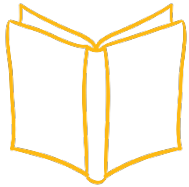


# DAILY DEVOTIONAL



April 6, 2020 – Mr. Brooke



**Read:** The Triumphal Entry (Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-44)  
**Theme:** Holy Week

Welcome back from Spring Break!

There are so many different parts of the Bible that I wish I could have witnessed firsthand. Can you imagine watching the Red Sea part in two, the mighty Goliath falling to the ground, the feeding of the five thousand, or the blind man getting to see for the first time? The Bible is full of remarkable stories, but this week our attention shifts toward the story in which *God races toward* us with the gift of Jesus' death and resurrection.

This weekend, I have been reading the different accounts of Jesus' triumphal (victorious) entry, and I am wishing that I could have been on the side of that road as Jesus entered the city. Can you imagine? So many people were trying to figure out who this Jesus character truly was. As I have been reading it, there are 3 things I think would have jumped out at me had I been there in person. There is a symbol, a word, and a phrase. Perhaps one of these three will stand out to you as we start into our week.

1. A symbol: the Donkey  
The King of Kings could have entered the city in the mightiest of ways. He could have had chariots, horses, soldiers, and trumpets. Yet our God chooses to come with the symbol of peace. Jesus provides peace in a world that is tossed and turned by sin and struggle. Only Jesus, the King of Kings, would have His victorious entry into the city be marked by peace.
2. A word: Hosanna  
The word "Hosanna" referenced a rescuer or one who saves. The people shouted this word with passion, purpose, and proclamation. "Hosanna!" As Jesus approaches the city, the people are claiming that He is not just filled with peace, but He is one of power. He is the One, the only One, who has the power to save and rescue. In a world that is in desperate need of rescuing, Jesus is the only solution.
3. A phrase: "If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."  
The Pharisees don't like all this attention on Jesus. The people are honoring and praising Him on this triumphal entry. They command Jesus to "rebuke" His disciples. They want Jesus to stop this whole scene. In that moment Jesus says, "If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." There is no containing the King of Kings. Jesus is worthy of our praise, and if we choose not to give it, even the rocks will cry out to shout His praises. This phrase has reminded me that we serve a God who rules over all things, and I am so glad He does!

Peace, power, and praise. The symbol of the donkey reminds us that Jesus came as a symbol of peace in a world that fights, quarrels, and struggles. The word “Hosanna” reminds us that the people realized that this King was different and had the power to save them. The phrase, “the stones will cry out,” reminds us that the King of Kings is beyond worthy of our praise.

As we move through Holy Week, let’s all focus on the peace, power, and praise that is packed into the story of the triumphant entry.



**Activity:**

Select the symbol, the word, or the phrase to focus on today. After selecting one, ask God to teach you more and more about the peace He provides, the power He possesses, or the praise He deserves.



**Prayer:**

God, thank You for racing toward us and setting us free through Your death and resurrection. Help us to focus on You this week!

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL



April 7, 2020 – Mr. Burgess



**Read:** Parts of Exodus 12, Psalm 22, and/or Isaiah 53

**Key Verse:** John 19:24 “This happened that the Scriptures might be fulfilled...”

*Just a quick reminder that we are writing these devotionals for families to use together. We are not expecting that students in K-3 could read them on their own! So parents, feel free to take and apply to your children (WCGS students, pre-schoolers, or high schoolers)! 😊 This one is exceptionally long, so choose what might work best with your family!*

Truths:

1. God’s Word is Truth!
2. God in the Old Testament predicts many specific things about the death of Jesus, our Passover Lamb!
3. Jesus is the Messiah (the Anointed One), the Savior of the World!

This week we anticipate remembering Jesus’ death and resurrection. Jesus is the Son of God—God Himself. It was not an accident that Jesus was killed. It was part of God’s Plan before the foundations of the world. This was God’s way of offering us sinners a plan of salvation, a way for us to have our sins forgiven!

There are hundreds of prophecies in the Old Testament about the Messiah, the Christ. Did you know that there are over 100 Old Testament predictions specifically about how the Messiah (Jesus) would die?

- **The Passover (about 1500 B.C): Exodus 12.** As the Israelites were preparing to leave Egypt after 9 previous plagues, they celebrated their first Passover. (Passover for Jews this year will begin at sundown on Wednesday, April 8.) God gave detailed instructions. They were told to take a 1-year-old male lamb, without defect, and kill it 5 days later. They were to put its blood on the sides and tops of the doorframes of their house. That night they were to eat the roasted meat. Later that night, God would pass over the Egyptians’ and Israelites’ houses. If He saw the lamb’s blood on the doorframes, He would *pass over* that house. Otherwise the firstborn son of the family would be killed. Obedience to God meant LIFE!
  - Jesus is our Passover lamb. Because He shed His blood, we can have forgiveness and not die.
  - The lamb was without defect (12:5); Jesus is perfect. He never sinned!
  - The lamb’s bones were not to be broken (12:46); Jesus’ bones were not broken (like the criminals’ legs) when he was on the cross (John 19:31-36).

- **Psalm 22, a psalm of David (written about 1000 B.C.).** Read verses 1, 6-7, and 14-18. See how many similarities you can find between what David wrote and what happened when Jesus was crucified! (I made a list for you at the end!)

EXTRA CREDIT!!!

- **Isaiah 53 which Isaiah wrote 700 B.C.** Again, find the similarities!

**Summary:** Moses wrote about the Passover Lamb 1500 years before Jesus was born. David shared some very specific details about Jesus' death 1000 years before it happened, and Isaiah taught about the sacrificial lamb 700 years before "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" was even born!

Jesus' death was not an accident. It was not something that God could not prevent. It was part of God's original plan so we could have everlasting life! **Thank you, Jesus!**



**Activity:**

Hopefully you did some detective work on Psalm 22 and/or Isaiah 53. Tell Mom or Dad 3 things that you learned today!



**Prayer:**

Father God, thank You for making a way for us sinners to be forgiven. Jesus, thank You for being willing to come to earth knowing that You would die for our sins. Help me to show my love for You by obeying You today. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.

Some prophecies fulfilled in Jesus:

Psalm 22

- V 1: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me?" Jesus actually said this in Matthew 27:46!
- Vs 6-7: "All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads." The chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders mocked Him (Matthew 27:41).
- V 15: He was thirsty. In John 19:28, Jesus says, "I am thirsty," to fulfill the prophecy.
- V 16: "They have pieced my hand and my feet." The soldiers pierced His hands, His feet, and His side (John 19:34).
- V 18: "They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." John 19:24 confirms the soldiers did this so that the Scriptures would be fulfilled!

EXTRA CREDIT:

Isaiah 53 (These are some of them.)

- V 5: "But he was pierced for our transgressions." Again see John 19:34.
- V 7: "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a LAMB before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth." Mark 15:5 "But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed."
- V 9: "He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death." Jesus was killed with 2 criminals and buried in the tomb of a wealthy man, Joseph of Arimathea.

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL



April 8, 2020 – Mr. Brooke



**Read:** Matthew 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-52, Luke 22:47-53, and John 18: 1-14

**Theme:** Holy Week – The Arrest of Jesus

We certainly live in a world that is filled with pictures. Perhaps you are a photographer or have simply taken photos on a phone before. On my phone, it is quite simple to “zoom in” on a particular part of a larger picture. I can zoom in and see the smile on someone’s face, the funny animal in the background of our family portrait, or the scoreboard off in the distance of a sports photo. Today I want to ask you to zoom in to a particular part of the story we are unpacking this week. You see, our story this week includes Palm Sunday, Passover, Old Testament prophecy, an arrest, betrayal, a trial, and much more.

During this Easter season, God has helped me “zoom in” on the arrest of Jesus. I would encourage you to read the whole passage as a family or by yourself. Think about these three take-aways and other areas that God might help you zoom in on.

As we zoom in, we learn three key things.

- Jesus was/is innocent: I find it so fascinating that the religious leaders planned out a nighttime arrest of Jesus when he had been out in the open almost every day. At any point they could have arrested him, but they avoided that type of arrest. You see, they came to Jesus in the night through one of his disciples who knew where Jesus and the group would be. They tried to be sneaky, knowing that they did not have anything to arrest him on (Mark 14:49).
- Jesus was/is powerful: This theme continues to come up in our study this week. When Jesus asks the soldiers who they have come for, they say they have come for Jesus of Nazareth. He says, “I am he.” He actually repeats this phrase three times and after the second time he says it, the Bible says, “They (the soldiers) drew back and fell to the ground” (John 18:6). As Jesus simply says, “I am he,” the opposition falls to the ground. This was an innocent man and a very powerful man. He could have run and escaped when these people collapsed to the ground. But not Jesus. Jesus had you, me, and the world in mind when He stood and waited for them to rise back to their feet. His power proved He could have gotten out of this crucifixion, but He stayed, knowing He needed to die to save His children from their sins.
- Jesus was/is so good: As the soldiers begin to arrest Jesus, Simon Peter comes out of nowhere and swipes the ear right off a servant in the religious leaders’ group. Jesus commands His disciples to put away their weapons and not to fight this. He moves toward this injured man named Malchus, and simply places His hand on where the

ear had been to immediately heal the injury (Luke 22:51). Isn't it amazing that Jesus moves toward the one who came to capture Him? This is good news! We must celebrate that God also moves toward us in our worst moments. He moves toward us to heal, help, and restore. Jesus is so good.

The arrest of Jesus has been a story God has helped me zoom in on. I hope that you find great joy in God's Word and the many things we learn about our remarkable God!



**Activity:**

Have a conversation with one other person and answer the following two questions. As you think about the Easter story, what part could you zoom in on? What is God teaching you about who He is through this past week of devotionals (or through today's)?



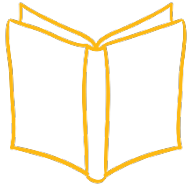
**Prayer:**

Father, thank You for going to the cross for our sins. You are perfect, powerful, and so good! Help our whole school community grow closer to You during this Easter season. Help us to know Your deep love for us and Your great plan for our lives.

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL



April 9, 2020 – Mr. Burgess  
As we look to **GOOD FRIDAY** tomorrow...



**Read:** Matthew 26:36-68 and 27:11-61

**Core Passage (Read Aloud):** Matthew 27:27-56

**Key Verse:** Matthew 27:54 "Surely he was the Son of God!"

*I realize that this is extremely long! However, please help your child(ren) understand the immensity of God's love for us. This is really a two-day devotional! ☞*

Truths:

1. Jesus willingly allowed Himself (the Passover Lamb) to be killed for us so we could live for all eternity!
2. Jesus' DEATH is so important that we are to remember Jesus' death on a regular basis through communion.
3. God LOVES us so much that He gave us His one and only Son!

Let's focus on the events leading up to and including Good Friday, which we celebrate tomorrow. To be honest, there are some different timetables out there, but I am a simple guy and will lay this out in the way I understand it! ☞ (Note: Not all of these events are recorded in every gospel book—Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John.)

The day and night before the crucifixion for Jesus were very busy, and He had very little or maybe no sleep! Yet each minute was carefully planned by God. The night before He died, Jesus ate the Last Supper and showed us in detail how we should remember His death through **COMMUNION** on a regular basis until He returns! Very important! (The bread reminds us of His body that was pierced for us; the juice or wine reminds us of the blood Jesus gave for us.) God does NOT want us to forget what Jesus did for us on Good Friday!

- Jesus washes the disciples' feet, and they eat the Seder, the Passover meal, which we now call The Last Supper.
- They cross the Kidron Valley, and Jesus prays in Gethsemane.
- The betrayal and arrest of Jesus (after midnight?)
- Jewish trial before Annas, before Caiaphas, before full Sanhedrin (after sunrise?)
- Roman trial before Pilate, before Herod, then before Pilate again.
- Crucifixion
- Burial

Let's focus on those 6 hours Jesus was on the cross. What happened doing all that time? I'm sure that seemed like a very long time to Him! The gospel writers give us some interesting information.

They also tell us that though Jesus never said anything to Herod, He spoke at least 7 times while He was on the cross.

## CRUCIFIXION

- 9:00 (third hour): Jesus is crucified between 2 robbers
  - The sign above his head: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews
  - Insults from passerbys, chief priests, teachers, elder, the two robbers!
  - #1 “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Lk. 23:34). While Jesus is in pain on the cross, He is asking His Father to forgive the men who are being mean to Him.
  - One criminal asks Jesus to remember him when He goes into His kingdom. In response, Jesus says...
  - #2 “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise” (Lk. 23:43).
- Noon (sixth hour): **DARKNESS** (in the middle of the day, for 3 hours!)
- 3:00 (ninth hour):
  - #3 Spoken to Mary, Jesus’ mother, “Dear woman, here is your son” (Jn. 19:26), and to John, “Here is your mother” (Jn. 19:27), asking John to take care of his mother after He dies.
  - #4 “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46, Mark 15:34), quoted from Psalm 22:1 that you read on Tuesday!
  - #5 “I am thirsty” (Jn. 19:28) predicted in Ps. 22:15, as you know!
  - #6 “It is finished” (Jn. 19:30). Jesus completed the assignment that God gave Him to do!
  - #7 “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” (Lk. 23:46) from Ps. 31:5
  - JESUS DIES
  - God responds:
    - Temple curtain torn *from top to bottom* (Why do you think it was torn from top to bottom?)
    - Earthquake
    - Bodies of *many* holy people came ALIVE! Wow!
  - Because the next day was the Sabbath, the Jews asked the Romans to break the legs of the 3 men crucified so they would die quicker. The soldiers did this to the 2 criminals, but Jesus was already dead. So they did not break his legs to fulfill the prophecy that not one bone would be broken (Exodus 12:46), as you learned on Tuesday!
  - Jesus was buried in a cool tomb cut into the rock! It was dark! The disciples were very discouraged!

**Summary:** What do you think was the hardest thing for Jesus when He was on the cross? Do you think it was the suffering and pain He went through for us? I think the hardest thing for Jesus was NOT the pain. I think it was the fact that He was taking on our sin. He was feeling the guilt and shame of being a sinner. He never experienced that before.

I remember the first time I lied to my father. My face got red; I knew I was guilty; I was embarrassed! Jesus had never felt that way before! He never sinned! He was the perfect Lamb of God, without blemish, without sin! Now He felt guilty before His Father...and He felt His Father turn away from Him. “My God, my God, why have You forsaken ME?” What are you going to say to God today as you realize what he has done for you? What kept Jesus on the cross? The nails? No, His everlasting love for us! Jesus loves you more than anyone. He gave His life for you!



**Activity #1: SAVE THIS SHEET FOR TOMORROW!** Look at this tomorrow (Friday) when you get up. As you go through your day, look at the clock and



figure out what was taking place on a hill just outside the city of Jerusalem on the day Jesus died. As you think about what Jesus did and what He said between 9:00 and 3:00, thank God that He was willing to suffer and die for us so that we could have our sins forgiven!!! Have you given your heart to Jesus yet? Today would be a great day to confess your sins and ask for God's forgiveness!

**Activity #2:** If you live near me, drive by my house (506 West Indiana St., Wheaton) this week. Several years ago, I took the trunks of 2 Christmas trees (that I had saved) and made them into a cross. (Christmas is the prelude to Easter!) On Saturday night at 10 p.m., I put the cross in my front yard. Sunday morning (Palm Sunday) I was out early to drape the **purple** material over the cross. On Friday with a thankful heart I'll put **black** material on it. Then on Easter Sunday with a heart full of joy, I'll put out the **white** cloth! And it is a testimony to my neighbors! Thank you, Jesus! What can you do this week to let your neighbors know about Jesus?



**Prayer:**

Father God, thank You for making a way for us sinners to be forgiven. Jesus, thank You for being willing to come to earth knowing that You would be killed and would die for our sins. Help me to show my love for You by obeying You today. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.