

The graphic features the text 'RCS Kids' in a pink, bubbly font with a green outline, flanked by two pink stars. Below it, 'HOLY WEEK' is written in a large, bold, green, blocky font. Underneath that, 'Family Guide' is written in a pink, cursive font. The entire text is framed by two green palm fronds on the sides and two small pink dots at the bottom.

A Note From Amy

Holy Week gives families a chance to pause and remember the most important story we will ever tell our children: the story of Jesus' love, His sacrifice, and His resurrection.

Earlier this month, our March family guide began preparing our children for the events of Holy Week. In the coming weeks our church will continue walking through that story together. On March 22 we will gather for Family Worship. On March 29, RCS Kids will study the final days of Jesus' life, from His return to Jerusalem through the resurrection on Palm Sunday. Then on April 5 we will celebrate Easter together as a church family.

This guide provides a few Scripture readings and simple ideas to help your family continue reflecting on these events at home as we move toward Easter.

Your RCS Kids team loves your families and is praying for you as we remember the work of Christ together.

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Week of March 22, 2026

Palm Sunday → Last Supper

Matthew 21:1–11; Matthew 26:17–29

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, He chose a donkey rather than a warhorse. This showed that He was a humble and peaceful King—the kind God had promised long before. People celebrated Him with palm branches and loud praises, hoping He would save them from their troubles. They expected a king who would change their situation quickly, but Jesus was coming to bring a rescue far deeper: He came to save His people from sin and bring them back to God.

Later that week, Jesus gathered with His disciples for the Passover meal. This meal was a reminder of how God once protected His people in Egypt through the blood of a spotless lamb. That night, Jesus took the bread and the cup and explained that they pointed to Him. He was showing them that *He* is the true Passover Lamb—God’s promised Rescuer. His body and blood would be given to save His people, once and for all.

As you walk through this week, help your child see that Jesus is both the gentle King who comes close to His people and the true Lamb who is enough to save us completely.

Week of March 29, 2026

Gethsemane → Cross → Resurrection

Matthew 26:36–28:10

After the Passover meal, Jesus went with His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. He knew the suffering ahead of Him, not only the pain of the cross, but the weight of taking the punishment for sin. In deep sorrow, He prayed to His Father, yet He chose obedience out of perfect love. Jesus was arrested and treated unfairly, though He had never sinned. On the cross, He willingly took the punishment we deserved so we could be forgiven and brought back into God's family.

Jesus died and was placed in a sealed tomb. For two days it seemed as though darkness had won. But early on the third day, everything changed. The stone was rolled away. The tomb was empty. Jesus had come back to life with power over sin and death. His resurrection is the final proof that His sacrifice was complete, His mission successful, and His promises trustworthy.

As you lead your family this week, remind your children that Jesus suffered because He loves us, died to save us, and came back to life to give us hope that lasts forever.

HOLY WEEK READING PLAN FOR FAMILIES

Each day has one passage. Read it together whenever it works: morning, bedtime, or anytime. If you miss a day, just pick up wherever you are.

Day 1 – Palm Sunday: Matthew 21:1–11

Day 2 – Jesus the Teacher: Matthew 22:34–40

Day 3 – Last Supper: Luke 22:7–20

Day 4 – Gethsemane: Matthew 26:36–46

Day 5 – The Cross: John 19:16–30

Day 6 – Jesus Is Buried: Matthew 27:57–66

Day 7 – Resurrection: Matthew 28:1–10; John 20:1–18

Simple reflection questions:

- What does this teach us about Jesus?
- Why did Jesus do this?
- How can we thank Him today?

HOME ACTIVITIES

Palm Sunday & Last Supper (March 22)

- Towel Path: Lay down a towel or paper strips and walk across them saying, “Jesus is our King.”
 - Bread & Cup Talk: Use a cracker and juice (or water) to explain Jesus’ Last Supper words.
 - Praise Walk: Take a short walk and name reasons you praise Jesus.
- ### **Gethsemane, Cross, & Resurrection (Week B)**
- Simple Cross Craft: Tear or cut paper into a cross shape and write, “Jesus Paid It All.”
 - Empty Tomb Play: Use a bowl (tomb) and small object (stone) to show the stone being rolled away.

Gethsemane, Cross, & Resurrection (March 29)

- Quiet Prayer Time: Sit quietly for 15–20 seconds thanking Jesus for His love and obedience.
- Simple Cross Craft: Tear or cut paper into a cross shape and write, “Jesus Paid It All.”
- Empty Tomb Play: Use a bowl (tomb) and small object (stone) to show the stone being rolled away.

HOME WORSHIP OPTIONS

- Draw the cross, Last Supper, or empty tomb as a response of worship.
- Scripture Echo: Parent reads a line; children repeat.
- Movement Worship: Act out waving branches, Jesus praying, or the joy of the empty tomb.
- SING: “Jesus Came to Save Sinners” by The Village Kids
- SING: “Living Hope” by Phil Wickham

PRAYER PROMPTS

Week of March 22: “Jesus, thank You for coming as our humble King. Help us welcome You.”

Week March 29: “Jesus, thank You for dying and coming back to life for us. Help us trust You today.”

FAMILY CHALLENGE: WALK WITH JESUS

Choose one simple practice each day leading up to Easter:

- Read a short Bible passage
- Pray a one-sentence prayer
- Share one truth you learned
- Do one small act of kindness in Jesus’ name
- Place your cross or tomb craft in a visible spot

These small moments help your family slow down and prepare to celebrate the hope of Easter.