

HOLY WEEK FAMILY BIBLE STUDY



FAQ

Q. What *IS* this thing?

A. This is a Bible study for you to take home and work on with your family and/or friends. It's specifically designed to prepare you for Easter.

Q. How long will this study take?

A. Each day's Bible study should take 10-15 minutes. If you wish to spend more time each day, you may want to discuss the verses, the questions, and the answers. You may even want to re-read the entire Scripture passage at the end of your Bible study, reflecting on your new-found understanding. You may also want to share thoughts about the meditation with each other.

Q. How many days will this Bible study last?

A. This Bible study is designed for the 9 days in Holy Week only. It begins on Palm Sunday, April 13, and ends on Easter Monday, April 21.

Q. I'm single, so how do you suggest I use this Bible study?

A. Why not make a covenant with another single person and get together to do this study? Or you may find it easier to work on your Bible study over the phone.

Q. Do you have any suggestions about how to use the Holy Week Family Bible Study effectively?

A. So glad you asked! Seriously, we hope that you follow the directions as outlined in capital letters (A, B, C, D, and sometimes E). Please read the entire Scripture passage first, then re-read each section BEFORE answering the questions. This way you will get more out of the Scripture reading.

Q. There aren't any answers given to your questions. How will we know when we answer correctly or incorrectly?

A. Each question is answered in the Scripture immediately preceding it. Some answers paraphrase the actual Scripture verse(s), but in those cases we try to make the correct answers obvious. If you do have some questions about the study, or if this study has stimulated your curiosity about other aspects of the Scripture readings, feel free to call Bro. Tom at the church office: 739-3434 or email revlworth@yahoo.com.

Q. Do I *have* to re-read the verses before answering the questions?

A. Yes. Hopefully you will have read the passages three times — first the entire passage, then a smaller section, then re-read the smaller section to double-check your answers.

Q. Who wrote this?

A. Tom and Celeste Letchworth

PALM SUNDAY (APRIL 13, 2014)

A. First read Matthew 21:1-14

B. Now re-read verses 1-3

1. Where are Jesus and His disciples?
 - a) Just outside Shemar, at Mt. Gerizim
 - b) Just outside Jerusalem, at the Mount of Olives
 - c) Just outside Philadelphia, at Valley Forge National Park
2. Jesus sends somebody to do an errand for Him. Who does He send?
 - a) Two of His disciples
 - b) Two blind men that He just healed in Matthew 20:30-34
 - c) Superman and Lois Lane
3. Where does Jesus send them?
 - a) To the garden of Gethsemane
 - b) To the next village
 - c) To Bethlehem
4. Jesus tells them they'll find 2 things just inside the village. What are they?
 - a) A garden and a place to pray
 - b) A donkey and its baby
 - c) A manger and a baby
5. When they pick up these 2 things, what are they to do if anyone asks them what they're doing?
 - a) They're to put them back where they found them
 - b) They're to run away
 - c) They're to say, "The Lord needs them"

C. Now re-read verses 4-5

Verse 5 is a prophesy written by the prophet Zechariah, over 500 years before Jesus quotes it. This is just one of many prophecies that tell of the long-awaited Messiah. Since Jesus is the Messiah, His life fulfilled all the prophecies.

1. Look up Zechariah 9:9. (The book of Zechariah is the second to the last book of the Old Testament. What is the LAST book of the Old Testament?
 - a) Malachi
 - b) Revelation
 - c) Psalms
2. Who do you think the king is?
 - a) John the Baptist
 - b) Jesus
 - c) Henry VIII

PALM SUNDAY (CONTINUED)

D. Now re-read verses 6-11 *NOTE: "HOSANNA" IS A HEBREW WORD WHICH LOOSELY TRANSLATED IS "SAVE US!"*

1. What did some people in the crowd do when they saw Jesus riding into Jerusalem?
 - a) They spread their coats and tree branches on the road before Him.
 - b) They grabbed Jesus and put Him in jail.
 - c) They looked the other way.
2. What did the crowd say?
 - a) They insulted Jesus and His disciple
 - b) They shouted praises to Jesus
 - c) They begged Jesus to heal them

E. Now re-read verses 12-14

1. Here Matthew changes scenes. Where is Jesus now?
 - a) In the temple
 - b) In jail
 - c) In Hollywood, helping make the movie, "Ben Hur."
2. Matthew doesn't tell us how Jesus feels, but how do you think Jesus might have felt?
 - a) He feels peaceful
 - b) He feels happy
 - c) He feels angry
3. Why does Jesus drive out the merchants?
 - a) Because they made fun of Him
 - b) Because God's house is for prayer, not for making money
 - c) Because there is a bomb threat, so it is too dangerous for them to stay.
4. What did Jesus do when the sick people came up to Him?
 - a) He drove them out too.
 - b) He told them to sacrifice a pigeon or dove to the Lord
 - c) He healed them.

MEDITATION:

When Jesus sent His two disciples on an errand to find the donkey and her colt, they may have thought it was a menial, unimportant task.

God has many errands for us.... Some tasks seem small and simple, some seem great and more complicated. None are more important than others. Our job is only to obey gladly.

What are some of the errands God is asking **you** to do today?....This month?....This year?

HOLY MONDAY (APRIL 14, 2014)

A. First read Matthew 26:1-16

B. Now re-read verses 1-2

1. Who is Jesus talking to here?
 - a) His disciples
 - b) The chief priests
 - c) His mother, Mary
2. Jesus says that a certain Jewish holiday is coming in two days. What is it?
 - a) Easter
 - b) 4th of July
 - c) Passover
3. Jesus prophesies that something will happen to the Son of Man during this holiday. What is it?
 - a) He will be killed
 - b) He will take over the Roman government
 - c) He will get married
4. Who do you think the "Son of Man" is?
 - a) Jesus
 - b) Jesus' mother, Mary
 - c) Bill Cosby

C. Now re-read verses 3-5

1. Meanwhile, some people are plotting to kill Jesus. Who are they?
 - a) The chief priests and other religious leaders
 - b) The Mafia
 - c) Jesus' disciples
2. Where are these people meeting?
 - a) At the home of Simon, a leper
 - b) At the home of Caiaphas, a chief priest
 - c) At the home of Herod, the king
3. They decide to kill Jesus, but not during the Passover celebration. Why not during Passover?
 - a) No one can be arrested during Passover.
 - b) There are a lot of people in the city during Passover, and they might cause a riot.
 - c) It's against the law to kill anyone during Passover.

HOLY MONDAY (CONTINUED)

D. Now re-read verses 6-13

1. Now Jesus is in Bethany, eating. What happens?
 - a) He feeds everyone with just two fish and five loaves of bread.
 - b) He heals a leper.
 - c) A lady pours perfume on His head.
2. Why are the **disciples** upset when this happens?
 - a) They don't want to clean up the mess.
 - b) They think it's a waste of good money.
 - c) They're mad because they didn't think of it first.
3. What does **Jesus** say about all this?
 - a) "Throw this woman out of here!"
 - b) "This woman did a good thing."
 - c) "Will this stuff wash out?"
4. Jesus says that this act symbolizes His preparation for something. What is it?
 - a) His shampoo, cut, and style
 - b) His crowning as the new king.
 - c) His burial.

E. Now re-read verses 14-16

1. Which one of the twelve apostles (or, main disciples) meets with the chief priests?
 - a) Judas Iscariot
 - b) Simon the Zealot
 - c) Simon Peter
2. He makes a deal with the chief priests. What kind of deal is it?
 - a) He will sing at their next service if they get him a good accompanist.
 - b) He will get Jesus into their hands if they pay him.
 - c) He will give them all the apostles' money if they promise to protect them from the Romans.

MEDITATION:

When the woman anoints Jesus with expensive perfume, the disciples are upset about the waste of good money. All they can see at this time are the dollars and cents.

But what Jesus is concerned with is the woman's motive for this action. Her motive is love.

What would you do for Jesus today without counting the cost?

Here are a couple of examples to help you start thinking of what you could do:

- 1) Skipping a TV show to read the Bible.
- 2) Giving half of your sandwich to someone who has nothing to eat.

HOLY TUESDAY (APRIL 15, 2014)

A. First read Matthew 26:17-30

B. Now re-read verses 17-25

Here we are, on the first day of Unleavened Bread (known as the Passover Celebration).

1. The disciples ask Jesus where He wants to eat a certain meal. What is that meal?
 - a) Christmas meal
 - b) Passover meal
 - c) Easter meal
2. With whom does Jesus eat the Passover meal?
 - a) The chief priests and elders
 - b) The ten cleansed lepers
 - c) His twelve disciples
3. Jesus tells them that one of them will betray Him. How does this make them feel?
 - a) They are sad.
 - b) They are excited.
 - c) They are thankful.
4. What do each of the disciples ask Jesus?
 - a) "Where did You get such a silly idea?"
 - b) "Is Judas the one who will betray You?"
 - c) "Am I the one who will betray You?"

The dish Jesus refers to is a bowl that has *haroseth* sauce in it. At a certain point in the Passover meal, each person dips bitter herbs in it and then eats them. It's interesting that Jesus refers to this *bitter* symbolic part of the Passover meal when He speaks of the betrayal. Think about it.

5. What does Jesus say about the one who will betray Him?
 - a) He will be crucified with Jesus.
 - b) He will receive his reward in Heaven.
 - c) He'd be better off if he'd never been born.
6. When a certain disciple asks Jesus if he is the one who will betray Him, Jesus says he is. Who is that disciple?
 - a) Peter
 - b) Judas
 - c) Andrew

HOLY TUESDAY (CONTINUED)

C. Now re-read verses 26-30

While they are eating, Jesus takes the **bread** and blesses it and breaks it. This is part of the Passover custom.

1. What does Jesus say when he breaks the bread that is **not** part of the Passover tradition?
 - a) "This is my body."
 - b) "This is my blood."
 - c) "This is the bread."
2. When Jesus passes the cup, what does He say that it is?
 - a) Jesus' blood of the new *covenant* (or, *testament*)
 - b) Jesus' blood of the ten *commandments* (or, *rules*)
 - c) Jesus' blood of the *parables* (or, *allegories*)
3. Jesus' blood makes it possible for what?
 - a) For many to come to church and worship freely.
 - b) For many to be forgiven of their sins.
 - c) For many to have lots of money and be famous.
4. What do they do after the Passover meal?
 - a) They sing a hymn and then walk to the Mount of Olives.
 - b) They play ping pong and then have dessert.
 - c) They study the Bible and then walk to Gethsemane.

MEDITATION:

When Jesus says that one of the disciples will betray Him, each of the disciples looks into his own heart and asks the question, "Is it I?" They realized that, in certain situations, they might be weak enough to betray Jesus.

To betray Jesus is:

- To disappoint Him by sinning against Him
- Acting like you are not a Christian
- Refusing to help someone in need.

When was the last time you betrayed Jesus?

Take time now to ask Jesus to forgive you and to help you prevent this from happening again. Perhaps He will inspire you with a practical solution....or maybe He will inspire you with a feeling of His love and strength.

HOLY WEDNESDAY (APRIL 16, 2014)

A. First read Matthew 26:36-50

B. Now re-read verses 36-39

1. Where do Jesus and His disciple go?
 - a) Jerusalem
 - b) Nazareth
 - c) Gethsemane
2. When Jesus goes “yonder” to pray, who does He take with Him?
 - a) Judas Iscariot and Judas the son of James
 - b) Peter and the two Zebedee brothers
 - c) Peter and Philip and Thomas
3. Jesus tells them how He feels. What does He say to them?
 - a) I am SO sad.
 - b) I’m looking forward to being king.
 - c) Let’s go to Galilee and preach to the people.
4. What does He tell them to do?
 - a) Lie here and rest.
 - b) Go and get food for us to eat.
 - c) Stay awake with me.
5. Jesus then walks a few steps away from them and prays to God. In the first half of His prayer, what does He ask God to do?
 - a) Father, help me conquer the Romans.
 - b) Father, take this cup from me.
 - c) Father, I’m thirsty. Give me something to drink.
6. “Let this cup pass from me” is a figure of speech. What do you think Jesus means?
 - a) I’m really not thirsty now.
 - b) I don’t want to preach anymore.
 - c) I really don’t want to be crucified.
7. How does Jesus end His prayer to God?
 - a) Go ahead and do what You want with me.
 - b) In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen.
 - c) For Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever and ever.

C. Now re-read verses 39-46

1. Meanwhile, what are the three disciples doing?
 - a) Running away.
 - b) Eating the olives in the garden.
 - c) Sleeping.
2. How does Jesus feel about their action?
 - a) He is disappointed.
 - b) He is pleased.
 - c) He is apathetic (doesn’t care).

HOLY WEDNESDAY (CONTINUED)

3. He tells them to stay awake and pray. Why should they do this?
 - a) So they will be able to help Jesus fight the Romans.
 - b) So they'll be in shape for their church's Walkathon the next day.
 - c) So they won't give in to temptation.
4. Jesus tells them that, "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." What do you think He means?
 - a) They have good intentions, but it's hard for them to carry them out.
 - b) They like sports, but they're not very good athletes.
 - c) He wants them to go on a diet, but they keep eating everything in sight.
5. How many times does Jesus pray?
 - a) 3
 - b) 1
 - c) 5
6. After He finishes praying, Jesus tells them that now is the time for something to happen to the Son of man. What is that something?
 - a) It's time for Him to get married.
 - b) He is being nominated for the "Son of the Year" award.
 - c) Someone is betraying Him.

D. Now Re-read verses 47-50

1. Who comes to Jesus?
 - a) Judas Iscariot and a crowd of people.
 - b) King Herod and Pontius Pilate
 - c) Jesus' mother, Mary.
2. In those days, people kissed each other on the cheek as a way of greeting each other. This is similar to the 21st century American greeting of shaking hands. Why does Judas kiss Jesus?
 - a) To show Jesus that he loves Him and he's sorry for what he has done.
 - b) To identify Jesus to the crowd as the man they should arrest.
 - c) To congratulate Jesus for receiving the Humanitarian of the Year award.
3. What does the crowd do to Jesus?
 - a) They grab Him and arrest Him.
 - b) They shout, "Hosanna!" and wave palm branches.
 - c) They carry Him on their shoulders and sing, "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

MEDITATION:

Jesus is very aware of the disciples' desire to obey Him and please Him. But he also understands their weak, human nature that conflicts with what their spiritual nature wants.

Think of some situations that you were in last week, where you wanted to obey Jesus and do the right thing, but for some reason you did not.

Ask Jesus to forgive you for your shortcomings last week.

Then ask Him to remind you to ask for His strength when you encounter similar situations this week.

MAUNDY THURSDAY (APRIL 17, 2014)

A. First read Matthew 27:1-2 and 11-26

B. Now re-read verses 1-2

1. This is the morning after the crowd grabbed and arrested Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. The chief priests and the other religious leaders are now planning how to get rid of Jesus. What is their plan?
 - a) They plan to release Him into the custody of His mother.
 - b) They plan to send Him to America.
 - c) They plan to execute Him.
2. Then they bind Him and take Him to the Roman governor, since the Romans governed that land. What is the governor's name?
 - a) Pontius Pilate
 - b) Ben Hur
 - c) Caiaphas

C. Now re-read verses 11-14

1. Now here we are at Jesus' trial. What does the governor ask Jesus?
 - a) Are you hungry yet?
 - b) Will You promise to stop healing sick people on the Sabbath?
 - c) Are you the King of the Jews?
2. What is Jesus' answer to Pilate?
 - a) You said it.
 - b) I refuse to answer.
 - c) Why do you want to know?
3. Then the chief priests and the other religious leaders accuse Jesus. How does He respond?
 - a) He says nothing.
 - b) He cries.
 - c) He laughs at their accusations.

D. Now re-read verses 15-23

1. Someone dreamed about Jesus last night and tells Pilate to not be involved in any plan to harm Jesus. Who is this person?
 - a) Pilate's mother.
 - b) Pilate's wife.
 - c) Caiaphas, the high priest.
2. The Jews are still celebrating the Passover Celebration. Every year, as part of the Passover Celebration, the Roman government releases one prisoner. They allow the Jewish people to select which prisoner they want freed. Who does the crowd select?
 - a) Jesus
 - b) Al Capone
 - c) Barabbas

MAUNDY THURSDAY (CONTINUED)

3. Why does the crowd select this person?
 - a) The chief priests and the other religious leaders persuade them to do so.
 - b) They always select the worst criminal.
 - c) They like the way he parts his hair.
4. Governor Pilate asks the crowd what they want him to do with Jesus. What do they shout?
 - a) "Let him preach to us!"
 - b) "Release Him!"
 - c) "Crucify Him!"

E. Now Re-read verses 24-26

1. When Pilate washes his hands in front of the crowd, he is doing so not because his hands are dirty, but to symbolize something. What does he want to symbolize to the people?
 - a) That he is innocent of Jesus' execution.
 - b) That it's time to eat the Passover Feast.
 - c) That Ivory soap is better than Irish Spring.
2. Which of these is closest to what the people shout after Pilate washes his hands?
 - a) We want a new governor!
 - b) We'll blame you for Jesus' death as long as we live!
 - c) We'll take the blame for Jesus' death!
3. Pilate then releases Barabbas and gives orders for Jesus to be scourged and then crucified. Look up the word "scourge" in your dictionary. What does it mean?
 - a) To wash and prepare a person for surgery..
 - b) To beat someone severely with a whip.
 - c) To run bamboo under a person's fingernails.

MEDITATION:

The crowd asks for the release of Barabbas, a notorious criminal, even though they realize that Jesus is obviously innocent of a crime.

According to Mark 15:7 and Luke 23:19, Barabbas was a murderer who had been a part of an insurrection against the Roman government.

Perhaps they release Barabbas because they understand him. They understand his desire for a violent overthrow of the Roman government. They don't understand Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Barabbas' lifestyle could be described as

Cut-throat

Me first

I got mine

Do unto others *before* they do unto me

I don't care what happens to anyone else as long as I get my way

Think for four ways to describe Jesus' lifestyle.

Which person are you most like — Barabbas or Jesus?

GOOD FRIDAY (APRIL 18, 2014)

A. First read Matthew 27:32-50

B. Now re-read verses 32-37

In those days, those who were sentenced to be crucified had to carry their own cross to the place of crucifixion. However, since Jesus has been severely beaten and whipped, He does not have the strength to carry his cross.

1. The Romans make an innocent bystander carry Jesus' cross. Who is this person?
 - a) A man from Cyrene named Simon.
 - b) A woman from Galilee named Mary.
 - c) One of Jesus' disciples, Peter.

In that region, they crucify criminals at a place called Golgatha.

2. What does "Golgatha" mean in English?
 - a) The garden beside a lake.
 - b) The promised land.
 - c) The place of a skull.
3. Since Jesus is in such pain, they offer Him some wine mixed with a pain-killing drug called gall. What does Jesus do?
 - a) He tastes it, and when He realizes it has gall in it, He refuses it.
 - b) He tastes it, and when he realizes it has gall in it, he drinks it all.
 - c) He asks them for some ice water instead.
4. They put a sign on the cross, above Jesus' head. It states His crime (the reason He is being crucified). What does the sign say?
 - a) THIS IS JESUS, THE THIEF
 - b) THIS IS JESUS, THE MURDERER
 - c) THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS

C. Now re-read verses 38-44

Two other men are also crucified, one on Jesus' right and one on His left. Crucifixion was the penalty for treason and crimes against the Roman government. The word, "bandit" or "thief" is sometimes interpreted as "rebel."

1. Who do you think these two other men rebelled against?
 - a) Their parents
 - b) Their boss
 - c) The Roman government
2. The people are mocking Jesus while He is suffering on the cross. What do they say?
 - a) If You're really the Son of God, preach to us now.
 - b) If You're really the Son of God, come down from the cross.
 - c) If You're really the Son of God, turn these rocks into bread.
3. The chief priests and the other religious leaders also mock Jesus. What do they say?
 - a) Come down from the cross and we'll hang You instead.
 - b) Come down from the cross and we'll crucify someone of Your choice in Your place.
 - c) Come down from the cross and we'll believe in You.

GOOD FRIDAY (CONTINUED)

D. Now re-read verses 45-50

1. The first hour of the day is 6:00 a.m. What time is the sixth hour?
 - a) 12:00 noon.
 - b) 2:30 p.m..
 - c) 7:00 a.m.
2. What happened between noon and 3:00 p.m. that day?
 - a) A tornado wiped out the country.
 - b) The sky was pitch black.
 - c) It rained so hard that the whole land flooded.
3. What does Jesus say before He dies?
 - a) "My God, send Your angels to rescue me."
 - b) "My God, why have you forsaken me?"
 - c) "My God, how am I to help others when I'm on this cross?"

MEDITATION:

The chief priests and the other religious leaders mock Jesus while He's on the cross by saying, "Come down from the cross and we'll believe in You!"

They don't understand that if Jesus DID come down from the cross, He would defeat God's purpose

If He performed a miracle and came down from the cross, the people in His region may have believed that He was the Son of God, but He stayed to the point of death so that billions of people for all generations to come might believe in Him, and be forgiven of their sins.

Take three minutes to close your eyes and try to imagine the scene at Golgatha.

Try to see Jesus on the cross, even though darkness is covering the land during the last hours of His life.

Touch the rough wood of Jesus' cross.

Taste the dust that's been kicked up by all the people mocking Him.

Hear Jesus try to breathe.

Smell the death in the air.

HOLY SATURDAY (APRIL 19, 2014)

A. First read Matthew 27:55-66

B. Now re-read verses 55-58

Many women who were followers of Jesus watched His crucifixion. Matthew specifically mentions three women who were there. (Note that Matthew does not mention Mary, the mother of Jesus by name — perhaps he thought it was obvious that she was there.)

1. Which three women does Matthew specifically mention?
 - a) Ruth, Naomi, and Orpah
 - b) Mary (the mother of James and Joseph), Zebedee's wife, and Mary Magdalene
 - c) Beth Moore, Joyce Meyer, and Mother Teresa
2. One of Jesus' followers is a rich man from Arimathea. What is his name?
 - a) Joseph.
 - b) Nicodemus
 - c) Simeon
3. He goes to Pilate to ask him for something. What does he want?
 - a) The cross Jesus died on.
 - b) The sign they nailed on the cross, above Jesus' head
 - c) Jesus' body.

C. Now re-read verses 59-61

1. What does Joseph do with the body when Pilate allows him to have it?
 - a) He takes it to the temple in Arimathea.
 - b) He wraps it in a clean linen cloth that they use when they bury people.
 - c) He sends it to Mary, Jesus' mother.

Joseph of Arimathea puts Jesus' body in a new, never-been-used tomb. This is the tomb that Joseph had bought for himself.

2. What does he put in the doorway of the tomb?
 - a) A large stone.
 - b) A memorial plaque.
 - c) A wreath.

HOLY SATURDAY (CONTINUED)

D. Now re-read verses 62-66

1. Now it is the day after Jesus died. Governor Pilate has some visitors. Who are they?
 - a) The twelve disciples
 - b) Mary and Joseph, the parents of Jesus
 - c) The chief priests and the Pharisees
2. What do they want Pilate to do?
 - a) Make sure that Jesus' disciples do not steal His body.
 - b) Release another prisoner.
 - c) Arrest and crucify Barabbas.
3. Why do they want Pilate to do this?
 - a) Because this is customary during the Passover Celebration.
 - b) Because they're afraid the disciples will make it look like Jesus rose from the dead.
 - c) Because they want to overthrow the Roman government.
4. What does Pilate do for them?
 - a) He appoints a Jew to be the assistant governor.
 - b) He gives them permission to seal the tomb and gives them some soldiers to guard it.
 - c) He orders some soldiers to move Jesus' body to another tomb.

MEDITATION:

Joseph of Arimathea takes a big risk when he asks for the body of Jesus. Jesus had been condemned of treason and Pilate might have arrested Joseph for supporting Jesus. Joseph didn't know at that time that Jesus would be raised from the dead.

What risks do you take for your faith in Jesus?

For example, do you act like a Christian when such behavior may be unpopular?

Think of a specific occasion when this happened.

EASTER SUNDAY (APRIL 20, 2014)

A. First read Matthew 28:1-10

B. Now re-read verses 1-4

Now it is Sunday morning. This would be the third day that Jesus is dead. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to Jesus' tomb so they can put perfume and spices on His body. (They didn't have time until today to prepare His body for burial.)

1. What happens?
 - a) A tornado hits.
 - b) An earthquake hits.
 - c) It snows.
2. What causes this to happen?
 - a) An angel rolls away the rock that sealed the tomb.
 - b) A volcano erupted.
 - c) No one knows.
3. Who is wearing dazzling white clothes and has a face that shines like lightening?
 - a) Governor Pontius Pilate
 - b) Luke Skywalker
 - c) The angel of the Lord
4. What happens to the soldiers that are guarding the tomb when they see this person?
 - a) They all shake with fear and then fall into a dead faint.
 - b) They shout "Hosanna!" and start to dance.
 - c) They run away in different directions.

C. Now re-read verses 5-7

1. The angel tells the two women that Jesus is not here. What has happened?
 - a) Jesus has risen, just like He said He would.
 - b) Jesus has risen, much to God's surprise.
 - c) Jesus' body has been moved to another tomb.
2. The angel tells them to do two things. What is the **first** thing?
 - a) Roll the rock back where it was so the guards won't get mad.
 - b) Put some perfume and spices on Jesus' body.
 - c) Look in the tomb and see for yourselves that Jesus' body isn't there anymore.
3. What is the **second** thing the angel tells them to do?
 - a) Run and tell the disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead.
 - b) If it comes up in conversation, tell your friends that Jesus has risen from the dead.
 - c) Whatever you do, keep your mouth shut about what you've seen.
4. What's going to happen in Galilee?
 - a) The disciples are going to have a memorial service for Jesus there.
 - b) Jesus will be there and spend some time with them.
 - c) The play, "Cotton Patch Gospel," will be playing there for three nights only.

EASTER SUNDAY (CONTINUED)

D. Now re-read verses 8-10

1. What do the two Marys do?
 - a) They run to tell the disciples what has happened.
 - b) They shake with fear and fall into a dead faint.
 - c) They pour the perfume and spices on the angel.
2. Who talks to them on the way home?
 - a) Some of Pilate's soldiers.
 - b) Peter and John.
 - c) Jesus.
3. What do the two Marys do when they see Him?
 - a) They run back to the tomb and look for the angel.
 - b) They fall to the ground, hold His feet, and worship Him.
 - c) They ignore Him.
4. What does He tell them to do?
 - a) Tell my followers to convert to Hinduism.
 - b) Tell My followers to escape from this country while they still can.
 - c) Tell My followers to meet me in Galilee.

MEDITATION:

The two Marys come to the tomb in order to prepare Jesus' body for burial. They do this because they love Jesus, even though they think He's dead. In fact, they are very surprised when the angel tell them that Jesus has risen from the dead.

The two Marys were faithful to a Jesus they thought was dead. We should be even more faithful to Jesus because we know that He is alive and with us today.

Think of one specific thing that you can do for Jesus tomorrow.

EASTER MONDAY (APRIL 21, 2014)

A. First read Matthew 28:11-20

B. Now re-read verses 11-15

While the two Marys are on their way to tell the disciples about Jesus, the soldiers that were guarding the tomb go into the city.

1. Who do the soldiers talk to about what happened at the tomb?
 - a) Pontius Pilate and Herod
 - b) The twelve disciples
 - c) The chief priests
2. The religious leaders have an emergency meeting. What is their plan of action?
 - a) They pay the soldiers to lie about what happened at the tomb.
 - b) They ask the soldiers to tell everyone that Jesus has risen from the dead.
 - c) They plan to ask Jesus to help them overthrow the Roman government.
3. What are the soldiers supposed to say to the people?
 - a) Jesus' disciples stole His body last night while we were asleep.
 - b) Jesus wasn't really dead, He was in a coma. He woke up and walked out of His tomb.
 - c) We secretly put Jesus' body in another tomb, and now we can't remember where it is.

C. Now re-read verses 16-17

1. Where do the disciples go?
 - a) Bethlehem
 - b) The Garden of Gethsemane
 - c) Galilee
2. Why do they go there?
 - a) That's where they go everyday to pray.
 - b) The fish are biting there.
 - c) Jesus said He'd meet them there.

Matthew tells us that only eleven of the twelve disciples go there.

3. Who do you think the missing disciple is? (If you need help, look up Matthew 27:3-5)
 - a) Peter
 - b) Judas Iscariot
 - c) Philip

EASTER MONDAY (CONTINUED)

D. Now re-read verses 18-20

Jesus tells them that He has been given all authority in heaven and earth.

1. What does he tell them to do?
 - a) Try to forget that you ever knew Me.
 - b) Go all over the world and help other people decide to become My disciples.
 - c) Wash behind your ears and brush your teeth every night.
2. What else does He tell them to do?
 - a) Train all new disciples to overthrow the Roman government.
 - b) Feed and clothe all new disciples.
 - c) Baptize all new disciples and teach them to obey all My commands.
3. What's the last thing Jesus tells them?
 - a) Lo, I am with you on Sundays when you're in church, even to the end of the world.
 - b) Lo, I am with you in the United States, even to the end of the world.
 - c) Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.

MEDITATION:

There are many reasons that people have for not believing that Jesus has risen from the dead.

Some people say that Jesus' resurrection was a legend.

Others say that Jesus wasn't really dead.

Others say that the disciples must have moved Jesus' body.

But people who believe in Jesus know that He was raised from the dead, because they have experienced Him in their lives.

If someone asked you why you believe Jesus is alive today, how would you answer?

Think of two reasons why you believe Jesus is alive today.