

A Countdown to Easter

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL



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Introduction

I hope you enjoy *A Countdown to Easter Family Devotional*! This devotional was created for your family to keep your hearts focused on Jesus this Easter season and to remind you that God is in control and is with us no matter how crazy or difficult life becomes. As you take the journey along the game board, one day at a time for 14 days, you will be hearing the story of Jesus- from when He enters Jerusalem on a donkey, to when He raises from the dead Easter morning. Lots of things happened between these two events, most of which involved confusion, trials, pain, and suffering. It's easy to feel that God is distant when we are confused or that He is unconcerned when we go through trials. But when we look at the story of Jesus' suffering, we can see that God had a bigger plan through it all. In fact, through the most painful event in human history, God brought the greatest hope the world has ever known. My hope and prayer is that we can find hope in God's bigger plan through our current trials as we reflect on the story of Jesus and His sacrifice for us on the cross.

Instructions

Start the family devotional two weeks (14 days) before Easter! You may start earlier if you know there are certain days you won't have time. Print the game board and game piece, preferably on cardstock. Move the game piece one space for each day you go through the devotional. Specific instructions can be found below for specific age groups.

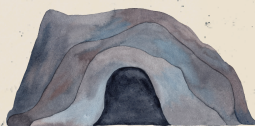
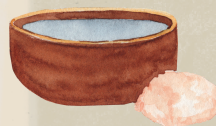
Ages 4-8: Your children will love moving their game piece on the colorful game board each day as you read and discuss the Easter devotional! Consider using a picture Bible containing the stories to add visuals, along with each day's scripture readings. [The Completed Illustrated Children's Bible](#) is the most comprehensive children's Bible I have found that covers most of the stories below. You can find other sample picture Bibles I recommend [here](#). You may also simplify the questions as needed, and you may omit the application questions if you do not have older children.

Ages 9-13: You may choose to use the colorful gameboard or just use the devotional pages and skip the game board visual, depending on the interest level of your kids. Encourage your kids to bring their Bibles to your devotional time and look up the selected verses each week as you read together. Consider taking turns leading the devotional each day. This will give your children an opportunity to practice facilitating Bible studies and feel a sense of ownership! Definitely do the application questions - they are very relevant to our world today and will make great family discussions for these ages!

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL *Countdown to Easter*



START



FINISH

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DAY 1

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

(Read Matthew 21:1-11)

1. What did Jesus ask two disciples to do, and what happened when they went and did what He asked?
2. What happened when Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem?
3. Look up Zechariah 9:9. What prophesy was fulfilled when Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem?

Application Question

Has God ever asked you to do something that took a lot of faith like when Jesus asked the disciples to find a donkey? Share with your family.

Next time God asks you to do something that requires a lot of faith, remember that just like God had a purpose for the donkey, God has a purpose for the assignments He gives you, too!

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank You for using a donkey to show us that you are our true King! Help us, like the disciples, to trust You when you ask us to do something that will bring You glory. Amen.

