

Faith Talk *Activity* - Mar. 29, 2026

Family Activity: "The Donkey Reminds Us" Holy Week Journey

This activity helps families see how contentment grows when we recognize Christ's satisfaction and God's faithful provision.

Materials needed:

- Toy donkey or picture of a donkey with cross markings visible
- Construction paper
- Markers, crayons
- Cross (small wooden or drawn)
- Bible

Instructions:

1. **Holy Week donkey:**

- Draw or print a large donkey picture.
- Highlight the cross shape on its back with a marker.
- Write underneath: "Jesus is the Savior who brings us peace with God."
- Place prominently where the family gathers daily.

2. **Daily Holy Week journey: Sunday (Palm Sunday) - The Celebration**

- **Read: Matthew 21:1-11**
- **Do:** Wave palm branches and shout "Hosanna!" (which means "Save us!")
- **Talk about:** "Why were people so excited to see Jesus riding the donkey? What were they hoping He would do?"
- **Kid Challenge:** Practice saying today's phrase 5 times: "Jesus is the Savior who brings us peace with God."

3. **Monday - Jesus Gets Mad**

- **Read: Matthew 21:12-13** (Jesus clears the temple.)
- **Do:** Act it out! Set up a pretend temple with toys/chairs, then gently knock them over.
- **Talk about:** "Jesus got upset because people were treating God's house like a store instead of a place to worship. What bothers Jesus about how we act sometimes?"
- **Kid Challenge:** Clean your room or a messy area as a way of making things right.

4. Tuesday - Tough Questions

- **Read: Matthew 22:15-22** (The coin question - short and interesting!)
- **Do:** Look at a coin or dollar bill together. Notice what's on it.
- **Talk about:** "The religious leaders tried to trick Jesus with hard questions, but He was too wise. They didn't like that people were following Jesus instead of them. Have you ever felt jealous when someone else got attention?"
- **Kid Challenge:** Ask your own question about Jesus that you've wondered about.

5. Wednesday - The Betrayal Plan

- **Read: Matthew 26:14-16** (Just these 3 verses - Judas makes a deal)
- **Do:** Count out 30 coins (or use checkers/game pieces to represent silver coins.)
- **Talk about:** "Judas was one of Jesus' friends but betrayed Him for money. Jesus knew this would happen, but loved Judas anyway. How does it feel when a friend lets you down? How does Jesus handle it differently than we do?"
- **Kid Challenge:** Do something nice for a friend, especially one who need to forgive.

6. Thursday (Maundy Thursday) - The Last Meal

- **Read: Matthew 26:26-30** (The Lord's Supper).
- **Do:** Have a special snack or meal together to remember Jesus.
- **Talk about:** "Jesus shared one last meal with His friends. He broke bread and said, 'This is my body,' and poured juice, saying, 'This is my blood.' What was He trying to help them understand about what would happen the next day?"
- **Kid Challenge:** Thank Jesus that His body was broken and blood was poured out so you could have peace with God.

7. Friday (Good Friday) - The Worst Day That Became the Best Day

- **Read: Matthew 27:45-54** (Focus on Jesus' death.)
- **Do:** Look at the cross on the donkey's back. The donkey carried Jesus toward the cross.
- **Talk about:** "When Jesus died, the curtain in the temple ripped in two. That curtain separated people from God's presence. Now the way to God is open! Why did Jesus have to die for us to have peace with God?"
- **Kid Challenge:** Be quiet for 2 minutes and think about what Jesus did for you. Thank Him.

8. Saturday - The Waiting Day

- **Read: Matthew 27:57-61** (Jesus' burial - short section.)
- **Do:** Find the darkest, quietest spot in your house and sit there for a minute.
- **Talk about:** "Jesus' body was in a tomb. His friends were so sad and scared. They didn't understand yet that Sunday was coming! Have you ever had to wait for something good when everything seemed bad?"
- **Kid Challenge:** Wait patiently for tomorrow's good news! (Practice being patient.)

9. Sunday (Easter) - HE'S ALIVE!

- **Read: Matthew 28:1-10.**
- **Do:** Shout "He is risen!" and have everyone respond, "He is risen indeed!" Jump around! Celebrate!
- **Talk about:** "Jesus conquered death! Now everyone who believes in Him can have peace with God and live forever! The donkey carried Jesus into Jerusalem, and Jesus carried our sins to the cross. Now we have PEACE!"
- **Read together: Romans 5:1** - "Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
- **Kid Challenge:** Tell at least one person today: "Jesus is alive!" or "Jesus is the Savior who brings us peace with God!"