

Weekly Calendar:

<i>Day of the Week</i>	<i>Activity/Focus</i>
Monday	<p><i>Prep day:</i></p> <p>Tell your kiddos what is coming. Decide how to display your countdown. I got this really cute clothespin line from the target bins for \$3 I keep them up on our mantel and change them out for the season. See pictures here.</p>
<p>Tuesday</p> <p>Memory Verse: 1 John 4:10</p> <p>Reading: 1 John 4:9-10</p>	<p><i>Easter =Love.</i></p> <p>Introduce the main scripture.</p> <p>Explain the symbols of the Cross (where He died), the bread (He is our bread of life, and He was broken that we might be full), and the water (He washes us clean from our sin). This is a demonstration of His love for us.</p> <p>I use this AWANA friendly version for my littles "God Loved us and sent his Son" that my oldest has memorized already. I'm only using this one memory verse all week, but I will include others. If your kids are older, challenge them to learn the full verse and maybe even a few others for a special Easter sticker or rewards. I'm all for simple and easy to reinforce but not big enough for them to think it's the only reason we study scripture. Ideas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A favorite gummy bear, bubble day or special mommy/daddy time if they can say their verse all week - A "pass" this is the teacher in me. Maybe a 10 min room time or phone time, or control the tv for an hour, etc. Be creative. You know what your kids want. For me, thankfully stickers still work. =)
Wednesday	<p><i>Our Imperfections and His Desire</i></p> <p>On this day have brief discussion about how we all fall short. We are all imperfect. Even we, as parents, make bad choices and have bad thoughts. But God's desire was to free us from them, so He hatched a three fold plan- First, to send his son to Earth to show us how we should walk, talk, and treat each other. (This point is a great Christmas connection!) But also, his walking on earth served as a larger point. It reveals that living to the law, while it is a good guide to meeting God's Holy requirement, Christ's perfection helps us to see that on our own we will never be able to fulfil God's penalty for sin. We all still fall horribly short. Second, allow Christ to die in our place to fulfill the perfect requirement as payment and remove that burden from us, if we</p>

	<p>would only accept His gift. Third, to resurrect Him. Resurrection ensures that we wouldn't just be free from sin, but death and the power of the enemy in every our lives as well. Satan can still attack, but his actions are rendered without power or sting! We'll talk more about his plan in the days to come.</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p><i>The Last Supper</i></p> <p>At my old church, we used to recreate the last supper meal on the Thursday before easter, complete with our pastor washing the feet of every leader. It was a much smaller church than I attend now, but the statement left a mark. I want my girls to see that Christ was loving, kind, and a true servant to all-- even to Judas.</p> <p>After walking all day, which was the most common form of travel in that time, when visitors arrived for a meal, they could expect their feet to be washed. In biblical times, foot washing was usually assigned to the lowest servant, which is what made it a huge deal for Christ to knell to wash their feet, including the one who would betray Him. We may never know how people will treat us, or what people will do to us, but even if we do know, we are called to love and serve everyone. The love of Christ and His example empowers us to do so, and do it in a healthy way. (<i>I'm not getting into how to keep safe boundaries in this discussion, just the respect for life- all life, even those who are unkind to us</i>).</p> <p>Activity: Consider washing their feet just like Jesus. I'm a firm believer that my kids should see me as a follower of Jesus too, striving and wrestling like them and imperfect. I feel like this sign of humility is great for parents to acknowledge our power and our surrender is to God as well. We are their authority, just as Christ was to His disciples, but service is for all.</p>
<p>Friday</p> <p>The True Cross Experience (Joseph Prince) https://goo.gl/2xGswu (Go to 5:55)</p> <p>Or use the link below: https://youtu.be/RZW7eTbT1Mk?t=5m55s</p>	<p><i>The Divine Exchange</i></p> <p>Good Friday is a holiday that represents the day Christ died on the cross. While all hope seemed to be lost since our savior had died, it actually was our moment of great hope. When Jesus died, he took our sins and, in their place, gave us His righteousness. Our bad thoughts and choices forever were exchanged for His right standing and position with God for anyone who believes. Christ died that we might live! Once we accept Him, though we are always maturing and getting better, we are permanently secure and forgiven by God through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Activity: This is the day we will dye eggs most likely, to draw the connection between the expectation of new birth from live eggs, and the resurrection of Christ from the tomb on Sunday. I'll show my girls this video this day to follow up with yesterday's video. They've already seen it and we narrate it. My oldest understands it and it great for growing in Christ for me too. A wonderful reminder.</p>

<p>Saturday</p> <p>Chains Broken- Year of Jubilee Video</p> <p>https://goo.gl/osYPNq</p>	<p><i>Open Access- Chains broken, Veil Torn</i></p> <p>While physically Christ died and was laid in a tomb, a physical veil was torn in the temple. This veil kept ordinary people, with the exception of the high priest, from accessing the Holies of Holies- a place where God's divine presence dwelled. The moment He laid down his life, that separation was torn in two, representing our new access to God. Christ not only broke the spiritual chains of sin and death, but with His perfect offering He gave access through Him to God, our Father. We can now come boldly to the throne of grace. (Heb 4: 16)</p> <p>Activity: I'll show my girls this video this day to follow up with yesterday's video. They've already seen it and we narrate it. My oldest yells when the chains break with excitement.</p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p><i>Our Freedom!</i></p> <p>After three days in the tomb, God the Father raised Christ from the dead. We were granted forgiveness at the cross, but on Sunday, we were granted power, specifically the power over death and the grave. The gift of eternal life is a tangible reality to all that believe. Sunday morning represents the great hope that our Savior lives! He lives and continues to be with us through His Spirit. (This is a great place to extend to Pentecost for older siblings). Sunday morning represents our permanently forgiven life that we received with His death, and the power to overcome darkness with His resurrection. The chains that were broken on the cross remove the power from the enemy, unless we surrender it. Satan has no control and death has no sting! The curse of Eden has been defeated with resurrected Savior Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Activity: We're going to have an egg hunt this day. There will be traditional eggs as well as the Resurrection eggs. We gather all the resurrection eggs and kind of explain it with the directions that come with the kit. We have a huge family dinner and honor the power and freedom that come with the resurrection of Jesus Christ.</p>