

4 EASY WAYS TO MAKE

Easter

“STICK” THIS YEAR

1. Start on Palm Sunday

Easter is the perfect time to begin a new discipleship rhythm with your family. Start by celebrating Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, and then use the momentum you’ve gained to turn everyday moments into moments that matter all week long. As your family makes space (in your hearts ... and schedules!) to intentionally worship God this week, you’ll be planting Gospel seeds that have an eternal impact.

2. Pick a Tangible Reminder

Whether it is a book, a printable resource, a cross or any other tangible resource you can find, pick it out and put it on your kitchen table. You’ll want to make sure it’s something you enjoy looking at, too, so choose something beautiful.

When it comes to creating a new habit, even one that only lasts a week, you need *something* that prompts you to follow through on those good intentions. Physical objects are more likely to act as speed bumps, slowing you down so you can engage with God.

When you see that item in the center of your table, you’ll be reminded that this is the place and now is the time for your Holy Week celebration. Even if you shove the reminder to the side in order to make room for the mashed potatoes, you can’t ignore a tangible object — which is the point.

When you gather around the table (and make room for those potatoes!), that’s your cue. Set the distractions of the day aside. It’s time to engage.

3. Just Read Something

Starting a conversation about Jesus’ death and resurrection — especially with kids — is intimidating. We get it. But you can do this! It doesn’t have to be a long moment for it to be a significant one.

Go straight to the source. Read stories from the Gospels, which record the final week in Jesus’ life. Retrace His steps from each day and consider what was happening during that time. Don’t feel the need to offer an elaborate theology lesson. Just let the stories do the work. (*Check out the A Journey Through Holy Week Family Guide created by Awana at childdiscipleship.com!*)

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And lean into the odd elements because these aren't boring stories. Jesus kicked over tables in the temple. Jesus talked to a tree, and it listened. A woman dumped perfume all over Jesus' head while He was eating dinner. Let your kids enjoy the surprising elements of these surprising stories.

4. Embrace the Mess

There is a world of difference between describing family devotionals and *doing* family devotionals. If you don't already know, doing is going to feel pretty hectic. But that's okay. **Embrace the mess because you're not after one flawless moment; you're after meaningful moments.** In the midst of the mess, it matters less that you do everything perfectly and more that you keep coming back to the story.

The reward will come as you accumulate these moments over time. The sum of these moments, messy and often out of control, will reap lasting rewards.

So if a fight breaks out while you are reading, don't assume you're a failure. If you forget a day, don't despair. If your kid keeps saying, "This is BORING," know that we've been there, too. **Give yourself some grace. Then keep going.**

When you make it to Sunday morning, celebrate! However messy it's been, you've **spent time walking through the story of Jesus with your kids. And what a story!**

Dead for a moment, but alive once again. Jesus, our King, lives forever. Amen!

This article was written by our friend Chris Pappalardo. Chris is the cofounder of GoodKind, a ministry created to help parents be more intentional about family discipleship. To learn more about their Easter Blocks and other family resources, check out www.goodkind.shop.

If you're looking for a free family discipleship resource to walk through this Easter, check out the free *A Journey Through Holy Week Family Guide* from Awana. For more resources for your home and church, visit childdiscipleship.com.

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