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Our Easter advent kit is designed for the busy family who is looking for a way to keep Christ in Easter! The kit includes simple ideas for 7 days that lead to resurrection Sunday:

Song - Verse - Activity!

I have included everything you need from supply list, questions to discuss and links for activities (links are in bold—HERE).

This kit is set up for the busy family. As with all of my activities, I encourage you to make it your own and tweak it to fit your family needs.

BASIC SUPPLY LIST:

- BIBLE fIND/OR JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE
 - STICKERS
 - CONSTRUCTION PAPER
- POPSICLE CRAFT STICKS OR TREE BRANCHES
 - Wfiter bucket
 - CHOCOLATE KISSES
 - TWIGS & STRING
 - STONES
- RECIPE INGREDIENTS FOR RESURRECTION ROLLS
 - DflDfD DlflTfS

Enjoying these activities as a family: Find a time in your day when you can focus for 10-20 minutes on Christ. For us, it's at dinner time so we start our activity and reading at some point during or after dinner. We begin with the verse, song and end with the activity and prayer. Feel free to pick and choose from the activities to suit your schedule and needs. You can go <u>HERE</u> on my website to find the links to each song listed below. (Because the links for song videos change so often I have chosen not to link them in this kit so you don't end up with tons of dead links.) ~clipart via—All Day ELA

Day 1 - Monday- He'S Wild About US!

Jesus Storybook bible page 264 The man who didn't have any friends

Scripture: Read the story from the Bible from Luke 19 or the Jesus Storybook Bible.

Talk About It!

Then ask your children--What did God show Zacchaeus? (love—He knew him by name and He loved Him even knowing all that He had done, He joined him at his house.)

How does God do this for us now? (He died on the cross)

Why did Jesus die on the Cross for Us? (John 3:16) Talk about all the ways we know that God is wild about us.

Song- Wild About Us (Group VBS-Pandamania)

Activity: <u>Game</u>--Play I Am Special Hide and Seek. Have children hide and one person is "it". The person who is "it" will sing/say (to the tune of "Frere Jacques"/"Are you Sleeping")

Song:

I am special.

I am special. Don't you see? (they repeat this until they find someone. once they find someone they will say--)

Now I see someone very special, Someone very special—'cause God made you and me. You and me!

<u>Craft</u>--Have your child draw a cross or print <u>THIS</u> cross coloring sheet and then using stickers have them put their name on the cross. If you don't have alphabet stickers then write their name on the cross and make it special using different colors.

Day 2-Tuesday -He Deserves our Praise & Honor

Scripture: John 12 The people came out to meet Jesus Riding on a donkey and sang Hosanna. The festivities started with great joy but ended...

Talk About It!: Who brought the King into the city? (a donkey) God can use any one or anything for His purpose. Jesus can use me too!

How did the people show their joy and respect to Jesus? (They praised and laid palm branches and garments down before Him on the road.) How can we show our respect and joy for Jesus today?

What does Hosanna mean? (means hooray, it's an expression of joy)

Jesus deserves all of our honor and praise!

Song: Play Ho-Ho-Ho Hosanna and/or King of Glory by Chris Tomlin Activity: Give donkey rides around the room. If that's uncomfortable give piggy back rides.

Make palm branches from green construction paper. You'll need to make a large oval shape and then cut slits along edges. Go <u>HERE</u> for example. Tape a craft stick or twig to the end of the palm. One each palm leaf have them write down a way we can honor or praise Jesus.

Make a crown from construction paper or a paper plate (go <u>HERE</u> to see activity) and have kids write around the crown words of praise—Mighty, Savior, Creator...

Day 3: Wednesday-Jesus is Our Super Hero

Scripture: Read John 13:1-20 or page 286-289 Jesus Story Book Bible. He came to serve, heal and save.

Talk About It! What do you think Jesus was trying to teach us by washing the feet of the disciples? (humility, kindness, serving others) Discuss who is their super hero and why. What are some thing Jesus came to do? (He came to save us! Point us to the Father. To teach us!) How is Jesus a super hero? (He not only came to save us but he served us!) How can we serve others like Jesus?

Song: Jesus You're My Super Hero and/or How Great Thou Art Activities:

- Wash your child's feet.
- Have your children dip their feet in washable paint or shaving cream and have them do some feet painting. Then wash their feet in a bucket. Play the song How Great Thou Art during the feet washing.
- Have everyone wash each other's feet.
- Make easy bath salts or foot soaks to give away as a form of practicing serving others and kindness.
- Find an area in your home that needs to be decluttered and giveaway the gently used items and trash the rest.

Day 4: Thursday -The Kiss

Scripture: Matthew 26:45-50 Judas betrays Jesus. Jesus Story Book Bible page 294 A Dark Night in the Garden

Talk About It! Remind your kids that Judas was a disciple of Christ. He had been following him all along throughout His ministry and experienced firsthand the wonders and miracles. He was a friend of Jesus. What do you think happened to Judas that he would betray Jesus? Discuss how we are constantly given choices in life and the importance of choosing right. What kind of things are we tempted by now? Have you ever been betrayed by a friend? What did it feel like?

Song: One Way

Activities:

Have the children reenact the story of the betrayal.

Hot and Cold Kisses. Pick one child to hide a chocolate kiss in the room and another to find it. The child who hid it can give hints like hot, cold, warm to let the finder know if they are close to where it was hidden. Hot means they are really close to where it's hidden. Warm means they are standing near it but not right where it's at. Cold means they are far from it.

Give each child a chocolate kiss as a snack or for dessert. Or make this easy dessert that uses chocolate kisses—recipe <u>HERE</u>.

Hard heart and soft heart- Have kids cover a heart with cotton to represent a soft heart and then cover another heart with black beans. Explain to your kids that it is important to check our hearts. Judas was giving Jesus a kiss which is an act of love and friendship but his heart was hard. We need to look at our hearts and make sure that our actions come from a soft heart.

Day 5- Friday -THE RESCUE PLAN

Scripture: Matthew 27: 29-44 or Jesus Story Book Bible page 302 The Sun Stops Shining

Talk About It! Share that a crucifixion was the most horrible form of death. The criminal was made to carry his cross through the city as a form of public humiliation. Discuss what happened at the cross. Why did Jesus let them do this? (He knew that His death was the only way to rescue us from our sin.) Why was it so important for this to happen? (because the penalty of sin is death, Jesus knows first hand about suffering) Whose place did Jesus take? (yours and mine) This was His rescue plan! Jesus died to save us!

Song: Power in the Blood and/or Amazing Love

Activities:

- Make a cross with 2 craft sticks or twigs and string. Go <u>HERE</u> to see the family cross activity. Each child writes down something they want forgiveness for and then the pin it on the cross...
- Make a stained glass cross using clear contact paper and tissue paper.
- Take some branches and make a crown and add toothpicks.

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Day 6- Saturday-He is ALWays With Us

Scripture: Luke 24: 13-31

Talk About It! Discuss how the followers of Jesus felt now that He died? Were they sad? Lonely? Who moved the stone? What was happening with the disciples in this passage? (They didn't even notice that Jesus was with them because they were so sad.) Does this happen to us sometimes that we can't see Jesus in the midst of the situation because we are so upset?

Song: You Never Let Go

Activities:

- Pick a child to do something while the other children observe
 them and try to detect what they are doing. They can do things
 like wiggle their nose, wink an eye, move one finger, wiggle an ear,
 wag their tongue. Everyone must observe on the table and the one
 who spots it says, "I SEE, I SEE"!
- Invisible Ink— Before hand prepare on a sheet of white paper write I will never leave you! using a white crayon. Explain that many times we can't see or hear what Jesus is saying because we have so much happening in our life. While you are sharing this take paint and make blotches of color for each thing you say that clutters our life—busyness, money, work, playing, sin... When you are done the paper should be covered with paint and the white crayon writing should be visible. Read verse Luke 24:31

Day 7-Sunday-Victory!

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-8 or Jesus Storybook Bible God's Wonderful Surprise page 310

Talk About It! What happened here that is so important to us as Christians? (The resurrection gives us victory! It reminds us that He is not dead He is alive and with us!) Christianity is the only religion who has a risen God! Every other religion's "god" is dead in a grave. His work was finished at the cross and sealed with His resurrection. He is risen!

Song: My Redeemer Lives and/or Get up, Get up

Activities:

- Make resurrection rolls. Go <u>HERE</u> for the recipe.
- Resurrection Craft for Easter go HERE for instructions.
- Find a church and attend the Easter service!

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