that feels. No matter what you're facing in life right now, ask God to help you experience the joy and anticipation the crowd showed in cheering Jesus' entering the temple in Matthew 21. Ask God to give you tangible ways to share your joy with others as you walk with Jesus and anticipate celebrating Resurrection Day this week.

MONDAY - THE CLEARING OF THE TEMPLE

I will bring them to my holy mountain and let them rejoice in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” ~Isaiah 56:7

Read Matthew 21:12-27

On Monday after entering into Jerusalem, Jesus made His way to the temple. Every year Jews would travel to Jerusalem for Passover. As a part of the celebration, they would need to bring with them animals to offer as a gift to God. Many of the people wouldn't travel with the animals so they would buy one when they arrived in Jerusalem. The Jewish rulers that controlled the Temple, called the Sadducees, were selfish and made a plan to make themselves rich by only allowing animals that they had inspected to be offered as a gift to God. The Sadducees were making a choice to use Passover as a way to become rich. When Jesus saw the temple being used as a marketplace, he cleared the temple, driving the money changers out and overturning tables. After Jesus drove the money changers out of the temple, He began healing and teaching people in the temple. The people were so impressed with Jesus that they began praising Him and wanted to make Him their King. The Jewish rulers were not happy about this and asked Jesus to stop the people from singing praises to Him, but Jesus refused to stop the people. This made the Jewish rulers very angry and they wanted to have Jesus killed, but because all of the people were singing praises to Jesus, they were afraid to harm Him. Our lives are very similar to the temple in this story. We were created by God and for God, but our sin messed everything up. Our lives without Jesus are unclean because of our sin, and our sin separates us from God. Only Jesus is able to clear our temple and make us right with God. When we ask Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins and to be in charge of our lives the Bible says that Jesus is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). As we anticipate celebrating the resurrection of Christ, let's remember to offer up our thanksgiving to Jesus for cleansing our lives like the temple.

Family Activity:

Materials Needed: No Materials Needed

In our story we learned about how Jesus cleared the temple of the things that were not suited for giving God honor. Jesus has the power to do this in our own lives. As a reminder to thank God for forgiving us of our sins and making us clean before God, commit to giving up for a day a type of food or treat that you usually eat that may be unhealthy. When you feel that you want that treat pray to God, giving Him thanks for His forgiveness of your sin.

Prayer Point-

What are some great things Jesus has done for you and your family or community? Where has He caused you to marvel at His power and love? Thank God for those things, and ask Him to help you be intentional this week about seeing His wonderful works and praising Him.

TUESDAY - JESUS FORETELLS OF HIS DEATH

Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ~ John 12:23

Read John 12:20-33

After the triumphant entry and the cleansing of the temple. People in the community would have been talking about what Jesus had done. His actions would have propelled him to legendary status within the community. The disciples might have been thinking that things were going better than they could have ever dreamed. After all they wanted Jesus to become King and bring about His new Kingdom. The disciples wouldn't have been ready for what He was about to tell them. Jesus told His disciples that the time had come for God's plan to happen. That He was going to die for them, but the disciples didn't understand. Jesus was telling them about God's plan, but because they had their own plan for Jesus they couldn't understand. They wanted Him to be their King. They wanted Him to defeat the Romans. They wanted Him to make great the name of Israel. What they didn't understand was that He was sent to make great the name of the Father. After telling the disciples what was going to happen Jesus calls out to God saying, “Father, glorify your name!” After Jesus says this a voice came from Heaven that said, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” Jesus was facing His own death. There is no doubt that Jesus was feeling some stress concerning what was about to happen, and we get to read His prayer to God in verse 27-28. Right now, in our community, many of us are feeling the same way. As we pray, “Father, save me from this hour” I would hope that we would also remember to pray, as Jesus did, “Father, glorify your name!”

Family Activity:

Materials Needed: Paper towel, paper, and writing or drawing utensils.

Draw a giant fake check for \$50,000 on a piece of paper or paper towel. Pass out drawing materials to your children (pencil and paper).

SAY: “We just won the magazine sweepstakes! Some guy dropped off a check at our front door for \$50,000!” (Show fake check.) “What should we do with the money?”

Have Children draw what they would do with the \$50,000.

SAY: “How would you feel if I showed up at your door and told you that you won \$50,000 dollars, but when I gave you the check it was written on a paper towel. I would be super excited at first, but when I saw the check, I would feel upset because it wasn’t what I was expecting. In our lesson today the disciples would have been excited to see everyone following and listening to Jesus. They would have thought wow this is great! Jesus then told them that He was about to die, which really confused them because it wasn’t at all what they were expecting. God had a better plan than the disciples could ever imagine, and even when things don’t look like what we expect, we know that we can trust God.

Prayer Point-

If you’re suffering, ask God to comfort you, through His Word and through people in your life who can encourage and exhort you. Ask Him to give you friends and community in this church family who can show you the love of God in your seasons of suffering. Reach out to a leader at your congregation if you need someone to talk to or need help finding community.

WEDNESDAY - THE ANOINTING AT BETHANY

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. ~ Matthew 22:37

Read Mark 14:1-11

During the week of the Passover feast, Jesus made His way to the town of Bethany. Jesus had performed many miracles in Bethany and one that all the people of Bethany would have remembered. Some time back Lazarus had gotten really sick and died, but Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. It's no surprise that when Jesus came to Bethany He was welcomed into the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. While Jesus was there the people threw Him a celebration. At the celebration Mary, Lazarus and Martha's sister, took a pound of expensive perfume and poured it over Jesus' head and even used her hair to anoint Jesus's feet. When she did this the room would have filled with the smell of perfume, and everyone would have stopped to see what was going on. Judas (the disciple who would betray Jesus) was upset by what Mary did, and questioned why she didn't sell the perfume and give the money to the poor. Everyone was watching to see how Jesus would respond. Jesus responded by saying that what Mary did was a beautiful thing. Mary understood that Jesus was about to die (He had already told them that). Out of her desire to follow Jesus all of her life, she gave Him what was of most value to her. She was holding nothing back. She could have poured part of it out and kept some for herself, but instead, she gave Him all she had to give.

Family Activity:

Materials Needed: A large poster board or pieces of paper taped to the wall on which you can write, Large marking pen

Read Matthew 22:37 as a family.

Take turns writing one or two things on the poster board/paper that you love about God. If you can try to remember a verse in the Bible that goes along with these qualities of God. (Example: God forgives sin—1 John 1:9) After writing down everyone's answers take time to ask your kids how that looks in their own lives.

SAY: Mary loved Jesus so much that she was willing to give Him what was most valuable to her. How do you show that you love God in your own life? Provide some examples of ways that you show you love Jesus, as well as ways you need to be better at showing Him your love.

Prayer Point-

Ask God to show you if there is hurt, resentment, or any other feeling from that betrayal still hiding in your heart. Ask God to heal you and show you other people who can help you heal. Consider if you need to seek reconciliation. Remember that God loves you and is with you, even if you cannot understand how. His love for you does not change.

THURSDAY - THE LAST SUPPER

...and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is[b] for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. ~ 1 Corinthians 11:24 - 26

Read Luke 22:7-23

Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday as Jews were getting ready to celebrate the Passover festival, a festival to remember that God rescued the Israelite people from slavery in Egypt. Jesus asked his disciples to prepare the Passover meal, but Jesus had a very special plan for this supper that the disciples did not know about.

During the dinner, Jesus warned his friends that someone close to him would turn him into the Jewish leaders who wanted to kill him. He even lets Judas know that He will be the one to betray Him. His friends must’ve wondered what would happen to Jesus, but Jesus had something else to talk about. Jesus wanted the disciples to know what He was about to do He was doing to serve them and all of humanity.

Jesus set an example of serving others by washing the disciples’ feet. After Jesus had washed the feet of the disciples. He told them that this would be his last supper with them before He was killed. Jesus took bread and broke it into pieces and told the disciples that the bread represents his body, that He is giving for us. And when they eat of this bread, they should do it to remember Him. In the same way Jesus took a cup of wine and told them that it represents His blood that He will pour out for them, and when they drink from the cup, they should do it to remember Him. Jesus was preparing them for a time that He would no longer be with them, and to this day churches still use bread and grape juice or wine to remember what Jesus did for them.

Family Activity:

As a family, make some Unleavened Bread as a reminder of all Christ did for us. You will need the following:

Materials Needed:

1 cup whole wheat flour

¼ tsp salt

¼ tsp ground cumin or coriander

½ cup water

Mix the ingredients together onto a lightly floured surface. Knead the dough for a total of 5 minutes. Divide the dough into three balls and flatten each ball into a circle. Have an adult fry the rounds of dough on a hot skillet (the skillets should be hot enough that a drop of water dances on the surface.) Set the hot bread on paper towels to cool.

Explain:

Yeast was not used in the Passover meal because the Israelites had to be ready to go in a moments notice and they did not have time to wait for the bread dough to rise. To this day, unleavened bread is used when observing the Passover meal. At the Passover meal, the bread is eaten with bitter herbs as a reminder of the bitter hardships the Jews suffered when they were slaves in Egypt. Try spreading some horseradish sauce on the unleavened bread then enjoy your children's reactions when they taste it! For a sweeter taste, try serving the unleavened bread with a bit of honey and enjoy it with a drink of grape juice. Encourage your children to share God's goodness with one another.

Prayer Point-

Is there anyone in your life going through intense suffering with whom you could spend time, even if it's through technology until we can again gather together in person? Ask God to show you someone who needs the gift of your presence in your neighborhood, office, school, or community. Ask God to show you opportunities to serve them through sending a message, leaving a gift at their door, or connecting in the best way you can. Ask Him to give you words to comfort and the patience to mourn with those who mourn. In so doing, we honor God and remind one another of the gift of community. We comfort others as people who are ultimately comforted by the love and peace of God.

FRIDAY - THE CRUCIFIXION

As soon as it was morning, having held a meeting with the elders, scribes, and the whole Sanhedrin, the chief priests tied Jesus up, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ~ Mark 15:1-2

Read Luke 22:47-23:49

After Jesus had His last supper with His disciples' things begin to start happening very quickly. Jesus goes to a garden to pray. While He was praying, Jesus had asked some of His disciples to keep watch. When Jesus came back to where His disciples were, He found them asleep and woke them up to keep watch. Jesus went back to pray, but once again came back to find His disciples sleeping. Three different times this happens and then Judas shows up with guards to arrest Jesus.

The guards took Jesus to be on trial before the Sanhedrin, which was made up of all the Jewish Rulers. The Sanhedrin charged Jesus with saying that He was equal with God and sentenced Him to a punishment of death. There was only one problem with this. The Jewish rulers were not allowed to put someone to death themselves and would have to convince the Roman ruler to do it for them.

The Jewish leaders brought Jesus to Pilate (the Roman Governor for the area) and accused Jesus of breaking the law. Pilate asked Jesus if he was the King of the Jews, and Jesus, only replied, "you have said so." Pilate tells the Jewish leaders that there is not enough evidence to execute Jesus, but the Jewish leaders were not happy. Pilate decided to give the people an option. Every year at this time Pilate would free a prisoner to the people. So, Pilate asked the people if they wanted him to release the King of the Jews? The Jewish leaders stirred up the crowd and told them to ask for a man named Barabas a known criminal. Trying to please the crowd Pilate released Barabas and asked them what he should do with Jesus. The crowd cried crucify him! Pilate asked them, "why, what evil has he done?" but they just yelled crucify him all the more! Then Pilate had Jesus beaten and gave him over to the people to be crucified.

Jesus was nailed to a cross with a sign above his head that said, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." The guards that hung Jesus on the cross tore his clothes off him and divided them among them. People made fun of Jesus and even spat on him, but Jesus showed his love for them by asking God to forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.

As Jesus hung on the cross, the sins of the world were put on His life. He became covered by our sin and died because of our sin. Before He died Jesus prayed to God saying in a loud voice, “into your hands I commit my spirit.” All of Jesus’ followers were sad, they didn’t understand what had just happened. They couldn’t believe that Jesus, the Messiah was dead. They felt alone and afraid and forgot everything Jesus had told them about what was about to happen. All they could think about was that their savior was dead, and they didn’t feel like there was any hope.

Family Activity:

Materials Needed:

Bible, Tree Branch, Pencils or Crayons, Paper, Scissors, and Yarn or Ribbon (or something to attach the paper to the branch)

Jesus Promised His Disciples He would raise from the dead. Read together:

Matthew 16:21

Matthew 17:22-23

Mark 8:31

Luke 18:31-33

John 2:19,21

Read what Jesus had told His followers about His death. As you read the verse write the Bible reference on a sheet of paper. Hand each paper to one of your children.

Ask your

kids to cut the paper into different fruit or flower shapes for the tree and have them attach their cutouts to the tree branch using the yarn or ribbon. Place the tree with the references where you can see it until Easter Sunday.

SAY: When we look at this tree branch that you made beautiful with all these fruits and flowers, we can remember Jesus was making something beautiful out of something that seemed very ugly. Jesus chose to die on the cross for your sin and my sin so we wouldn’t have to be separated from God. It is a beautiful picture of how much God loves us and wants us to be with Him. Don’t worry though, just as Jesus promised, in three days He was going to raise back from the dead.

Prayer Point-

How does knowing what Jesus endured help you when you’re struggling, when you feel fear, doubt, pain, or loneliness? Thank God today that Jesus did not only go before us, but that He also experienced hard things the same way we do, in a human body with human faculties. Ask God to remind you of that when you suffer. Ask God to comfort you with this truth when it feels like no one understands the pain you’re experiencing.

SATURDAY - THE BURIAL AND THE QUIET

He made the one who did not know sin to be sin[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ~ 2 Corinthians 5:21

Read Matthew 27:57-66

After Jesus died His body was placed in a tomb and on the next day. The Jewish rulers went back to Pilate and asked Him to assign guards to watch the tomb, because they had remembered how Jesus said that He would raise from the dead on the third day. Roman guards were posted at the door of the tomb. Those guards may have felt silly, guarding the tomb of a man who had died. The guards may have wondered to themselves, “Why this tomb? What was so special about this man?” They would learn soon enough for themselves what made this tomb so special, but for that day there was a quiet as people didn’t fully understand what was about to happen.

Family Activity:

According to a 2018 Nielsen report, American adults spend on average over nine hours each day interacting with digital media on various platforms.¹ Screen time isn’t inherently bad, but it can easily dominate our time and attention. Let’s turn off our televisions, video games, phones, and the devices we use to kill time when we’re bored, and instead spend today focused on other things. Allow yourself extra time to read and think about Scripture, enjoy an extra-long meal with people you love, either with those in your household or virtually with your community, or get outside and experience the wonder of God’s creation. Remind yourself to be present among the people God has called you to love, pray for, and spend your life with.

Prayer Point 1-

Have you ever doubted Jesus rose from the dead? Do you doubt that now? Talk to God about any doubts you have about who Jesus is or what He did. God already knows what you think and how you feel; nothing is hidden from Him. But He wants you to talk to Him about everything—both good and bad—so don’t be afraid! He is both patient and kind. Ask God to comfort you even in your doubts, to reveal truth, and to give you faith to believe He is who His Word says He is. Ask Him to help you believe that all His promises are true, and that they are for you!

Prayer Point 2-

If you feel like God has abandoned you, take heart. Jesus died for you so that you never have to experience life without God. Thank God that Sheol could not hold Jesus, who defeated sin and death for us. Praise God that Sunday is coming, and that every new day brings us life in Him!

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ~ Luke 24:2-3.

Read Matthew 28:1-20

Each day we have been discussing events of Jesus' last week before He gave His life up for us. Today is Easter or Resurrection Sunday and all the events of Holy Week that we have been learning about have led to this moment. Early on Sunday morning several women who were followers of Jesus traveled to the tomb and discovered that the stone that was covering the entrance of the tomb had been rolled away. Then an angel appeared to them and told them not to be afraid. He told them that Jesus isn't here He has risen from the dead just like He said He was going to do. That was not the end of the story though, Jesus would appear to people five different times just on that first day. First, He appeared to Mary the woman who had poured her perfume on Him and anointed His feet with her hair. Then Jesus appeared to Peter, and then to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and lastly that day He appeared to all of His disciples except Thomas, while they gathered together for prayer. Jesus came and lived the life that we couldn't live and died the death that we deserved, but Jesus didn't stay dead. God accepted His payment for our sins and Jesus showed His power over sin and death by coming back to life. Jesus showed to everyone that He is who He said He is, and He did what He said He would do. After Jesus' resurrection, He spent 40 days on Earth appearing to more than 500 people. After the 40 days, Jesus ascended into Heaven to sit at the right hand of God, and the Holy Spirit came in Jesus' place to live within those who have put Jesus in charge of their life. To this day the tomb is empty, and Jesus offers us the gift of eternal life that He paid for on the Cross. This Easter let us commit to celebrating our risen Lord. Let us not get distracted from remembering who Jesus is and what He has done. Let our actions proclaim with boldness that Jesus is our savior and has defeated sin and death. Let's step into the confidence in knowing that Jesus' payment for our sin is what makes us right with God. Lastly let's commit to participating in the mission of Christ together, reaching a world that is desperate for Him.

Family Activity:

Option 1: Make Resurrection Biscuits

Materials: Large marshmallow, cans of crescent rolls, sugar, cinnamon, melted unsalted butter

Mix about 1/2 cup white sugar and a tablespoon of cinnamon. You can alter the amount of each depending on how much you love cinnamon and how much sugar you want to use.

Open and lay out the biscuits.

Have your kids take out a marshmallow. Dip it in the melted butter and then roll it around in the cinnamon sugar. Place the marshmallow in the center of the crescent or biscuit and wrap the dough tightly around the marshmallow.

Continue with the steps until you run out of the biscuits you intended to use. I used 2 cans, so 16 biscuits. Place them on a baking dish. Make sure it's non-stick. The sugar might leak out and you don't want a big mess to clean up later. Sprinkle extra cinnamon sugar on the biscuits. Bake in the oven at 350°F or whatever the can of biscuits recommends. Bake until they are golden brown in color. Remove from oven once they are done and let them cool.

Once they are cooled you can cut one in half or let your child bite one. It will be empty! No more marshmallow!

Option 2: Make Resurrection Eggs

Materials: Plastic Easter eggs, house hold items.

Make Resurrection Eggs with your family. Find things around the house to work together to put together a set of Resurrection Eggs. If you don't have something that is listed, try and think of something that is in your house or outside that could be used as a substitute. After all the eggs are filled, use them to walk you through the events of Holy week..

EGG #1: A small leaf as a "palm branch" symbolizing the scene described in Matthew 21:1-11

EGG #2: A small cloth with perfume on it to symbolize the scene in John 12:2-8

EGG #3: A piece of cereal to illustrate the Last Supper described in Matthew 26:17-19

EGG #4: Three dimes to symbolize Judas' betraying of Christ as described in Matthew 27:3

EGG #5: Toothpicks glued in the shape of a cross to re-ect Jesus carrying His cross as described in John 19:17

EGG #6: A small thorny branch or a single thorn to show Jesus' crown as described in John 19:2

EGG #7: Small dice to show soldiers gambled for Jesus' clothes as explained in John 19:23-24

EGG #8: A tiny nail or straight pin to illustrate nailing Jesus to the cross from John 19:18, 37 & 20:25-29

EGG #9: A small bit of sponge to illustrate Matthew 27:34

EGG #10: Several whole cloves or other spices to re-ect Jesus' burial as described in John 19:40

EGG #11: A small rock to illustrate the tomb covering of John 20:1

EGG #12: Empty to show "He is risen!" per John 20:6-7

After this activity pray together as a family, thanking Jesus for dying and resurrecting for you and your family.

Prayer Point-

Spend a few moments worshipping God. What have you learned about Him this week? How has your love for Him increased as you walked through the Holy Week Scriptures? Thank God for the good gift of His Word, filled with His promises!

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