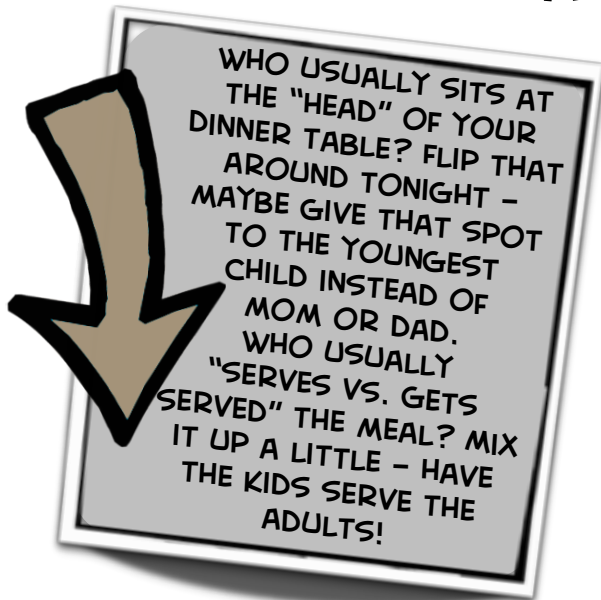


FLIPPIN' THE TABLES ON HOLY WEEK!

FAMILY TABLE DEVOTIONS

DAY 1 - SUNDAY



Mark 11:1-11

As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. "Go into that village over there," he told them. "As soon as you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, 'What are you doing?' just say, 'The Lord needs it and will return it soon.'" The two disciples left and found the colt standing in the street, tied outside the front door. As they were untying it, some bystanders demanded, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" They said what Jesus had told them to say, and they were permitted to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it, and he sat on it. Many in the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields. Jesus was in the centre of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, "Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David! Praise God in highest heaven!" So Jesus came to Jerusalem and went into the Temple. After looking around carefully at everything, he left because it was late in the afternoon. Then he returned to Bethany with the twelve disciples.

If a King was coming to YOUR town, about to ride down YOUR street, what would you expect to happen? What would you do?

Here's a surprise from Jesus in our scripture reading. The King, the Messiah, parading into town on a borrowed donkey, in his everyday clothes, with his disciples and friends around him.

No welcome feast was prepared. No red carpet was rolled out, no paparazzi showed up and no giant billboards appeared. Not a single balloon or confetti popper. Why? Because he was humble. Being humble means not being concerned with how important you are. It shouldn't surprise us, really - this is the way this same king first entered the world - born in a lowly manger in Bethlehem.

And the people noticed. They recognized him, and they gave all that they had - the coats on their backs, the leaves on their trees - in respect, honour and worship.

Read these words from Philippians 2:

"Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion. Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honoured him."

Flippin' the Tables: When we start thinking too highly of ourselves, or start thinking we are better than someone else, it's time to flip that upside down and be more humble - more like Jesus!

- ★ What other examples can you think of from Jesus' life that showed his humility?
- ★ In what ways can we practice being more humble?

Pray together, asking God to help you be more and more like Jesus every day, with your attitudes and actions matching his.

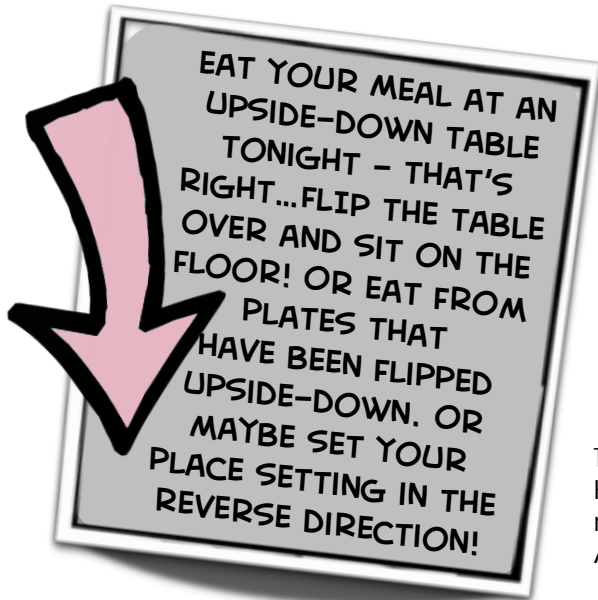


TO BE LIKE JESUS IS TO BE HUMBLE.

FLIPPIN' THE TABLES ON HOLY WEEK!

FAMILY TABLE DEVOTIONS

DAY 2 - MONDAY



Mark 11:15-18

"When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves." When the leading priests and teachers of religious law heard what Jesus had done, they began planning how to kill him. But they were afraid of him because the people were so amazed at his teaching."

This is an unexpected reaction from Jesus, isn't it? We usually see Him so very quiet, gentle and mild ...but angry? Not so much. There must have been something really worth feeling angry about. And there was.

Why WAS Jesus angry?

Jesus was angry about dishonest business dealings; about the way that God's house was being misused; that God's holiness was being disrespected; that the time and space reserved for God were being filled with something else - he was angry because what was happening was wrong and needed to be made right.

Flippin' the Tables: When other things pile in above God in our lives, and he gets moved further and further down on our priority list, it's time to turn that upside down and put him back in first place. It's time to make things right.

That's what Jesus was reminding people of in the temple in Jerusalem that day. They had allowed the time and holy space that was supposed to be set aside for God to be taken over by other things. The noise and commotion was making it difficult to focus on God. People were more worried about making money and carrying on with their business than about worshipping and allowing others to worship God. People were being cheated out of their money. Jesus knew this wasn't right.

- ★ What kind of things compete for first place in your family life?
- ★ Are there times when things get so busy, crowded and noisy that you don't give God the proper time, reverence and honour that he deserves?
- ★ How can you be intentional in setting aside time and space for family faith conversations, devotions, prayer and worship?
- ★ What kinds of things has your family noticed that are not right? An injustice against God or others that maybe even makes you angry? What can you do to help flip that from wrong to right, in a healthy way?

Pray together. Ask God to help you to always search for what's right and true by checking everything against what He says in the Bible. Ask Him to give you strength to stand for what is right. Commit to doing everything you can to keep him first in your life and your family. Ask him to help you.

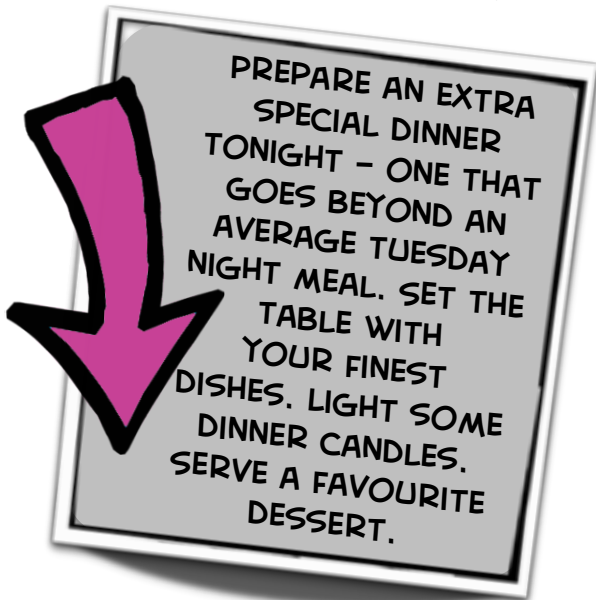


TO BE LIKE JESUS IS TO STAND FOR WHAT'S RIGHT!

FLIPPIN' THE TABLES ON HOLY WEEK!

FAMILY TABLE DEVOTIONS

DAY 3 - TUESDAY



Mark 11:3-9

Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had suffered from a skin disease. While Jesus was sitting there, a woman went to him. She had a bottle of very expensive perfume... She opened the bottle and poured the perfume on his head. Some who were there were irritated and said to one another, "Why was the perfume wasted like this? This perfume could have been sold for a high price, and the money could have been given to the poor." So they said some very unkind things to her. Jesus said, "Leave her alone! Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing for me. You will always have the poor with you and can help them whenever you want. But you will not always have me with you. She did what she could. She came to pour perfume on my body before it is placed in a tomb. I can guarantee this truth: Wherever the Good News is spoken in the world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."

What a surprising act from this woman! Her most valuable possession opened and poured out on Jesus. Broken. Spilled out. Wasted? Some thought so. But it seems she knew something the others might not have. What others considered as waste, she knew as worship. What others saw as a spilling of perfume, she knew as filling the room with the fragrance of love and affection, respect and honour. She understood that nothing could be too good or too much or too precious to pour out in love for her Saviour.

And Jesus accepted her gift. He knew that in a few days he would give everything that he was - his very own self broken and poured out in love - for her, and for you and for me. Holiness is pure love.

Flippin' the Tables: The world often holds a set of values that are very different from God's. When we find ourselves measuring our values against the world, it's time to turn that upside down and refocus on what God says is important.

Here's how Jesus answered the question of what is most important, when it was asked of him in Matthew 22:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind. This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. Love your neighbour as you love yourself."

We need to love God and others extravagantly (beyond limits; more than is usual). Jesus should be honoured with our best affections, and with all that we have. And we should love others the way that he loves us.

- ★ How could we love God more extravagantly?
- ★ How could we show others the kind of extravagant love God shows us?

Pray together. Tell God how much you love him. Thank him for the amazing, unstoppable, extravagant love he has for you. Ask for his help in showing this incredible kind of love to others.

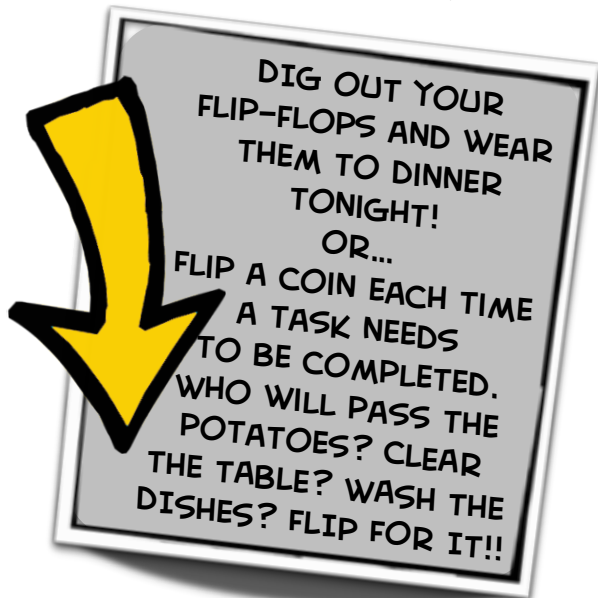
TO BE LIKE JESUS IS TO LOVE EXTRAVAGANTLY!



FLIPPIN' THE TABLES ON HOLY WEEK!

FAMILY TABLE DEVOTIONS

DAY 4 - WEDNESDAY



Matthew 26:1-5; 14-16

Jesus... said to his disciples, "As you know, the Passover Feast is two days away. The Son of Man will be handed over to be nailed to a cross." Then the chief priests met with the elders of the people. They met in the palace of Caiaphas, the high priest. They made plans to arrest Jesus secretly. They wanted to kill him. "But not during the feast," they said. "The people may stir up trouble."

One of the 12 disciples went to the chief priests. His name was Judas Iscariot. He asked, "What will you give me if I hand Jesus over to you?" So they counted out 30 silver coins for him. From then on, Judas watched for the right time to hand Jesus over to them.

Now here's a twist. As Jesus has been spending his last days on earth teaching and preaching in Jerusalem, one of his very own disciples has been making plans to betray him. At the same time the woman with the perfume was pouring out love and kindness to Jesus, his very own follower, Judas Iscariot, was showing the exact opposite as he agreed to show the chief priests where they could easily capture Jesus. And for this, the chief priests agreed to pay Judas 30 pieces of silver. How could Judas flip-flop so quickly? How could someone so close to Jesus let him down in such a terrible way?

Judas even greeted Jesus with a kiss to show those who were going to arrest Him who Jesus was. A kiss on the cheek was a commonly used sign of love and friendship. Outwardly, Judas was saying he loved Jesus, but in his heart he was unfaithful and disloyal which ultimately made him turn against Jesus. That's what it means to betray someone. The bible says Judas' heart was influenced by our enemy, the devil.

Flippin' the tables: It is so important to make sure the worship and love we express towards Jesus come out of a pure heart. If we are saying one thing with our mouths and something different with our actions, it's time to make a change. We need to make sure we never 'flip-flop' in our love, faithfulness and devotion to Jesus.

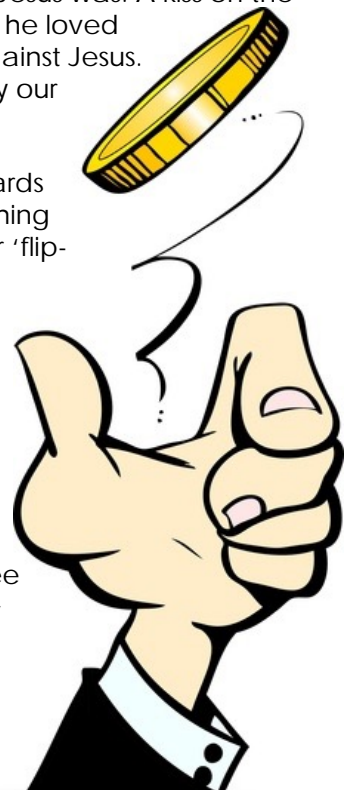
Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him, but He didn't stop him. That's because he was motivated by his extravagant love for us. And because he was faithful and devoted to God's plan. Jesus willingly went to the cross for our sins.

★ What are some things that might tempt us to be less faithful and devoted to Jesus?

Pray Psalm 139:23-24, asking God to take a good look at your heart:
"God, see what is in my heart. Know what is there. Test me. Know what I'm thinking. See if there's anything in my life you don't like. Help me live in the way that is always right."

★ Now pause. Does God bring to your mind anything that might need to be changed?

★ What steps can you take to change this?



TO BE LIKE JESUS IS TO BE FAITHFUL AND DEVOTED!

FLIPPIN' THE TABLES ON HOLY WEEK!

FAMILY TABLE DEVOTIONS

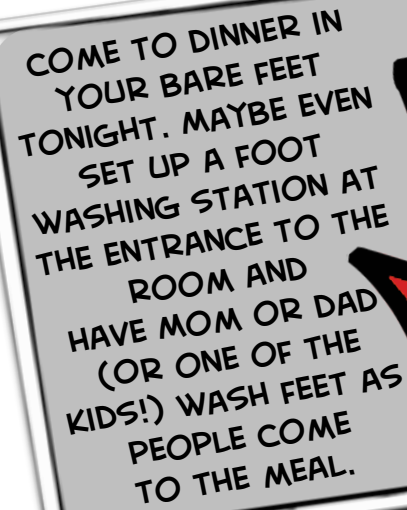
DAY 5 - THURSDAY

John 13:1-5; 12-15

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world. It was time for him to go to the Father. Jesus loved his disciples who were in the world. So he now loved them to the very end. They were having their evening meal. The devil had already tempted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot.

He had urged Judas to hand Jesus over to his enemies. Jesus knew that the Father had put everything under his power. He also knew he had come from God and was returning to God. So he got up from the meal and took off his outer clothes. He wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a large bowl. Then he began to wash his disciples' feet. He dried them with the towel that was wrapped around him. When Jesus finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes. Then he returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord.' You are right. That is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another's feet. I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you.

doing the least appealing task of all, one usually reserved for servants in the lowest of ranks to perform?



COME TO DINNER IN YOUR BARE FEET TONIGHT. MAYBE EVEN SET UP A FOOT WASHING STATION AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE ROOM AND HAVE MOM OR DAD (OR ONE OF THE KIDS!) WASH FEET AS PEOPLE COME TO THE MEAL.

I bet the disciples never saw that one coming. The King washing their feet? The Great One

Jesus knew that his disciples needed to be reminded to be humble. To think of others ahead of themselves. To understand that true greatness comes from serving others. To know that serving others is holiness lived out in action. And he showed them this lesson in a way they could not forget - he got down on his hands and knees and lived it out in front of them. Jesus didn't just say "Here's what you should do!" - he actually lived it out in his own life and asked them to go and do the same. That's what makes him such a great example for us to follow. In his own words, he "came to serve, not to be served - He came to give his own life as the price for setting many people free." The best leaders are those whose very lives give credibility to what they are saying - the ones who actually practice what they preach.

Flippin' the tables: Sometimes it's easy for us to expect to be served. To think we're just a little more important than someone else. We need to flip that on it's head, clothe ourselves in humility (Sound familiar? That's in the Bible in 1 Peter 5:5) and start serving others.



The Bible says that every follower of Jesus has been given gifts that can be, and are expected to be used to serve others. Read 1 Peter 4:10:

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

★ What gifts and abilities does each member of your family have? Make a list of all of them together.

Brainstorm all the possible ways you can think of that your family can use the things on this list to serve other people (even EACH OTHER!) Choose at least one that you will complete each week - write them on the family calendar to help you remember.

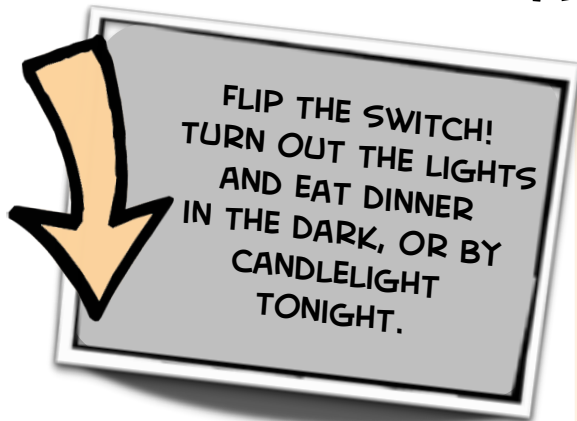
Pray, thanking God for his example given to us in the person of Jesus. Thank him, too, for the gifts he has given each member of your family. Ask for his help in staying humble, putting others first, and looking for ways to serve one another.

TO BE LIKE JESUS IS TO SERVE OTHERS.

FLIPPIN' THE TABLES ON HOLY WEEK!

FAMILY TABLE DEVOTIONS

DAY 6 - FRIDAY



Did you notice it? The unexpected response from Jesus in today's scripture?

While Jesus suffers on the cross, sentenced to the most cruel punishment imaginable even though he never did a single thing wrong - he forgives the very people who are committing this horrible injustice. They make fun of him, spit in his face, take his clothes, nail him to a tree - and the only words he says are "Father, forgive them."

Wow. Even with the last few breaths he has left, Jesus shows us the very reason he gave his own life - so that he could take sin's punishment in our place, so we could be made right with God, so we could be forgiven. That's how much he loves you.

The Bible tells us in Ephesians 4:32 that we should forgive others in the same way: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Flippin' the tables: Most often it's easier to receive forgiveness than to give it, isn't it? But if we want to be more like Jesus, we need to make a flip. We need to offer forgiveness to others.

- ★ Is there something in your life right now that you need to ask God's forgiveness for? Jesus died for that very thing.
- ★ Is there a situation in your life where you need to forgive a friend, or ask for their forgiveness? Talk about ways you can make things right - and then put them into practice.

Pray together. Thank God for his gift of forgiveness offered through Jesus' sacrifice for you. Ask his forgiveness for anything in your life that wouldn't be pleasing to him. Ask him to help you to be forgiving to others.



TO BE LIKE JESUS IS TO FORGIVE.

Luke 23:26-47

As the soldiers led Jesus away, they took hold of Simon. Simon was from Cyrene. He was on his way in from the country. They put a wooden cross on his shoulders. Then they made him carry it behind Jesus. Two other men were also led out with Jesus to be killed. Both of them had broken the law. The soldiers brought them to the place called the Skull. There they nailed Jesus to the cross. He hung between the two criminals. One was on his right and one was on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing." The soldiers divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood there watching. The rulers even made fun of Jesus. They said, "He saved others. Let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and poked fun at him. They offered him wine vinegar. They said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." A written sign had been placed above him. It read, "This is the King of the Jews".

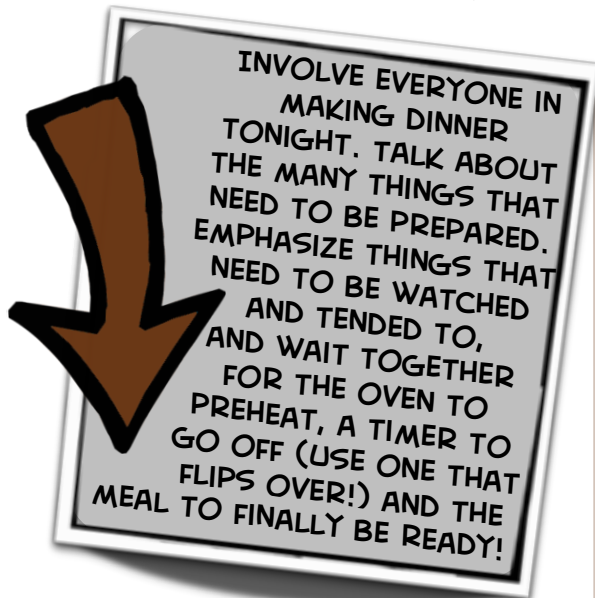
One of the criminals hanging there made fun of Jesus. He said, "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself! Save us!" But the other criminal scolded him. "Don't you have any respect for God?" he said.

"Remember, you are under the same sentence of death. We are being punished fairly. We are getting just what our actions call for. But this man hasn't done anything wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "What I'm about to tell you is true. Today you will be with me in paradise." It was now about noon. Then darkness covered the whole land until three o'clock. The sun had stopped shining. The temple curtain was torn in two. Jesus called out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my life." After he said this, he took his last breath. The Roman commander saw what had happened. He praised God and said, "Jesus was surely a man who did what was right."

FLIPPIN' THE TABLES ON HOLY WEEK!

FAMILY TABLE DEVOTIONS

DAY 7 - SATURDAY



Luke 23:48-56

The people had gathered to watch this sight. When they saw what happened, they felt very sad. Then they went away. But all those who knew Jesus stood not very far away, watching these things. They included the women who had followed him from Galilee.

A man named Joseph was a member of the Jewish Council. He was a good and honest man. Joseph had not agreed with what the leaders had decided and done. He was from Arimathea, a town in Judea. He himself was waiting for God's kingdom. Joseph went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Joseph took it down and wrapped it in linen cloth. Then he placed it in a tomb cut in the rock. No one had ever been buried there. It was Preparation Day. The Sabbath day was about to begin. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph. They saw the tomb and how Jesus' body was placed in it. Then they went home. There they prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath day in order to obey the Law.

Those who knew Jesus have been sadly watching the events of the day unfold. They are preparing, prayerfully waiting, solemnly anticipating...something.

They can't see it yet, but in God's perfect timing he is about to do something incredibly unbelievable! He is about to turn their sadness into joy, their despair to hope, to literally turn death into real life! But for now they need to wait, and trust.

Flippin' the tables: It's hard to wait. It's easy to become discouraged, especially when a situation seems hopeless. But we should live as people of hope - as people living in anticipation every day of what amazing things God will do...as people who trust in a God who has a plan for us that is much bigger and better than our own.

Check out these words from 1 Corinthians 2:9.

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined the things that God has prepared for those who love him."

- ★ Are there things your family has been praying about that haven't received an answer yet?
- ★ Are there situations in your life that you have been watching, waiting to see what plan God might have in store for you?
- ★ Can you confidently make this declaration along with the prophet Micah (7:7)?
"But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me."

Pray together. Thank God for the good plans he has for your life. Ask him to help you to trust him with all things and all situations in your life.

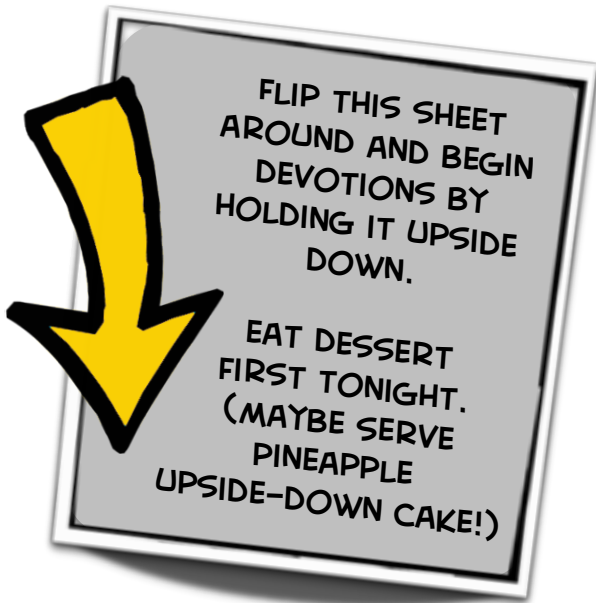


TO BE LIKE JESUS IS TO TRUST GOD'S PLAN!

FLIPPIN' THE TABLES ON HOLY WEEK!

FAMILY TABLE DEVOTIONS

DAY 8 - SUNDAY



Read the word again. What does it say now? (LIFE)

Jesus was no longer there! He had been brought back to life, just as he had promised! Death had been defeated and transformed into new life!

Flippin' the tables: Jesus' death and resurrection bring new life to you and me. When we admit the wrong things we have done, believe that Jesus died for those very things, accept his gift of forgiveness and choose to follow him, we receive new life in Jesus. The Bible says when we live in Christ we become a totally new creation - the old life is gone and the new life has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17) What a flip!

★ Have you experienced the new life that comes from knowing Jesus? If not, he is always ready and waiting to forgive us and accept us as his children, giving us a brand new start.

★ How do we live differently as we experience this new life that only Jesus brings?

Pray together. Offer prayers of celebration, adoration and thanksgiving because of the new life Jesus brings. Ask God to help you be a shining light to others so that they, too, would want to experience real and everlasting life in Jesus.

Turn the paper over.

That's the heavy, gloomy word that has been hanging over everyone since Jesus' crucifixion on Friday. Still with heavy hearts, the women headed to the tomb to visit Jesus' body. What a wonderful surprise God had waiting for them!

What word do you see at the top of the page?
(DEATH)



Life

It was very early in the morning on the first day of the week. The women took the spices they had prepared. Then they went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from it. When they entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They were wondering about this. Suddenly two men in clothes as bright as lightning stood beside them. The women were terrified. They bowed down with their faces to the ground. Then the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here! He has risen! Remember how he told you he would rise. It was while he was still with you in Galilee. He said, 'The Son of Man must be handed over to sinful people. He must be nailed to a cross. On the third day he will rise from the dead.'" Then the women remembered Jesus' words. They came back from the tomb. They told all these things to the apostles and to all the others.

Luke 24:1-9

TO BE LIKE JESUS IS TO EXPERIENCE NEW LIFE!