









# FROM PALMS TO PASSOVER: An Easter Family Devotion



## SUNDAY: THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

-  **Read:** Mark 11:1-11
-  **Talk:** The word “hosanna” in Hebrew means “Save now!” The people laid down palm branches and cloaks to welcome Jesus. Create a palm branch out of the playdough. The people thought that Jesus was coming to save them from their troubles and problems, but we know that Jesus came to save us from much more than just problems.
- What did Jesus come to save us from? (Matthew 1:21 says He came to save us from our sins.)
  - Do you think the people were surprised to see the man they expected to be a great king ride in on a donkey? Why?
-  **Pray:** God, thank You for sending Your Son to save us from our sins. Help us to remember that Jesus is both powerful and loving.
-  **Want more?** Look up Zechariah 9:9 to see the verse that prophecies that Jesus will ride into Jerusalem on a donkey.

## MONDAY: JESUS CLEARS THE TEMPLE

-  **Read:** Matthew 21:12-17
-  **Talk:** The Israelites had to make sacrifices for their sins using animals like doves. Because of this, merchants sold animals around the temple area, and sometimes they would even cheat people and overcharge them. The temple area had become very noisy with people yelling out prices and haggling and trying to get customers. People were more focused on money than they were on prayer and worship. Jesus was so upset that He even flipped over tables! Let’s create a table out of the playdough. See if you can flip it over.
- Why was Jesus angry? (*People were not treating the temple with respect or care.*)
-  **Pray:** God, thank You for making a special place for us to worship You. Help us focus on You and what You want to teach us.
-  **Want More?** This story is told in the other Gospels as well. Read Mark 11:15-18. What does verse 18 say that the chief priests and teachers are looking for? (*The leaders are looking for a way to kill Jesus because the people are listening to Him and are amazed by His teaching.*)

## TUESDAY: THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT



**Read:** Matthew 22:34-40

**Talk:** The religious leaders are starting to get nervous; they do not like what Jesus is saying or teaching. They are looking for a way to trick Him into saying something that will make people think He's wrong. However, none of their plans are working! In these verses, Jesus tells us to love God with all of our heart, all of our soul, and all of our mind and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Mold a heart out of the playdough as a reminder to love God and love others.

- What is one way you can show love to God today?
- What is one way you can show love to someone else this week?



**Pray:** God, thank You for showing us what is right and wrong. Your Words are always true. Help us to love You and love others with everything we have.

**Want More?** Each of the Ten Commandments can be divided into either "Loving God" or "Loving Others." Read Deuteronomy 5:7-21, and see if your family can divide the commandments into these two categories.

## WEDNESDAY: JESUS IS ANOINTED WITH PERFUME



**Read:** Mark 14:1-9

**Talk:** Start by creating a perfume bottle out of the playdough. Perfume was very expensive, and in this passage, we see that the jar the woman poured over Jesus' head was worth over a year's salary. The disciples were upset because they thought that they should have sold the perfume and used the money for other things. But how does Jesus respond to their grumblings? (*Hint: It's in verse 6.*)

- What was the woman preparing Jesus for? (*His burial*)
- This was a very generous way for the woman to show her love to Jesus. What is a generous way you can show your love to Jesus this week?



**Pray:** Jesus, You are worthy of all of our love and praise! Show us how we can love You more this week.

**Want More?** Go around the table and name something that is incredibly precious or valuable to you. Would you be willing to give that to Jesus if He asked you to?

## THURSDAY: THE LAST SUPPER



**Read:** Matthew 26:17-30

**Talk:** The disciples knew that it was time for the Feast of Unleavened Bread and that they were to prepare to eat the Passover meal. It was already a special time, but they didn't realize just how special it would be. This was going to be much more than just a special holiday. Create a loaf of bread and a cup out of the playdough and think of this special time.

- Read vs. 26-28 again. What does this remind you of? (*The Lord's Supper; Parents, if your children don't attend Family Worship, this is a great opportunity to introduce the concept of the Lord's Supper to them.*)
- Why do we take the Lord's Supper? (*to remind us of Jesus' sacrifice and that He is still with us*)



**Pray:** God, thank You for good times and thank You for sad times. But most of all, thank You for Jesus' sacrifice. Help us to remember that You are always with us.

**Want More?** Read vs. 21-25 again. Why do you think Jesus was kind and loving towards Judas if He knew Judas was going to betray Him?

**That's not the end! Tomorrow, on Good Friday, use our at home Journey to the Cross guide to walk through the final moments of Jesus' life, together as a family.**

# PLAYDOUGH RECIPE

## **Ingredients:**

- 1 Cup flour
- 1/3 Cup salt
- 2 tsp cream of tarter
- 1 Cup water
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- Food coloring

## **Instructions:**

1. Mix all ingredients together in a 2 qt. sauce pan.
2. Cook over low/medium heat, stirring.
3. Once it begins to thicken, add food coloring.
4. Continue stirring until mixture thickens and collects into a boil.
5. Remove dough and let cool. Store in airtight container.

