

Here is a simple guide to help your family pray together.



Pray for **FAMILY MEMBERS.**



Pray for your **NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS.**



Pray for **OUR CHURCH.**



Pray for **OUR MISSIONARIES.**



Pray for **PEOPLE WE KNOW WHO DON'T KNOW JESUS.**



Pray for **OUR GOVERNMENT AND LEADERS.**



Pray for **OTHER CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD**—especially those who are treated badly because they are followers of Jesus.

**For questions, contact:**

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**Church and Family Partnering Together**



**Today's Big Idea**

Stephen's Address  
Read about it: Acts 6:8–7:60



**The Main Point**

Stephen was not afraid to die so that others would hear about Jesus.



**What Did We Learn?**

- ▶ Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit and did amazing things.
- ▶ The Jewish leaders wanted to silence Stephen.
- ▶ Stephen preached to them anyway.
- ▶ Stephen was not afraid to die so that others would hear about Jesus.

**TODAY'S CHRIST CONNECTION**

Stephen was killed because he was a Christian. Jesus was crucified, and He told His followers that they would be persecuted—hated, hurt, or even killed—for loving Him. Jesus also said that those who suffer for Him would be blessed. (Matthew 5:11) We can face suffering in this life because Jesus suffered first. He died and then rose again, and He is waiting for us in heaven.



# LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK

## PREPARING FOR SUNDAY

*As we get closer to Easter, we pause in our regular lesson schedule to remember when Jesus died on the cross, rose again, and rescued us from our sins. Open your Bible to Matthew 21:1–17; Mark 11:1–11; Luke 19:28–44; John 12:12–19 and read together as a family. Or read the children's version of the passage below.*

It was time to celebrate Passover. Many Israelites had traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate. Jesus and His disciples were among the people who traveled to Jerusalem. When they neared Bethphage, Jesus sent two of His disciples ahead into a village. "As soon as you enter the village," Jesus told them, "you will find a young donkey tied there. No one has ever sat on it. Untie it and bring it here."

The disciples did as Jesus asked. They brought the donkey to Jesus, threw their robes onto the donkey, and helped Jesus get onto it. People spread their robes along the road for Jesus, and others spread palm branches cut from the fields.

The whole crowd praised God with a loud voice for all the miracles they had seen. "Hosanna!" they said. "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Some religious leaders asked Jesus to tell His disciples to be quiet. Jesus answered, "If they did not praise Me, the rocks would praise Me!"

While Jesus was in the temple complex, people who were blind and people who were lame came to Him. Jesus healed them.

Other religious leaders saw Jesus' miracles and heard the children saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" They were very angry and asked Jesus, "Do You hear what these children are saying?"

"Yes," Jesus told them. The writer of the Psalms had said, "You have prepared praise from the mouths of children and nursing infants."

Jesus left them and went to the town of Bethany to spend the night.

## DISCUSSION STARTERS

- ▶ What kind of King did people expect Jesus to be?
- ▶ What kind of King is Jesus

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Recruit your kids to help with yard work. Collect branches from bushes or trees and hold a mini-parade, waving the branches. Take turns being the "guest of honor" and walking on the branches.
- ▶ Take your family to a petting zoo that has donkeys. Allow your kids to pet or even sit on a donkey. Discuss the story.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

During Jesus' triumphal entry, the people welcomed Him as King. Jesus was the Messiah spoken about by the prophet Zechariah: "Look, your King is coming to you; He is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zec. 9:9). One day, Jesus will return to earth on a white horse as King over everything. (Rev. 19:11)

## BIBLE READING THROUGH THE WEEK

Take time this week to read the Bible together as a family. Breakfast, dinner, or bedtime—you choose when and where.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Matthew 21:1–17	Mark 11:1–11	Luke 19:28–40	Luke 19:41–44	John 12:12–19

As you read, ask these questions:

- ▶ What is God teaching us?
- ▶ What does this show us about who God is?
- ▶ What do we need to ask God's help for to change?
- ▶ How would you share this with a friend?

## UNIT MEMORY VERSE

We know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. —Romans 6:9