



Celebrating Motherhood
Meeting Needs
Making Connections
Experiencing God's Love.....through relationships and resources

God's Sacrifice

By Karin L. Maudlin, Psy.D.

These devotionals are designed to guide you and your family of short, simple times with God and each other.

The family devotions focus on the crucifixion. If you're concerned they might be too intense for your younger children, use the suggestions in the "Want More" section instead of the day-by-day lessons.

Look It Up

"What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them. "Crucify him!" they shouted. Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers ... put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him ... Then they led him out to crucify him (Mark 15:12-13; 15-20).

Get Ready

Using a length of purple cloth, cut out a single 6-inch square of fabric as well as a 3-inch square for each family member.

Talk It Over

DAY 1: Our Shame

Place the large purple cloth in the center of the table and pass out a small purple piece to each family member. Now read the passage. As you talk about this story, have each person lay his or her piece of cloth on the large cloth. Talk about what you think it was like for Jesus to be mocked, hit and spit at. What does this story tell you about God's love for you? End your time by thanking God for Jesus' death and resurrection.

DAY 2: Our Betrayal

Pass out the pieces of cloth and read in Luke 23:18-25. Have one parent act as the narrator with the other parent or an older child speaking the words of Pilate. Have younger children portray the crowd, laying their pieces of cloth on the large cloth as they read. Talk together about why you think the crowd turned against Jesus. Talk about times each of you might have betrayed someone in order to follow the crowd. End your time by asking God to help you always be his faithful follower.

DAY 3: Our Fear

Read the passage from Mark 15, focusing on verses 12-15. Again, have one parent act as the narrator, one as Pilate and the children as the crowd. As the children shout "Crucify him!" have them place their purple cloths onto the center cloth. Talk about why Pilate might have given in to the crowd. Talk together about a time you did something you knew was wrong because you were afraid of what others might think if you didn't. End your time by asking God to help you stand up for what's right, even when you're afraid.

DAY 4: Our Forgiveness

Read the passage in Mark, focusing on verses 16-20. Then read Luke 23:34. Ask each family member to place his or her small purple cloth on top of the large cloth in the center of the table while saying, "Father forgive me, I did not know what I was doing." Talk together about what Jesus' forgiveness means to you. End your time by thanking God for forgiving you for all your sins.

Remember This

And when they had mocked him, they took off his purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then

they led him out to crucify him (Mark:15:20).

Want More?

AGES 3-5:

Ask your child questions like: How does the cloth feel in your hands? What do you think it felt like on Jesus' back after he had been hurt by the soldiers? Tell your child that when Jesus suffered for us, he took away our fears and hurts. Encourage your child to put the purple cloth by her bed. As you pray each night, have your child hold the cloth and ask Jesus to take away any fears she felt during the day.

AGES 6-9:

Ask your child questions like: Have you ever been accused of something you didn't do? How did you handle it? Have your child carry his cloth in his backpack this month to remind him that Jesus can help him handle difficult situations. Help your child memorize Mark 15:20.

AGES 10-14:

Ask your child to talk or write about a time she was teased or humiliated. What did she do about it? Ask what it means to her that Jesus knows how that feels and can help her through those times. Ask your child to write out Mark 15:17 and Luke 23:34 on a purple sheet of paper and try to memorize both verses this month.

FAMILY:

As a family, find ways to be more forgiving toward each other this month. Remember that sometimes forgiveness takes time, so don't feel pressured into less-than-genuine forgiveness.

BIRTHDAYS

KELLY JOHANNING

MARCH 6

KIMBERLY SWEET

MARCH 25

KATHLEEN KUTNER

MARCH 4

(MY APOLOGIES IF ANY BIRTHDAYS OR ANNIVERSARIES HAVE BEEN MISSED.)

**"JESUS TOOK MY
PLACE ON THE
CROSS TO GIVE ME
A PLACE IN
HEAVEN."
- UNKNOWN**

Hales Corners Lutheran Church

The Master Bedroom

“The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands” Proverbs 14:1 (NAS)

I was feeling so frustrated that my husband was not making some changes I'd asked him to make - changes that I thought he should make. As I was telling God my frustrations, He gave me a picture of how I'd been treating my marriage. It could really apply to any relationship. Picture this as I describe it.

Imagine your back yard and in one corner of the yard is a huge garden filled and overrun with weeds. You know you need to take care of that garden, but you also know it's going to take a lot of work. But then you remember you have a big John Deer lawnmower. You can just use that to plow down every weed. So that's what you do. You hop on the John Deere, plow down the weeds, wipe your hands, pat yourself on the back and say job well done. Sure the weeds will grow back, but you can just mow them down again.

Then your eye spots another garden in your yard. Not as big as the first, but also filled with tall weeds. *Well, I'll just use the lawnmower again*, you think to yourself. So you walk toward the garden to assess the situation, and then you notice there's already a gardener there. This gardener is working slowly and carefully. He yanks out by hand each tall weed and deposits them in a trash pile that's growing taller. *Well, that's going to take a long time*, you think to yourself. Let me tell him about my lawnmower. You slowly walk toward the garden, and as you draw closer, you notice beautiful flowers, hidden by the weeds. The gardener sees you and beckons for you to join Him. You stop. You have a choice. Do you join the gardener in tending the garden, or do you insist that you use the John Deere?

God showed me that I was treating my marriage and its challenges like the first gardener. I was just plowing through, trying my own methods of fixing things, and leaving decimation in its wake. Not to mention my repairs were just temporary. I sensed God saying to me, *Let me be the Gardener of your marriage. Let's try my gentle ways. I will help you uncover the precious treasures in your marriage.*

Talk honestly with God in prayer about your marriage. If you see that you are using the John Deere method of gardening in your marriage, confess this sin to God and ask Him to be the Gardener of your marriage.

Dear Lord, thank you for my husband and my marriage. I want the marriage you want me to have, Lord. I confess that I try to do my own gardening many times. I surrender myself, my husband, and my marriage into Your hands, Lord, acknowledging that You alone know the best way to tend to the garden of my marriage. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Related Resources:

[What a Husband Needs from His Wife](#) by Melanie Chitwood

[Personality Plus for Couples](#) by Florence Littauer

[Encouragement for Your Marriage in Everyday Life](#)

Application Steps:

Identify the pesky weeds in your marriage. Pray with open hands as you surrender each one to God. Ask Him to be the Gardener in your marriage and to deal with each weed the way He sees is best.

Reflections:

In what ways do you treat your husband like a pesky weed? In what ways do you treat him like a beautiful flower?

In what ways can you “put on love” (Colossians 3:14) for your husband?

After reading today's key verse, think about ways you can “build your house” - strengthen your marriage - rather than tear it down. Commit to doing one idea this week.

Power Verses:

Colossians 3:12-13, “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the lord forgave you, also should you.” (NAS)

Colossians 3:14, “Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.” (NAS)

By [Melanie Chitwood](#)
www.proverbs31.org

The Kitchen Corner

Easter Story Cookies

This is a great recipe to make the night before Easter and discuss the Easter story with your children.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup whole pecans
- 1 cup sugar
- Tape
- Zipper baggie
- 1 tsp. vinegar
- Bible
- Wooden spoon
- 3 egg whites
- Pinch of Salt

Preheat oven to 300 degrees (this is important, don't wait till you're half done with the recipe!)

Place pecans in zipper baggie and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was Beaten by the Roman soldiers. **Read John 19:1-3.**

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, He was

given vinegar to drink. **Read John 19:28-30.**

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. **Read John 10:10-11.**

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. **Read Luke 23:27.**

So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar.

Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. **Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16.**

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus.

Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. **Read Matthew 27:57-60.**

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. **Read Matthew 27:65-66.**

GO TO BED! Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. **Read John 16:20 and 22.**

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live."

John 11:25

The Craft Table

Painting with Peeps®!



Materials:

Construction Paper Vanilla Pudding Easter Peeps®

Cut large Easter egg shapes out of the construction paper.

Put dollops of vanilla pudding in a small bowl and then use the Peeps® as the "paintbrush".

The Peeps® makes a perfect grip for little hands and gives a great sponge-effect for painting. The Peep® will change the color of the pudding! Once your child is finished painting, they can eat their "paintbrush".

Note: This year, Peeps® will come in the traditional blue, pink, yellow and lavender, but they are introducing new GREEN Peeps®!

JESUS 

- Rock** When you need someone to depend on
 - Sustainer** When you're running out of strength
 - Friend** When every one else has failed you
 - Redeemer** When you have nothing to give
 - Counselor** When you need someone to talk to
 - Creator** When you need new life
 - Father** When you need a firm but gentle hand
 - Savior** When you need a love that will not fail
 - Healer** When life hurts.....
- He's **Everything** you need!

Have an event to ad or classified to post?
Email Heather at hkschreiner@earthlink.net to add to the next newsletter!

Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm
found

Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my
heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace
appear

The hour I first believed

My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to
me

His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion
be

As long as life endures

The earth shall soon dissolve
like snow

The sun forbear to shine
But God, Who called me here
below

Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine

You are forever mine

As sung by Chris Tomlin



Wed. March 19 - 7 p.m. showing of the movie "The Passion",
in place of regular worship service.

Maundy Thursday, March 20 - 3:45 & 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday, March 21 - 12:30, 6:30 & 8:00 p.m.

Easter Services: Sat., March 22 - 5:30 p.m. and

Sun., March 23 - 6:00, 7:45, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
(no 5:30 p.m. service)



Adam Trumble Family Fun Day

Sunday, April 27

12—6 p.m.

Place: Hales Corners Lutheran Church

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