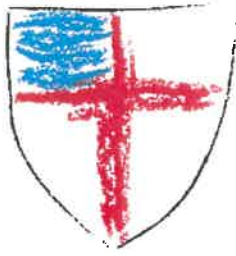


The background of the entire page is a photograph. It features a light-colored wooden cross standing against a soft, out-of-focus purple background. A piece of translucent, light purple fabric is draped over the right side of the cross. In the lower-left foreground, a green palm frond is visible, its leaves pointing upwards and to the right. The text is overlaid on this image.

Holy Week at Home

A Reflection for
Families



Dear Parents & Families-

April 5th marks the beginning of Holy Week, a time where we as a church remember Jesus' last days on earth before Easter Sunday. We are in uncharted waters as we wait and watch for news of when we can be together again for worship. Traditionally, we begin Holy Week with a procession on Palm Sunday and we come together several times throughout the week to remember the Passion Story.

Because we will not be together face to face this year, we are offering a way for you and your family to journey through Holy Week together at home. We have created a daily reflection that includes a reading, reflection questions, and small coloring activity. We invite you to color, write and design these pieces and create a Holy Week mobile. You can do this by cutting the pieces out and using string to tie them to a coat hanger. If you're not that crafty, you can make a time line by pasting the daily coloring pieces in chronological order - or anything else that you think would be creative and fun! It is our hope when we are reunited physically for worship, you will bring these mobiles to share. We will hang them outside the youth room for others to admire!

Also included in this packet is an "Alleluia Butterfly" and a popsicle stick. We hope that your children will color these butterflies and bring them on our first Sunday back in the sanctuary. On that day, we will invite children to wave their butterflies as a celebration of new life and resurrection.

This is a difficult time for all of us. I can honestly say that in my 13 years of ministry, I never once thought there would be a day where we wouldn't gather for Easter worship. You all have been in my prayers and I look forward to the day we can be together again. I miss you dearly and wish you a blessed Holy Week and glorious Easter morning!

In Christ,

Jackie Overton

A HOLY WEEK AT HOME

PALM SUNDAY

READ SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 21:1-11

WATCH A VIDEO: [HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/59691514](https://vimeo.com/59691514)

REFLECTION: ON PALM SUNDAY, WE HEAR THE STORY OF JESUS ENTERING JERUSALEM LIKE A KING. PEOPLE COME OUT TO GREET HIM AND CHEER FOR HIM. THEY LAY THEIR COATS AND PALM BRANCHES ON THE GROUND TO MAKE A RED CARPET. THE PEOPLE YELL OUT "HOSANNA" WHICH MEANS "SAVE" US IN HEBREW. THE PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE PROMISED ONE – THE MESSIAH.

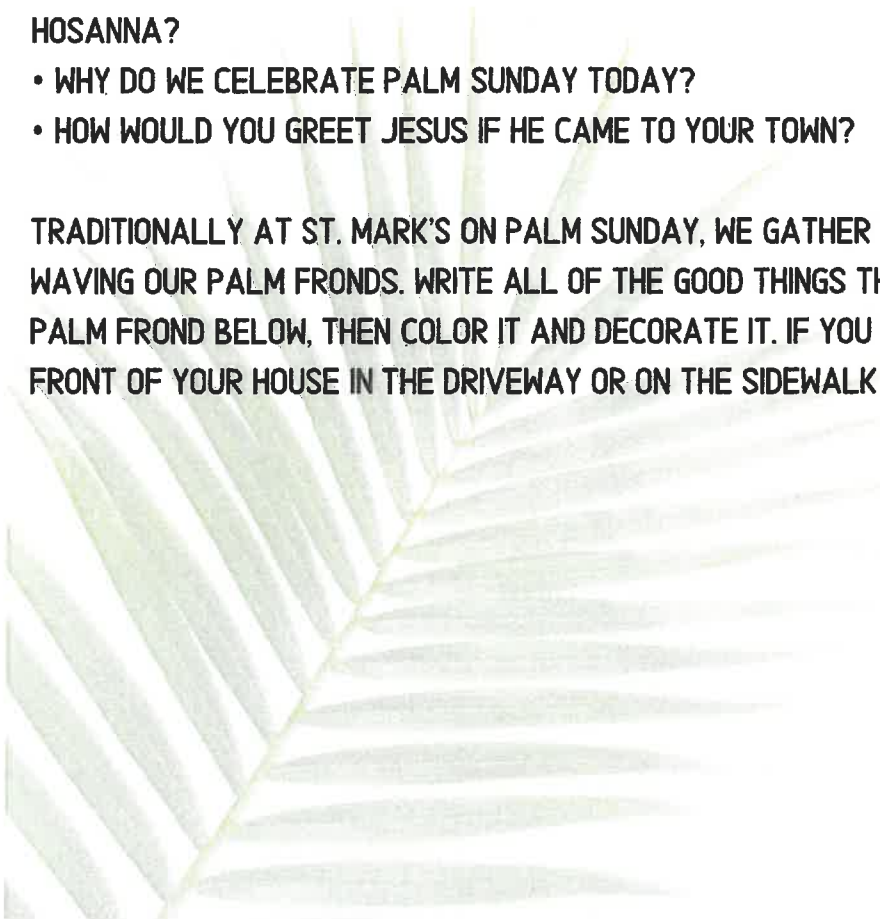
IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE WITNESSING JESUS' ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM.

- **WHAT DO YOU SEE?**
- **WHAT DO YOU SMELL?**
- **WHAT DO YOU HEAR?**
- **IMAGINE ALL OF THE PEOPLE. THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE. SOME WERE HAPPY AND OTHERS WERE NOT. THINK ABOUT THE NOISE A LOUD CROWD MAKES.**
- **GO AHEAD AND SHOUT HOSANNA! A FEW TIMES.**

NOW! THINK ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS:

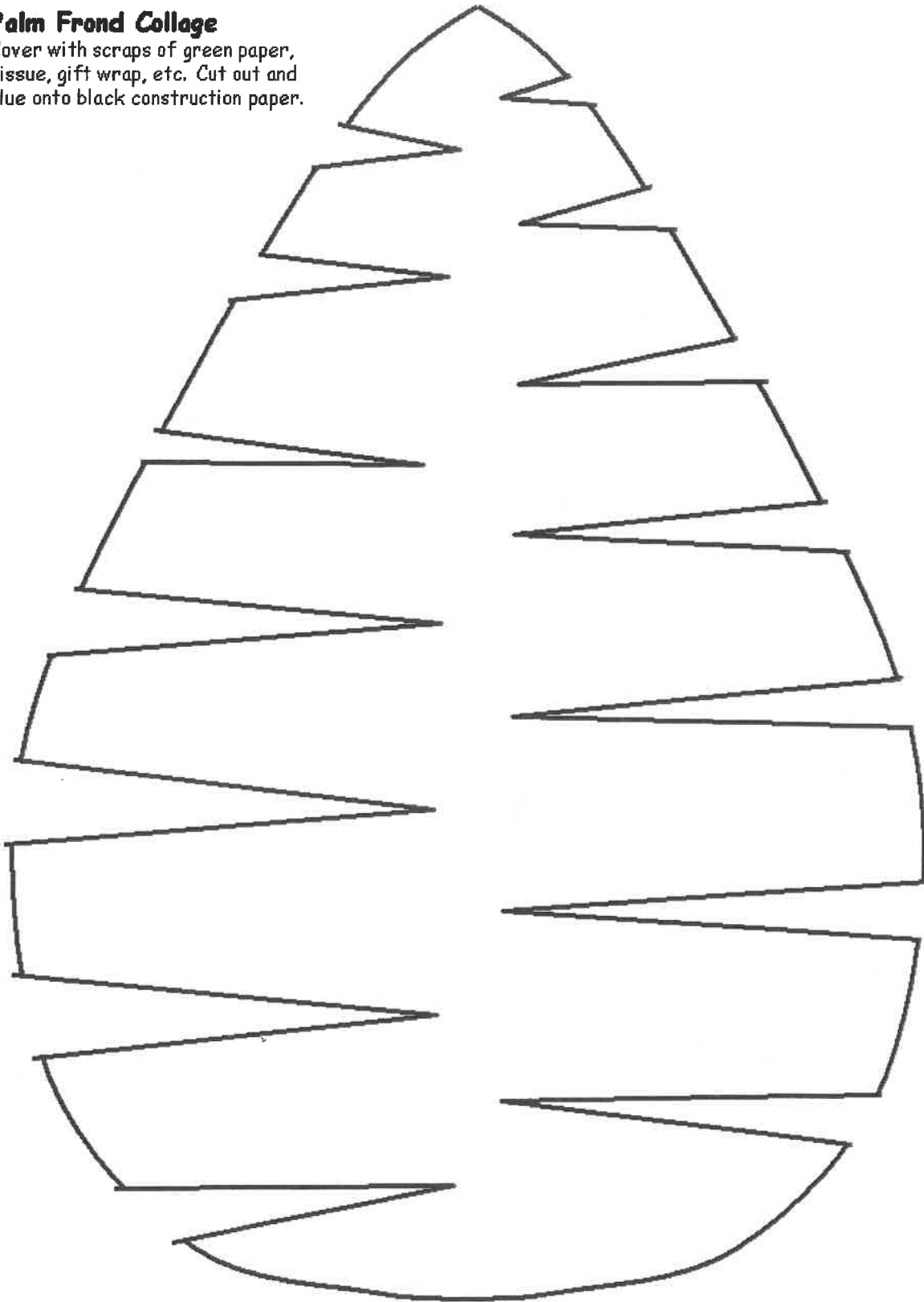
- **WHY DID THE PEOPLE GREET JESUS WITH SUCH ENTHUSIASM?**
- **DO YOU THINK THERE WERE PEOPLE AT THIS "PARADE" WHO WONDERED WHY EVERYONE WAS SHOUTING HOSANNA?**
- **WHY DO WE CELEBRATE PALM SUNDAY TODAY?**
- **HOW WOULD YOU GREET JESUS IF HE CAME TO YOUR TOWN?**

TRADITIONALLY AT ST. MARK'S ON PALM SUNDAY, WE GATHER TOGETHER AND PARADE INTO CHURCH WAVING OUR PALM FRONDS. WRITE ALL OF THE GOOD THINGS THAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR YOUR LIFE ON THE PALM FROND BELOW, THEN COLOR IT AND DECORATE IT. IF YOU WANT, MARCH AROUND YOUR HOUSE OR IN FRONT OF YOUR HOUSE IN THE DRIVEWAY OR ON THE SIDEWALK SHOUTING HOSANNA!

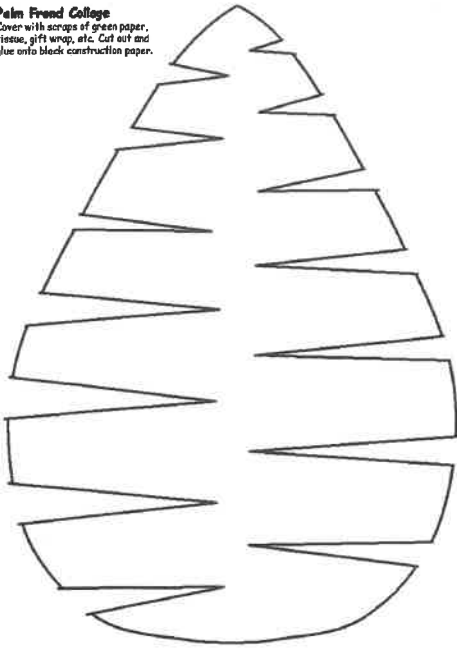


Palm Frond Collage

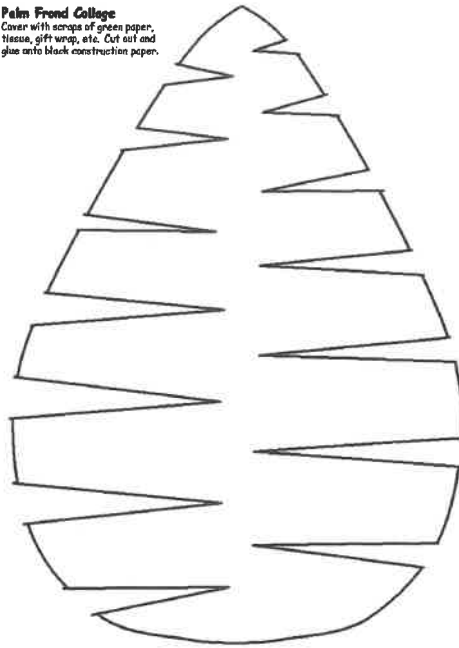
Cover with scraps of green paper, tissue, gift wrap, etc. Cut out and glue onto black construction paper.



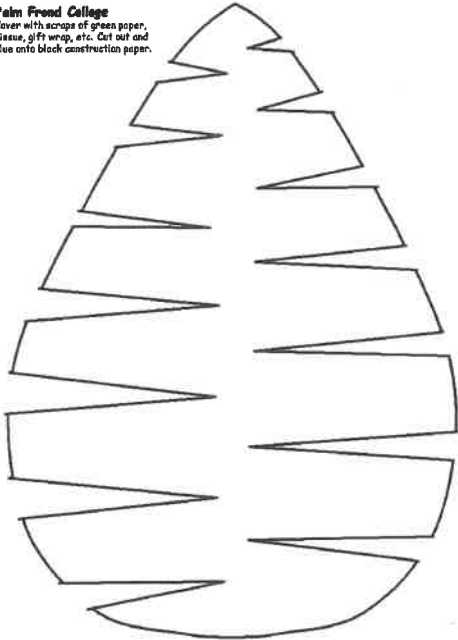
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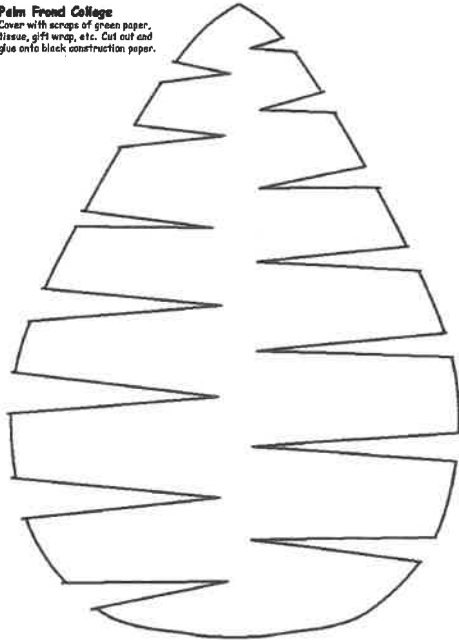
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tissue, gift wrap, etc. Cut out and
glue onto black construction paper.



Holy Week at Home
Monday—Jesus Clears the Temple

HOLY WEEK AT HOME

MONDAY—JESUS CLEARS THE TEMPLE

READ SCRIPTURE: MARK 11: 12-17

ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, WHEN JESUS AND HIS FOLLOWERS CAME FROM BETHANY, JESUS WAS HUNGRY. SEEING IN THE DISTANCE A FIG TREE, HE WENT TO SEE WHETHER PERHAPS HE WOULD FIND ANYTHING ON IT. WHEN HE CAME TO IT, HE FOUND NOTHING BUT LEAVES, FOR IT WAS NOT THE SEASON FOR FIGS. HE SAID TO IT, "MAY NO ONE EVER EAT FRUIT FROM YOU AGAIN." AND HIS DISCIPLES HEARD IT.

THEN THEY CAME TO JERUSALEM. AND HE ENTERED THE TEMPLE AND BEGAN TO DRIVE OUT THOSE WHO WERE SELLING AND THOSE WHO WERE BUYING IN THE TEMPLE, AND HE OVERTURNED THE TABLES OF THE MONEY CHANGERS AND THE SEATS OF THOSE WHO SOLD DOVES; AND HE WOULD NOT ALLOW ANYONE TO CARRY ANYTHING THROUGH THE TEMPLE. HE WAS TEACHING AND SAYING, "IS IT NOT WRITTEN, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS'? BUT YOU HAVE MADE IT A DEN OF ROBBERS."

IMAGINE THAT YOU WERE IN THE TEMPLE WHEN JESUS CAME IN TO KICK OUT ALL OF THE PEOPLE BUYING AND SELLING THINGS:

- WHAT DO YOU SEE?
- WHAT DO YOU SMELL?
- WHAT DO YOU HEAR?
- HOW DO YOU FEEL WHEN WE SEE JESUS YELLING?

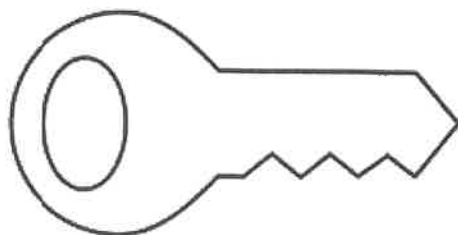
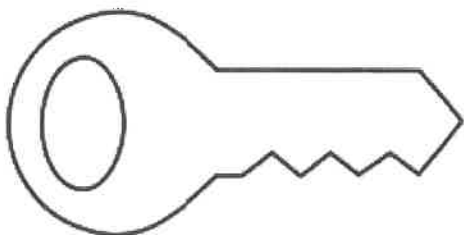
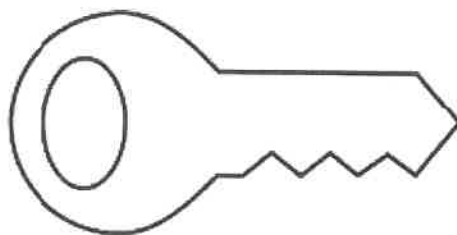
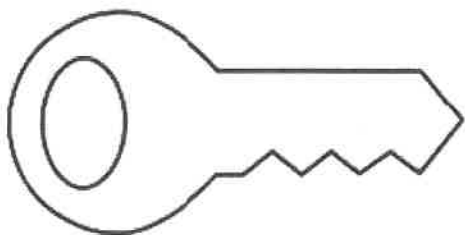
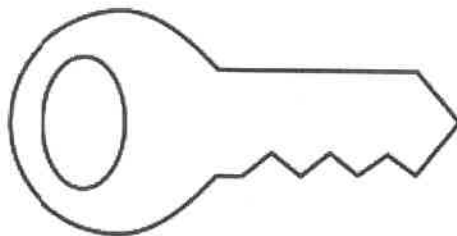
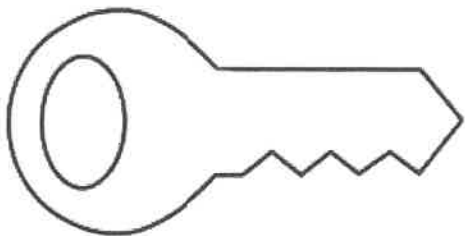
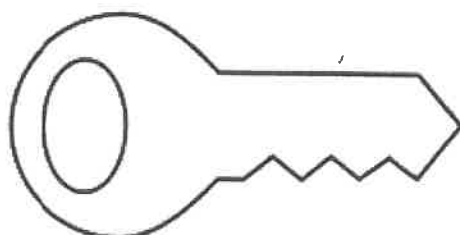
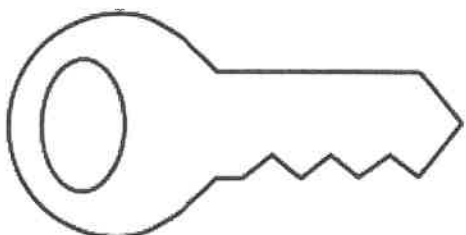
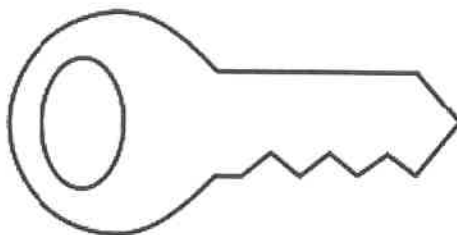
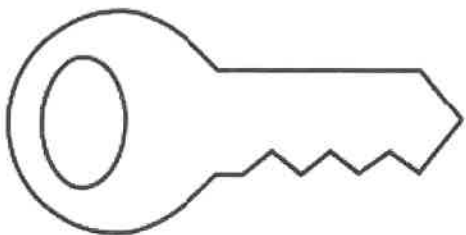
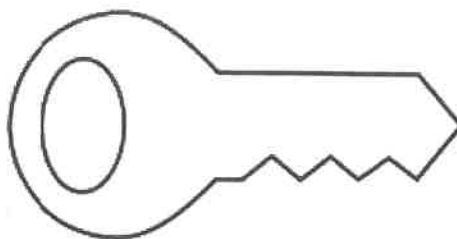
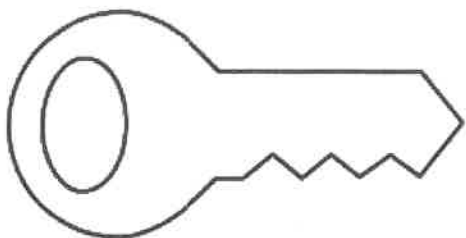
NOW! THINK ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS:

WHAT THINGS MAKE YOU ANGRY?

WHY DO YOU THINK JESUS WAS SO ANGRY IN THIS STORY?

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS PEOPLE DO TODAY THAT MIGHT MAKE JESUS ANGRY?

DECORATE THE KEYS THAT SHOW IDEAS OF HOW WE – THE CHILDREN OF GOD AND HIS CHURCH – SHOULD BEHAVE. THEN CUT OUT THE KEYS TO ADD TO YOUR MOBILE.



TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

"THE PEOPLE HAVE WALKED IN DARKNESS AND HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT"

READ SCRIPTURE TOGETHER:

JOHN 12:20-36

AMONG THOSE WHO WENT UP TO WORSHIP AT THE FESTIVAL WERE SOME GREEKS. THEY CAME TO PHILIP, WHO WAS FROM BETHSAIDA IN GALILEE, AND SAID TO HIM, "SIR, WE WISH TO SEE JESUS." PHILIP WENT AND TOLD ANDREW; THEN ANDREW AND PHILIP WENT AND TOLD JESUS. JESUS ANSWERED THEM, "THE HOUR HAS COME FOR THE SON OF MAN TO BE GLORIFIED. VERY TRULY, I TELL YOU, UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS INTO THE EARTH AND DIES, IT REMAINS JUST A SINGLE GRAIN; BUT IF IT DIES, IT BEARS MUCH FRUIT. THOSE WHO LOVE THEIR LIFE LOSE IT, AND THOSE WHO HATE THEIR LIFE IN THIS WORLD WILL KEEP IT FOR ETERNAL LIFE. WHOEVER SERVES ME MUST FOLLOW ME, AND WHERE I AM, THERE WILL MY SERVANT BE ALSO. WHOEVER SERVES ME, THE FATHER WILL HONOR.

"NOW MY SOUL IS TROUBLED. AND WHAT SHOULD I SAY-- 'FATHER, SAVE ME FROM THIS HOUR'? NO, IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT I HAVE COME TO THIS HOUR. FATHER, GLORIFY YOUR NAME." THEN A VOICE CAME FROM HEAVEN, "I HAVE GLORIFIED IT, AND I WILL GLORIFY IT AGAIN." THE CROWD STANDING THERE HEARD IT AND SAID THAT IT WAS THUNDER. OTHERS SAID, "AN ANGEL HAS SPOKEN TO HIM." JESUS ANSWERED, "THIS VOICE HAS COME FOR YOUR SAKE, NOT FOR MINE. NOW IS THE JUDGMENT OF THIS WORLD; NOW THE RULER OF THIS WORLD WILL BE DRIVEN OUT. AND I, WHEN I AM LIFTED UP FROM THE EARTH, WILL DRAW ALL PEOPLE TO MYSELF." HE SAID THIS TO INDICATE THE KIND OF DEATH HE WAS TO DIE. THE CROWD ANSWERED HIM, "WE HAVE HEARD FROM THE LAW THAT THE MESSIAH REMAINS FOREVER. HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT THE SON OF MAN MUST BE LIFTED UP? WHO IS THIS SON OF MAN?" JESUS SAID TO THEM, "THE LIGHT IS WITH YOU FOR A LITTLE LONGER. WALK WHILE YOU HAVE THE LIGHT, SO THAT THE DARKNESS MAY NOT OVERTAKE YOU. IF YOU WALK IN THE DARKNESS, YOU DO NOT KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING. WHILE YOU HAVE THE LIGHT, BELIEVE IN THE LIGHT, SO THAT YOU MAY BECOME CHILDREN OF LIGHT."

AFTER JESUS HAD SAID THIS, HE DEPARTED AND HID FROM THEM.

IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE IN THE CROWD THAT JESUS IS TALKING TO.

- WHAT DO YOU SEE?
- WHAT DO YOU SMELL?
- WHAT DO YOU HEAR?
- HOW DO YOU THINK THEY FELT WHEN THEY HEARD A VOICE FROM HEAVEN?

NOW! THINK ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS:

WHY DO YOU THINK JESUS RESPONDED HOW HE DID WHEN THE MEN WENT TO SEE HIM?

HAS ANYONE EVER MADE A SACRIFICE FOR YOU? HOW DID YOU RESPOND?

WHAT DO YOU THINK JESUS MEANS BY LIGHT AND DARKNESS?

JESUS CALLS US TO BE CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT. USE THE LIGHT BULBS BELOW TO SHARE WAYS YOU CAN SHARE JESUS' LIGHT IN THE WORLD. CUT THEM OUT AND HANG THEM ON YOUR MOBILE!



WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

THE BETRAYAL

READ SCRIPTURE: JOHN 13:21-32

AT SUPPER WITH HIS FRIENDS, JESUS WAS TROUBLED IN SPIRIT, AND DECLARED, "VERY TRULY, I TELL YOU, ONE OF YOU WILL BETRAY ME." THE DISCIPLES LOOKED AT ONE ANOTHER, UNCERTAIN OF WHOM HE WAS SPEAKING. ONE OF HIS DISCIPLES-- THE ONE WHOM JESUS LOVED-- WAS RECLINING NEXT TO HIM; SIMON PETER THEREFORE MOTIONED TO HIM TO ASK JESUS OF WHOM HE WAS SPEAKING. SO WHILE RECLINING NEXT TO JESUS, HE ASKED HIM, "LORD, WHO IS IT?" JESUS ANSWERED, "IT IS THE ONE TO WHOM I GIVE THIS PIECE OF BREAD WHEN I HAVE DIPPED IT IN THE DISH." SO WHEN HE HAD DIPPED THE PIECE OF BREAD, HE GAVE IT TO JUDAS SON OF SIMON ISCARIOT. AFTER HE RECEIVED THE PIECE OF BREAD, SATAN ENTERED INTO HIM. JESUS SAID TO HIM, "DO QUICKLY WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO DO." NOW NO ONE AT THE TABLE KNEW WHY HE SAID THIS TO HIM. SOME THOUGHT THAT, BECAUSE JUDAS HAD THE COMMON PURSE, JESUS WAS TELLING HIM, "BUY WHAT WE NEED FOR THE FESTIVAL"; OR, THAT HE SHOULD GIVE SOMETHING TO THE POOR. SO, AFTER RECEIVING THE PIECE OF BREAD, HE IMMEDIATELY WENT OUT. AND IT WAS NIGHT.

WHEN HE HAD GONE OUT, JESUS SAID, "NOW THE SON OF MAN HAS BEEN GLORIFIED, AND GOD HAS BEEN GLORIFIED IN HIM. IF GOD HAS BEEN GLORIFIED IN HIM, GOD WILL ALSO GLORIFY HIM IN HIMSELF AND WILL GLORIFY HIM AT ONCE."

IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE IN THE ROOM WITH JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES:

- WHAT DO YOU SEE?
- WHAT DO YOU SMELL?
- WHAT DO YOU HEAR?
- IMAGINE SITTING AMONGST THE DISCIPLES. THEY WERE CONFUSED BY JESUS' WORDS. IMAGINE HOW YOU FEEL WHEN YOU ARE CONFUSED.

NOW! THINK ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS:

WHY IS JESUS TROUBLED IN THIS PASSAGE?

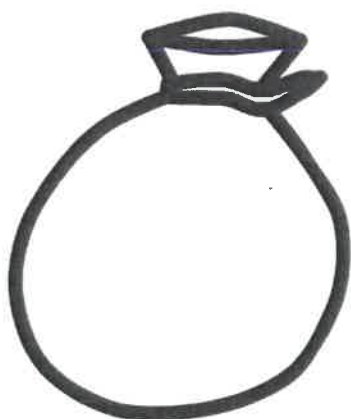
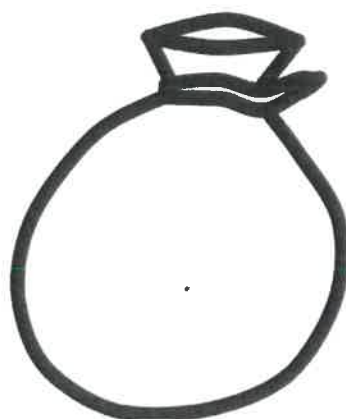
WHAT DOES THE WORD "BETRAY" MEAN?

HAVE YOU EVER KNOWN SOMEONE WAS GOING TO HURT YOU? HOW DID THAT FEEL? HAVE YOU EVER FELT BETRAYED BY A FRIEND? WHAT HAPPENED?

JESUS EVEN LOVED JUDAS. WHAT DOES JESUS' LOVE FOR JUDAS TEACH US ABOUT HOW WE NEED TO LOVE AND SERVE EVEN PEOPLE WHO MIGHT BETRAY US?

WHY DO YOU THINK JUDAS BETRAYED JESUS?

JESUS WAS HURT BY JUDAS' ACTIONS. WRITE ON EACH PURSE SOMETHING THAT KEEPS YOU FROM TRUSTING GOD. DECORATE AND COLOR THE PURSES, THEN CUT THEM OUT AND ADD THEM TO YOUR MOBILE.



THURSDAY OF HOLY WEEK

MAUNDY THURSDAY

READ SCRIPTURE TOGETHER:

JOHN 13:1-17, 31B-35

NOW BEFORE THE FESTIVAL OF THE PASSOVER, JESUS KNEW THAT HIS HOUR HAD COME TO DEPART FROM THIS WORLD AND GO TO THE FATHER. HAVING LOVED HIS OWN WHO WERE IN THE WORLD, HE LOVED THEM TO THE END. THE DEVIL HAD ALREADY PUT IT INTO THE HEART OF JUDAS SON OF SIMON ISCARIOT TO BETRAY HIM. AND DURING SUPPER JESUS, KNOWING THAT THE FATHER HAD GIVEN ALL THINGS INTO HIS HANDS, AND THAT HE HAD COME FROM GOD AND WAS GOING TO GOD, GOT UP FROM THE TABLE, TOOK OFF HIS OUTER ROBE, AND TIED A TOWEL AROUND HIMSELF. THEN HE POURED WATER INTO A BASIN AND BEGAN TO WASH THE DISCIPLES' FEET AND TO WIPE THEM WITH THE TOWEL THAT WAS TIED AROUND HIM. HE CAME TO SIMON PETER, WHO SAID TO HIM, "LORD, ARE YOU GOING TO WASH MY FEET?" JESUS ANSWERED, "YOU DO NOT KNOW NOW WHAT I AM DOING, BUT LATER YOU WILL UNDERSTAND." PETER SAID TO HIM, "YOU WILL NEVER WASH MY FEET." JESUS ANSWERED, "UNLESS I WASH YOU, YOU HAVE NO SHARE WITH ME." SIMON PETER SAID TO HIM, "LORD, NOT MY FEET ONLY BUT ALSO MY HANDS AND MY HEAD!" JESUS SAID TO HIM, "ONE WHO HAS BATHED DOES NOT NEED TO WASH, EXCEPT FOR THE FEET, BUT IS ENTIRELY CLEAN. AND YOU ARE CLEAN, THOUGH NOT ALL OF YOU." FOR HE KNEW WHO WAS TO BETRAY HIM; FOR THIS REASON HE SAID, "NOT ALL OF YOU ARE CLEAN."

AFTER HE HAD WASHED THEIR FEET, HAD PUT ON HIS ROBE, AND HAD RETURNED TO THE TABLE, HE SAID TO THEM, "DO YOU KNOW WHAT I HAVE DONE TO YOU? YOU CALL ME TEACHER AND LORD--AND YOU ARE RIGHT, FOR THAT IS WHAT I AM. SO IF I, YOUR LORD AND TEACHER, HAVE WASHED YOUR FEET, YOU ALSO OUGHT TO WASH ONE ANOTHER'S FEET. FOR I HAVE SET YOU AN EXAMPLE, THAT YOU ALSO SHOULD DO AS I HAVE DONE TO YOU. VERY TRULY, I TELL YOU, SERVANTS ARE NOT GREATER THAN THEIR MASTER, NOR ARE MESSENGERS GREATER THAN THE ONE WHO SENT THEM. IF YOU KNOW THESE THINGS, YOU ARE BLESSED IF YOU DO THEM. "NOW THE SON OF MAN HAS BEEN GLORIFIED, AND GOD HAS BEEN GLORIFIED IN HIM. IF GOD HAS BEEN GLORIFIED IN HIM, GOD WILL ALSO GLORIFY HIM IN HIMSELF AND WILL GLORIFY HIM AT ONCE. LITTLE CHILDREN, I AM WITH YOU ONLY A LITTLE LONGER. YOU WILL LOOK FOR ME; AND AS I SAID TO THE JEWS SO NOW I SAY TO YOU, 'WHERE I AM GOING, YOU CANNOT COME.' I GIVE YOU A NEW COMMANDMENT, THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER. JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, YOU ALSO SHOULD LOVE ONE ANOTHER. BY THIS EVERYONE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER."

IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE WITNESSING JESUS' ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM.

- WHAT DO YOU SEE?
- WHAT DO YOU SMELL?
- WHAT DO YOU HEAR?
- HOW DO YOU FEEL WHEN JESUS WASHES YOUR FEET?

NOW! THINK ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS:

THE WORD MAUNDY MEANS COMMANDMENT. WHAT COMMANDMENT DOES JESUS GIVE TO US IN THIS PASSAGE?

WHY DO YOU THINK JESUS WASHED THE DISCIPLE'S FEET?

IF THIS STORY WAS SET IN MODERN TIMES, WHAT ACT DO YOU THINK JESUS WOULD DO FOR HIS FRIENDS TO SHOW THEM HOW TO BE A SERVANT?

USE THE FOOT PRINTS BELOW TO SHARE HOW SOMEONE HAS ACTED AS A SERVANT TOWARD YOU. THEN CUT THEM OUT AND ADD THEM TO YOUR MOBILE.



Holy Week at Home

Good Friday

READ SCRIPTURE TOGETHER:

JOHN 18:1-19:42 (BELOW IS A PARAPHRASED VERSION FROM THE SPARK STORY BIBLE)

IT WAS A VERY SAD DAY WHEN JESUS DIED. THE SOLDIERS WHO HAD ARRESTED JESUS TEASED HIM FOR PRETENDING TO BE A KING. THEY TOOK HIS CLOTHES AND PUT A KING'S PURPLE CLOAK ON HIM. THEY MADE A CROWN OF TWINES WITH SHARP THORNS AND PUT IT ON JESUS' HEAD.

OUCH!

THE SOLDIERS MADE JESUS CARRY A HEAVY WOODEN CROSS. THE CROSS WAS TOO HEAVY FOR HIM. JESUS FELL AND SKINNED HIS KNEES, AND THE CROSS TUMBLED TO THE GROUND. A MAN IN THE CROWD CARRIES THE CROSS THE REST OF THE WAY.

THE SOLDIER NAILED JESUS' HANDS AND FEET TO THE CROSS. THEY RAISED JESUS' CROSS UP ON A HILL BETWEEN TWO OTHER MEN. THE OTHER MEN WERE THIEVES AND THEY WERE BEING CRUCIFIED TOO. ONE OF THE MEN WAS ANGRY WITH JESUS.

"IF YOU ARE A POWERFUL KING, CAN'T YOU SAVE YOURSELF? WHY DON'T YOU SAVE US TOO?!" THE MAN SPAT AT JESUS.

BUT THE OTHER THIEF BELIEVED IN JESUS. HE SHOUTED BACK, "DON'T YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS? THIS IS GOD'S SON. HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG. WE ARE BEING PUNISHED FOR OUR MISTAKES. BUT JESUS SHOULDN'T BE HERE."

THE MAN TURNED TO JESUS AND ASKED, "WILL YOU TAKE ME TO HEAVEN WITH YOU?"

JESUS LOOKED UP AT THE MAN AND LOVED HIM. JESUS TOLD HIM, "YES TODAY WE WILL BE IN HEAVEN TOGETHER."

AFTER A WHILE, THE WORLD GREW VERY DARK, AS IF IT A TERRIBLE THUNDERSTORM WAS COMING. IT WAS AS IF ALL OF CREATION WAS CRYING BECAUSE JESUS WAS ABOUT TO DIE.

JESUS WAS FEELING ALL ALONE AND PRAYED TO SEE IF GOD WAS STILL THERE. OF COURSE, GOD NEVER LEFT JESUS. GOD WAS WITH HIM THE WHOLE TIME.

JESUS LOOKED AT THE CROWD. HE WAS SO SAD THAT PEOPLE DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT HE WAS GOD'S SON. HE ASKED GOD TO FORGIVE THEM FOR KILLING HIM. THE SOLDIERS OFFERED HIM SOME SOUR WINE, BUT HE DIDN'T WANT TO DRINK IT.

HE WAS READY TO DIE. FINALLY, JESUS HAD FOUGHT FOR LONG ENOUGH. HE SAID, "GOD, THE WORK YOU GAVE ME TO DO HERE IS FINISHED." HE BREATHED A FINAL, LONG, SLOW BREATH, AND THEN HE DIED.

Holy Week at Home

Good Friday

IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE THERE, WALKING ALONGSIDE JESUS AS HE CARRIED HIS CROSS. YOU ARE THERE TO SEE HIM HANGING ON THE CROSS.

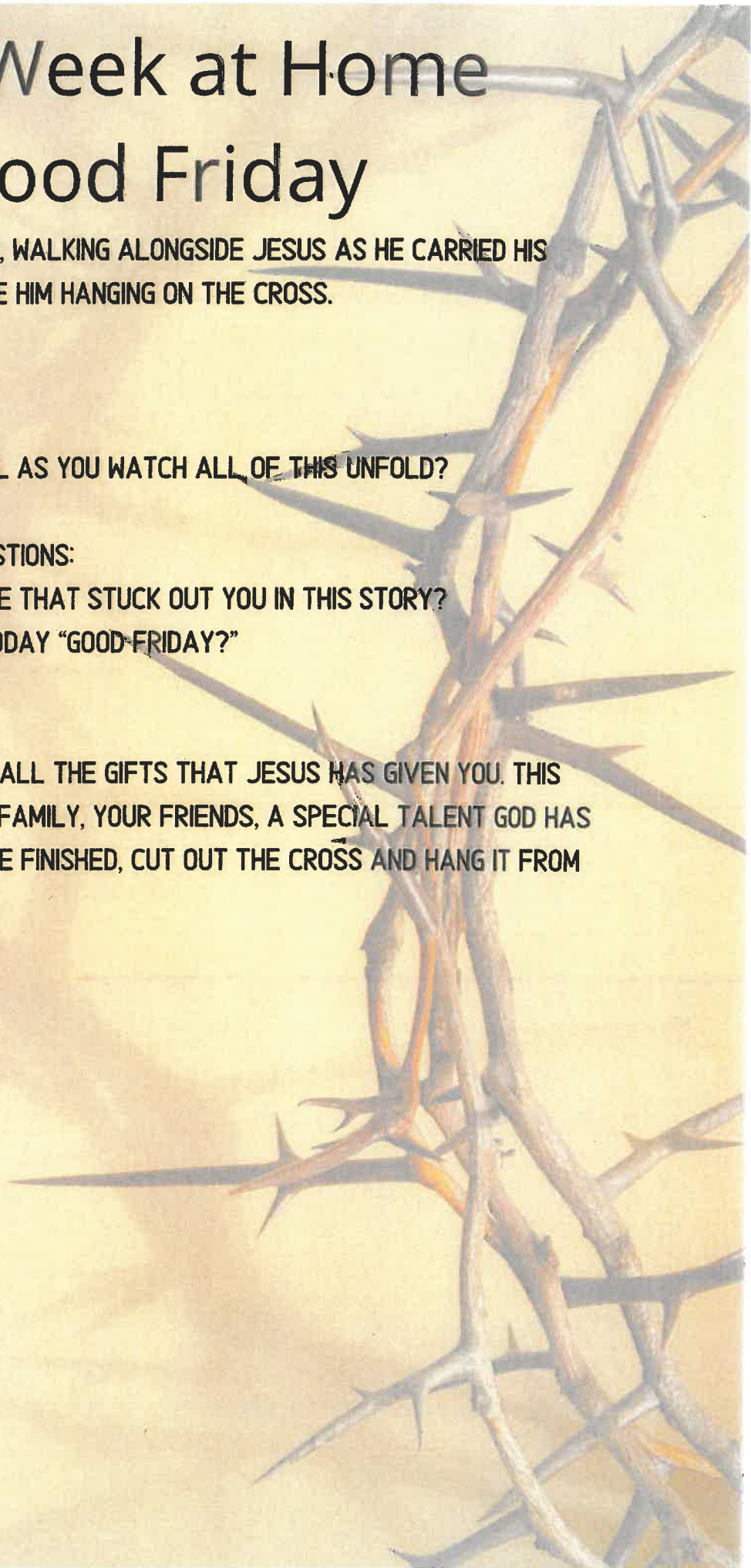
- WHAT DO YOU SEE?
- WHAT DO YOU SMELL?
- WHAT DO YOU HEAR?
- WHAT EMOTIONS DO YOU FEEL AS YOU WATCH ALL OF THIS UNFOLD?

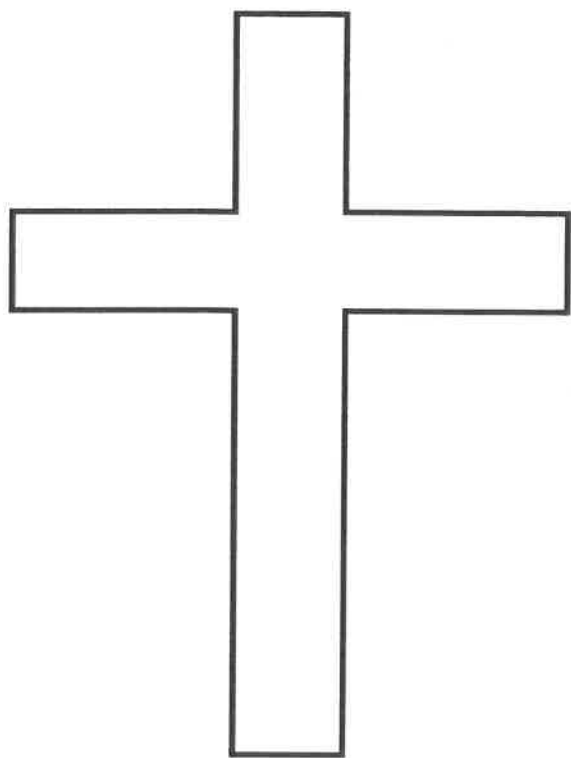
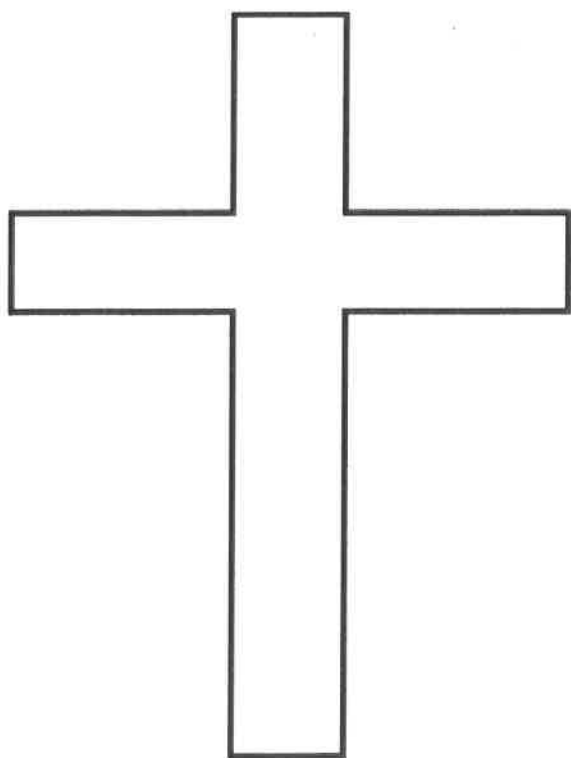
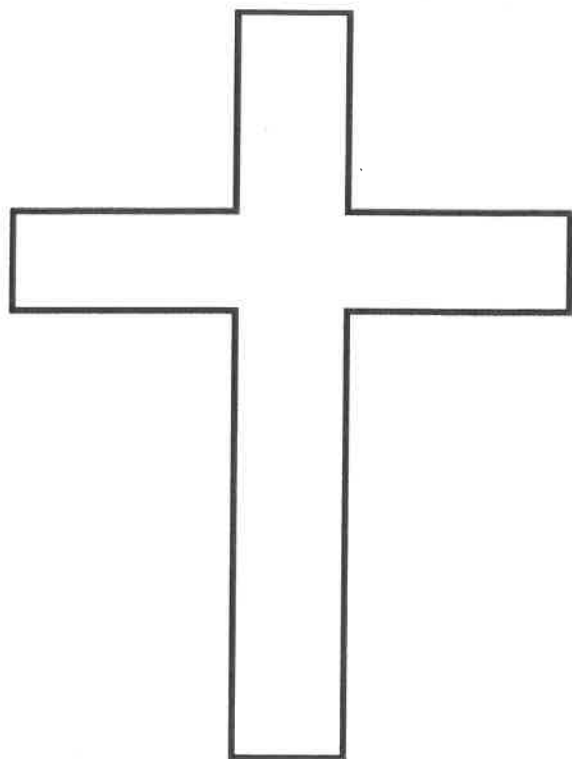
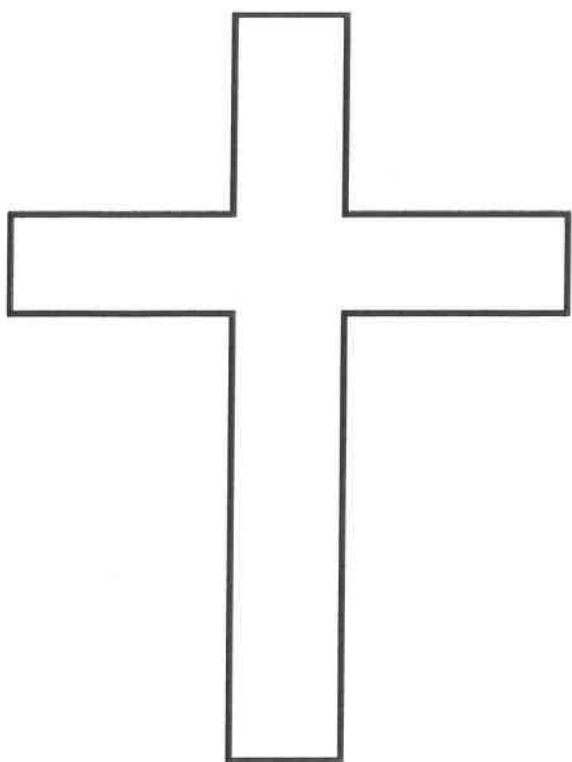
NOW! THINK ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS:

WAS THERE A WORD OR PHRASE THAT STUCK OUT TO YOU IN THIS STORY?

WHY DO YOU THINK WE CALL TODAY "GOOD FRIDAY?"

DECORATE THE CROSSES WITH ALL THE GIFTS THAT JESUS HAS GIVEN YOU. THIS COULD BE A PICTURE OF YOUR FAMILY, YOUR FRIENDS, A SPECIAL TALENT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU, ETC). WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED, CUT OUT THE CROSS AND HANG IT FROM YOUR MOBILE.





SATURDAY OF HOLY WEEK

HOLY SATURDAY

READ SCRIPTURE TOGETHER:

MATTHEW 27:57-66

WHEN IT WAS EVENING, THERE CAME A RICH MAN FROM ARIMATHEA, NAMED JOSEPH, WHO WAS ALSO A DISCIPLE OF JESUS. HE WENT TO PILATE AND ASKED FOR THE BODY OF JESUS. THEN PILATE ORDERED IT TO BE GIVEN TO HIM. SO JOSEPH TOOK THE BODY AND WRAPPED IT IN A CLEAN LINEN CLOTH AND LAID IT IN HIS OWN NEW TOMB, WHICH HE HAD HEWN IN THE ROCK. HE THEN ROLLED A GREAT STONE TO THE DOOR OF THE TOMB AND WENT AWAY. MARY MAGDALENE AND THE OTHER MARY WERE THERE, SITTING OPPOSITE THE TOMB. THE NEXT DAY, THAT IS, AFTER THE DAY OF PREPARATION, THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND THE PHARISEES GATHERED BEFORE PILATE AND SAID, "SIR, WE REMEMBER WHAT THAT IMPOSTOR SAID WHILE HE WAS STILL ALIVE, 'AFTER THREE DAYS I WILL RISE AGAIN.' THEREFORE COMMAND THE TOMB TO BE MADE SECURE UNTIL THE THIRD DAY; OTHERWISE HIS DISCIPLES MAY GO AND STEAL HIM AWAY, AND TELL THE PEOPLE, 'HE HAS BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD,' AND THE LAST DECEPTION WOULD BE WORSE THAN THE FIRST." PILATE SAID TO THEM, "YOU HAVE A GUARD OF SOLDIERS; GO, MAKE IT AS SECURE AS YOU CAN." SO THEY WENT WITH THE GUARD AND MADE THE TOMB SECURE BY SEALING THE STONE.

IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE SITTING OUTSIDE OF JESUS' TOMB WITH THE WOMEN.

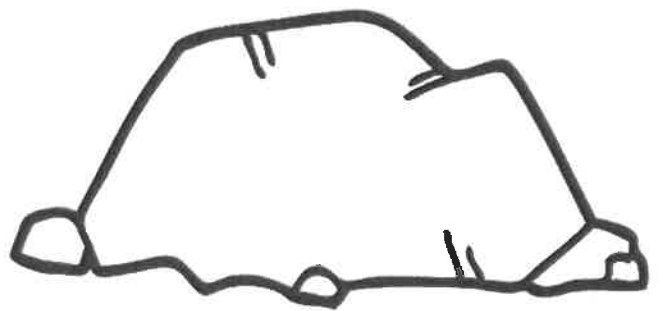
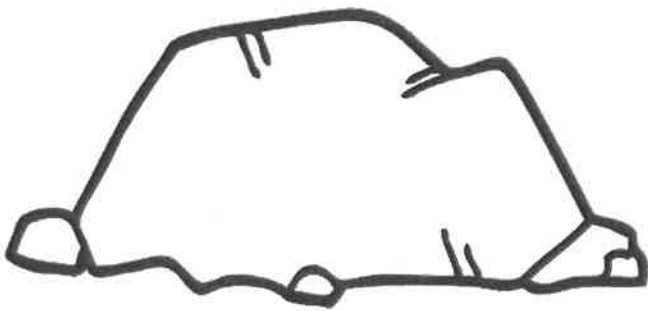
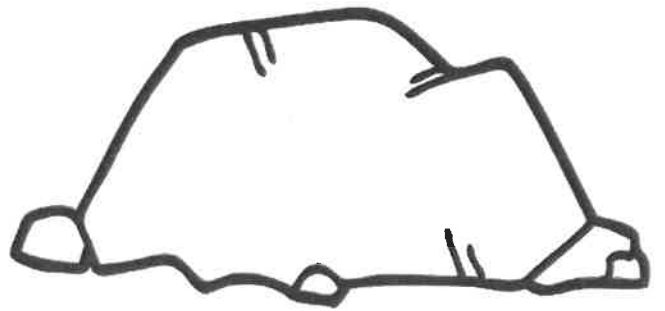
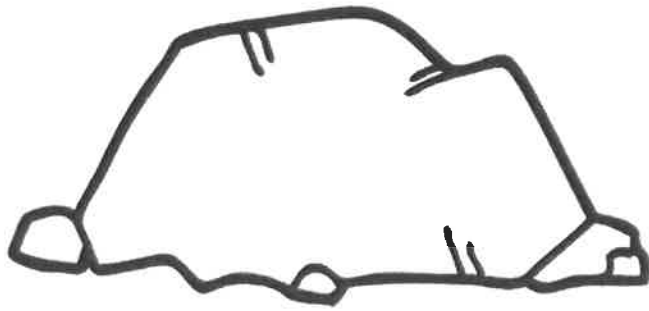
- WHAT DO YOU SEE?
- WHAT DO YOU SMELL?
- WHAT DO YOU HEAR?
- HOW DO YOU FEEL AS YOU WATCH THEM SEAL THE TOMB CLOSED?

REFLECT

WHY DO YOU THINK THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS WANTED JESUS' TOMB TO BE GUARDED?

DO YOU THINK THEY DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT JESUS WOULD RISE FROM THE DEAD OR DO YOU THINK THEY WERE AFRAID THAT HE WOULD?

WE KNOW THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TOMORROW IN THE STORY OF HOLY WEEK. WRITE ON THE ROCKS BELOW THINGS THAT YOU WANT TO LET GO OF OR GIVE TO JESUS.



EASTER SUNDAY
READ SCRIPTURE TOGETHER:

JOHN 20:1-18

EARLY ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, WHILE IT WAS STILL DARK, MARY MAGDALENE CAME TO THE TOMB AND SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE TOMB. SO SHE RAN AND WENT TO SIMON PETER AND THE OTHER DISCIPLE, THE ONE WHOM JESUS LOVED, AND SAID TO THEM, "THEY HAVE TAKEN THE LORD OUT OF THE TOMB, AND WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE THEY HAVE LAID HIM." THEN PETER AND THE OTHER DISCIPLE SET OUT AND WENT TOWARD THE TOMB. THE TWO WERE RUNNING TOGETHER, BUT THE OTHER DISCIPLE OUTRAN PETER AND REACHED THE TOMB FIRST. HE BENT DOWN TO LOOK IN AND SAW THE LINEN WRAPPINGS LYING THERE, BUT HE DID NOT GO IN. THEN SIMON PETER CAME, FOLLOWING HIM, AND WENT INTO THE TOMB. HE SAW THE LINEN WRAPPINGS LYING THERE, AND THE CLOTH THAT HAD BEEN ON JESUS' HEAD, NOT LYING WITH THE LINEN WRAPPINGS BUT ROLLED UP IN A PLACE BY ITSELF. THEN THE OTHER DISCIPLE, WHO REACHED THE TOMB FIRST, ALSO WENT IN, AND HE SAW AND BELIEVED; FOR AS YET THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE SCRIPTURE, THAT HE MUST RISE FROM THE DEAD. THEN THE DISCIPLES RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES. BUT MARY STOOD WEeping OUTSIDE THE TOMB. AS SHE WEPT, SHE BENT OVER TO LOOK INTO THE TOMB; AND SHE SAW TWO ANGELS IN WHITE, SITTING WHERE THE BODY OF JESUS HAD BEEN LYING, ONE AT THE HEAD AND THE OTHER AT THE FEET. THEY SAID TO HER, "WOMAN, WHY ARE YOU WEeping?" SHE SAID TO THEM, "THEY HAVE TAKEN AWAY MY LORD, AND I DO NOT KNOW WHERE THEY HAVE LAID HIM." WHEN SHE HAD SAID THIS, SHE TURNED AROUND AND SAW JESUS STANDING THERE, BUT SHE DID NOT KNOW THAT IT WAS JESUS. JESUS SAID TO HER, "WOMAN, WHY ARE YOU WEeping? WHOM ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?" SUPPOSING HIM TO BE THE GARDENER, SHE SAID TO HIM, "SIR, IF YOU HAVE CARRIED HIM AWAY, TELL ME WHERE YOU HAVE LAID HIM, AND I WILL TAKE HIM AWAY." JESUS SAID TO HER, "MARY!" SHE TURNED AND SAID TO HIM IN HEBREW, "RABBOUNI!" (WHICH MEANS TEACHER). JESUS SAID TO HER, "DO NOT HOLD ON TO ME, BECAUSE I HAVE NOT YET ASCENDED TO THE FATHER. BUT GO TO MY BROTHERS AND SAY TO THEM, 'I AM ASCENDING TO MY FATHER AND YOUR FATHER, TO MY GOD AND YOUR GOD.'" MARY MAGDALENE WENT AND ANNOUNCED TO THE DISCIPLES, "I HAVE SEEN THE LORD"; AND SHE TOLD THEM THAT HE HAD SAID THESE THINGS TO HER.

IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE WITH MARY MAGDALENE IN THE TOMB:

- WHAT DO YOU SEE?
- WHAT DO YOU SMELL?
- WHAT DO YOU HEAR?
- HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN JESUS SPOKE TO YOU?

NOW! THINK ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS:

WE HEARD THE STORY FROM SOMEONE WHO WASN'T EVEN THERE. HOW MIGHT PETER OR MARY MAGDALENE – OR EVEN JESUS – TELL THIS STORY? RETELL THE STORY FROM ONE OF THEIR PERSPECTIVES.

THE EASTER STORY GIVES US HOPE THAT NOT EVEN DEATH CAN OVERTAKE THE POWER OF OUR GOD. IN THESE TIMES WHEN THINGS ARE UNCERTAIN IN THE WORLD, WE CAN RELY ON THE FACT THAT OUR GOD IS A GOD OF PROMISES AND A GOD THAT SAVES. WE CAN THANK GOD FOR THE GIFT OF RESURRECTION AND NEW LIFE IN ALL THINGS!

HELP US CELEBRATE EASTER! COLOR THE BUTTERFLY ATTACHED. ATTACH IT TO THE POPSICLE STICK AND BRING IT TO OUR FIRST SUNDAY BACK IN CHURCH TO CELEBRATE NEW LIFE, RESURRECTION, AND THE HOPE WE FIND IN JESUS! IF YOU WANT YOU CAN EVEN SEND ME A VIDEO OF YOU AT WAVING YOUR BUTTERFLY AS YOU SHOUT.

"ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN! THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!"

