

FAITH • FAMILY • FUN



# Happy Times

April & May 2020



Watch It Grow!

Insect Parade

The Eggs-cellent Story of Jesus!

A New Creation

**Welcome!**



# Happy Times

## These are *Happy Times*!

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! This is definitely a happy time of the Church Year. Flowers and animals and even insects bring life to springtime. Even more, we celebrate the life we have in Jesus, who died and rose for us all!

Help your children see that Easter is something we celebrate long after Easter Day. We have a whole season of Easter. We celebrate every Sunday. We celebrate every day! Enjoy these Easter activities for weeks to come.

God bless your *Happy Times* as you all grow in Him!

*Happy Times* in Jesus!

Lisa Clark, Editor



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***Happy Times* is dedicated to young children and their parents and other caregivers. Our goals:**

Share the Good News of Jesus, our Savior, through stories, activities, poems, and projects.

Provide practical, useful “Parent Talk” and other resources to help parents nurture faith and growth.

Encourage children and parents in worship and Bible learning.

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We’d love to hear from you!

## In the Next Issue of *Happy Times*:

**A Windy-Day Walk  
Red Is for Pentecost  
Ava’s Devotion Bag**

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# Insect Parade

I'm outside in my garden, and what do I see?  
A parade of insects all around me!

Ants are marching with their friends, going  
in a line.

Beetles marching to and fro in the bright  
sunshine!

I'm outside in my garden, and I am marching  
too!

Praising Jesus for this day. He is the King of  
me and you!



## Parent Talk

When the weather turns warm, we all want to spend time outside. Small children become fascinated with the insects that are suddenly everywhere. Learn about the creatures God made and teach your children about them. Remind them of the Palm Sunday parade! We can praise Jesus outside too!



# A Big Surprise

Alex and Emma loved helping Mom in the garden. They loved the warm sun and the smell of the spring flowers. One day, they noticed something small crawling all over a plant!

“Mom!” yelled Alex. “There are a bunch of bugs on your plant!”

“Yes,” Mom said, “those are caterpillars. I planted this milkweed plant just for them. If we watch closely, we will see something exciting. These caterpillars are an amazing part of God’s creation.”

“What will happen, Mom?” Emma asked.

“Watch, wait, and see!” replied Mom.



**Talk about it:**

Ask your child: Have you ever seen a caterpillar? Can you predict or guess what exciting thing will happen?



“Mom,” Alex asked, “can we touch the bugs?”

“Yes, just be careful with them. Put them back on the plant when you are done,” she answered.

Alex and Emma each let a caterpillar crawl onto

their hand. Emma giggled, “It tickles!” Alex laughed too. Then, they carefully put them on the plant.

“I really wonder what is going to happen,” Alex said.



**Talk about it:**

*Have you ever held a bug or a caterpillar? What does it feel like? Can you pretend to be a caterpillar? How does it move on the leaves of the milkweed plant?*



A few days later, Alex and Emma helped Mom water the plants. They noticed something new on the milkweed plant.

“Mom!” Emma shouted. “The caterpillars are gone! There are weird green things all over the plant!”

Mom smiled and said, “Those weird green things ARE the caterpillars. That is called a chrysalis. It is part of the special thing that is happening.”

“Are they dead, Mom? They look dead,” Alex said, worried.

“No, they aren’t dead. The caterpillars are changing inside there. We will wait a couple of weeks, then something else amazing will happen!”



**Talk about it:**

*Did you expect the caterpillars to change? What do you think is going to happen next? Let's wrap ourselves up in blankets and pretend we are in a chrysalis too!*



Alex and Emma went outside every day to check on the caterpillars, and it seemed like forever before anything changed. One day, though, they went outside and found a wonderful surprise.

“Butterflies!” they both shouted.

“Yes,” Mom said. “Caterpillars become butterflies

after they go in their chrysalides. Aren’t they beautiful?”

“Oh yes,” Emma said. “What a great surprise!”

Alex and Emma spent the day in the garden watching the butterflies and celebrating the wonderful surprise from God’s creation.



## Parent Talk

Butterflies remind us of Jesus, our Savior. Something that seems ordinary, a caterpillar, goes into its chrysalis and looks dead. Then, out of what seems dead, something beautiful comes. Jesus seemed like an ordinary man. He really died and was put in a tomb. On Easter Sunday, He came out of the tomb alive! Jesus was not just a man, but also truly is God. Jesus gives us the wonderful gift of forgiveness for our sins and salvation through His death on the cross and His resurrection. We praise Jesus, our Savior!

# Make It!



To begin, wash your hands with soap and water.

## WHAT YOU NEED

- 1 tube of refrigerated breadstick dough
- Flour
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- Baking sheet

## WHAT YOU DO

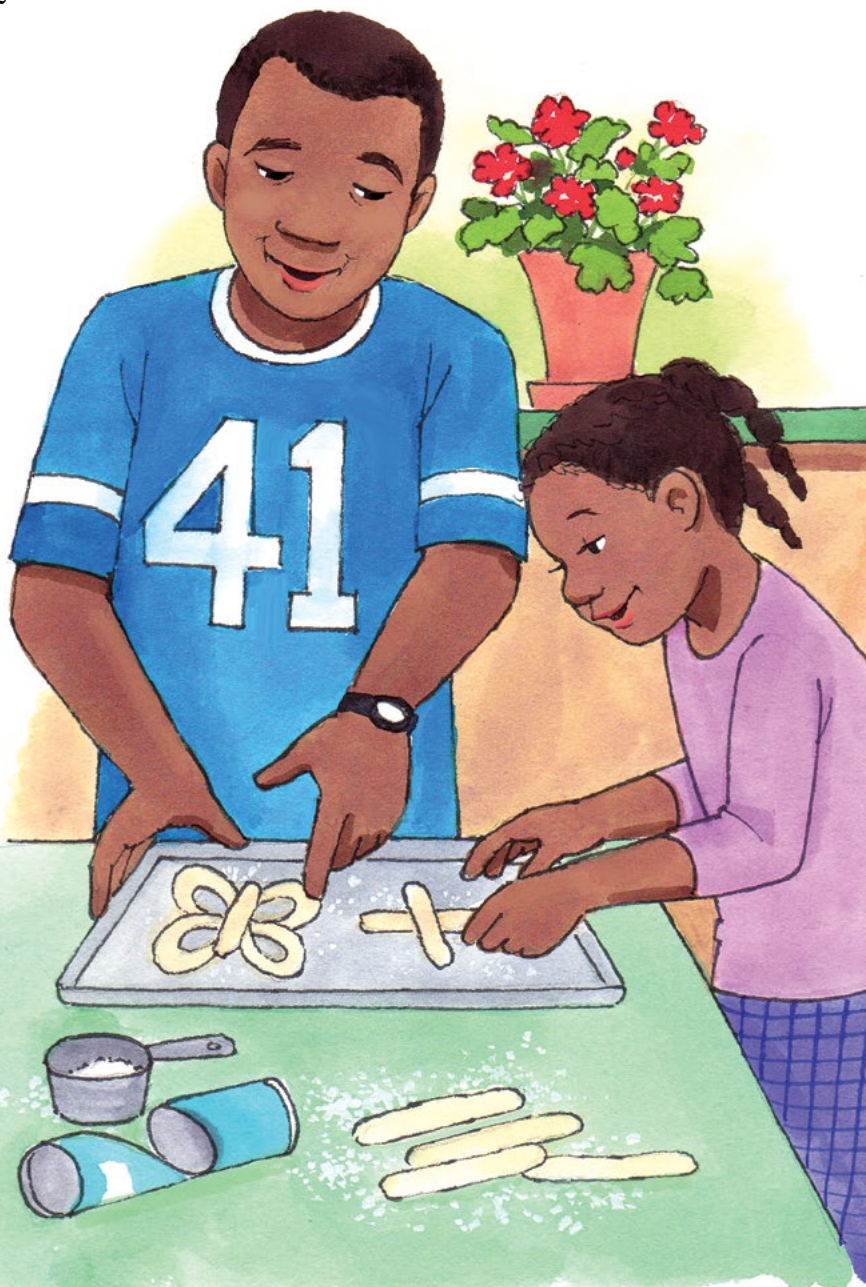
1. Have an adult help you open the tube of breadsticks. Separate the breadsticks onto a floured surface.
2. Shape the breadsticks into the symbols of Holy Week like a palm leaf, a butterfly, or a cross. Put a little flour on your hands if needed.
3. Put your shapes on the baking sheet. Bake as directed on the dough tube.
4. While the breadsticks are baking, stir the cinnamon and sugar together in a small bowl.
5. Remove from oven, brush with butter, and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Allow to cool slightly and enjoy!

## While You Wait

While you wait for the breadsticks to bake, see if you can remember all the days of Holy Week. Ask an adult to help you as you tell the story of Jesus going to the cross. When you eat your breadsticks, remember how sweet it is that we have salvation because of Jesus' death and resurrection!

## Holy Week Symbol Snacks

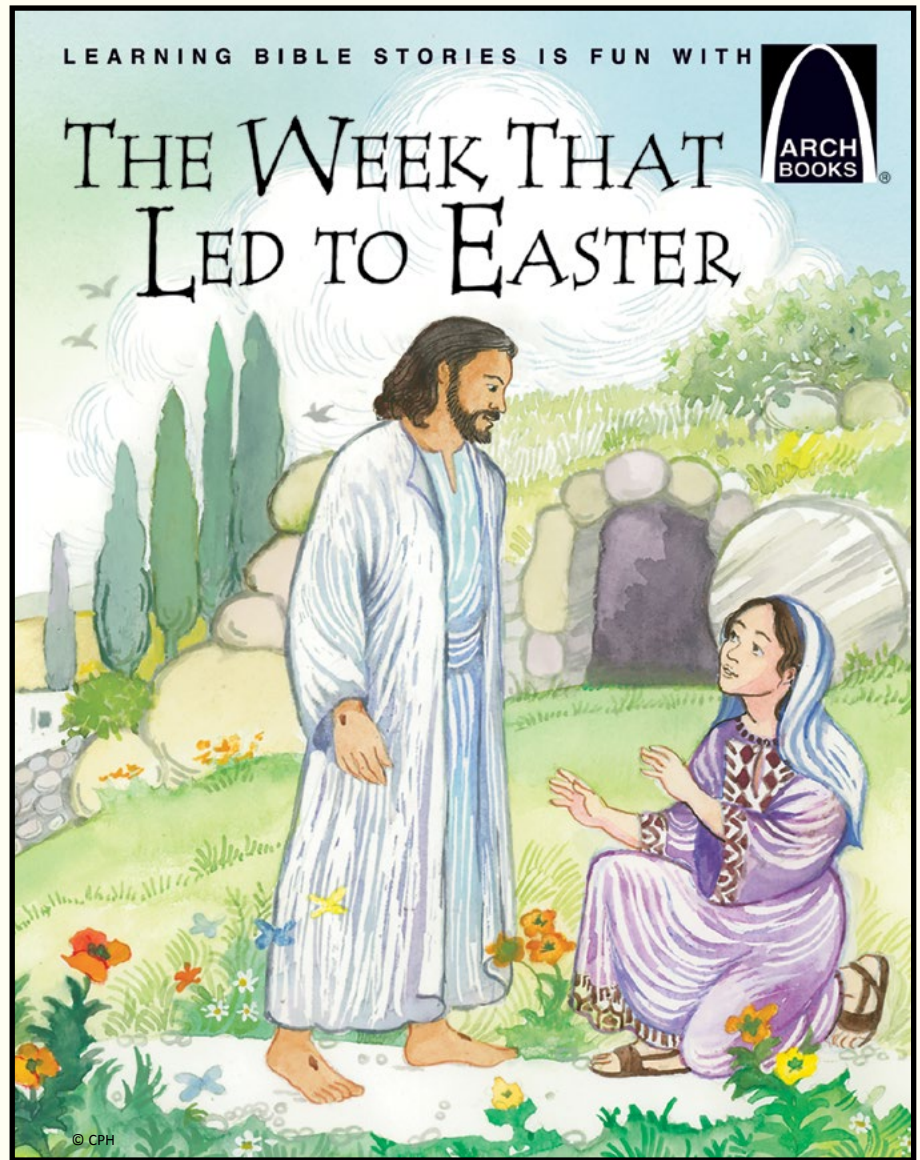
We use a lot of symbols to remind us of what Jesus did during Holy Week. (Go to pages 12 and 13 for some examples.) This snack will be a hands-on way to learn more about those symbols.





The seven days we call Holy Week began on the Sunday before Passover when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Crowds gathered around Him shouting, “Hosanna!” On Thursday, Jesus and His disciples celebrated the Passover meal in an upper room. Jesus shared the bread and wine with them in a special meal we call the Lord’s Supper. But this Holy Week was more than just a parade and a meal. On Thursday night, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray to His Father. People came and took Him to the leaders of the people. The crowd yelled, “Crucify Him!” On Friday morning, soldiers put Jesus on the cross. There, He died and paid for the sins of the whole world. Jesus was placed in a tomb. On Sunday, Jesus rose again to give us forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

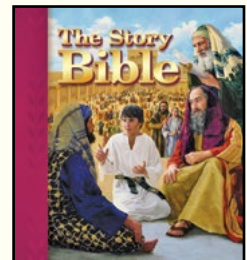
When you read about Holy Week, look in the story for the breadstick shapes you made. A cross reminds us of Jesus’ death. A palm leaf reminds us of how He rode into town on the donkey on Palm Sunday. The sweet taste of the snack can remind us of the wonderful morning when Jesus rose to give us forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation!



## Parent Talk

The narrative of Holy Week is the most important story you can share with your child. Whether you read it from a Bible story book, tell it from memory, or read it directly from the Bible, you are giving your child a wonderful gift by telling them about Jesus, our Savior.

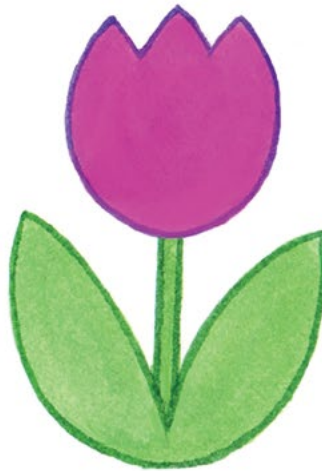
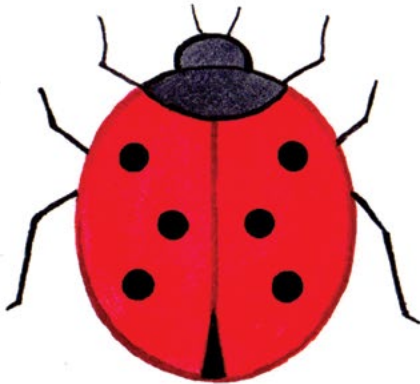
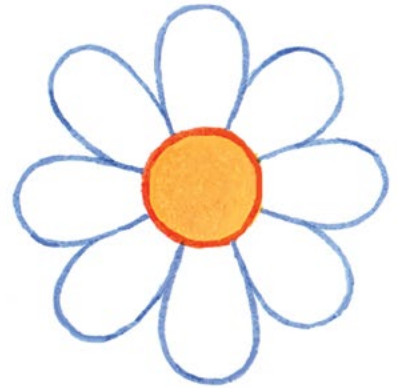
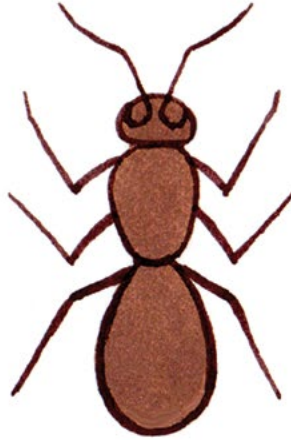
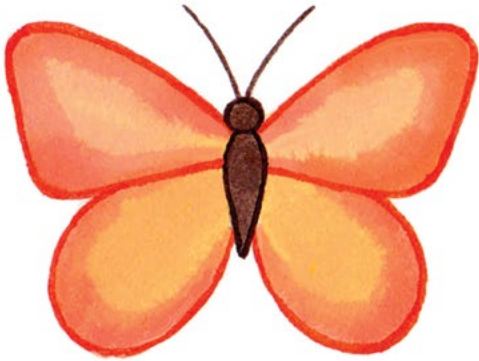
To see more Arch Books with Bible stories told in this enjoyable, easy-to-remember way, visit [cph.org/archbooks](http://cph.org/archbooks).





# Draw a Line

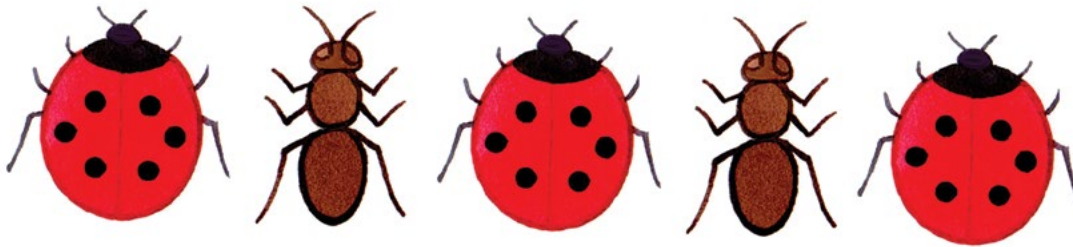
When something is the same on both sides of a line, it is called symmetry. Butterflies are symmetrical! Look at these other things from God's creation. Draw a line through them so that they have two sides that are the same. That's symmetry!





# Pattern Fun

A pattern is a design that repeats. Look at the three rows below. Each one is a pattern. Draw the missing picture at the end of each pattern.



## Parent Talk

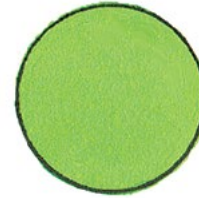
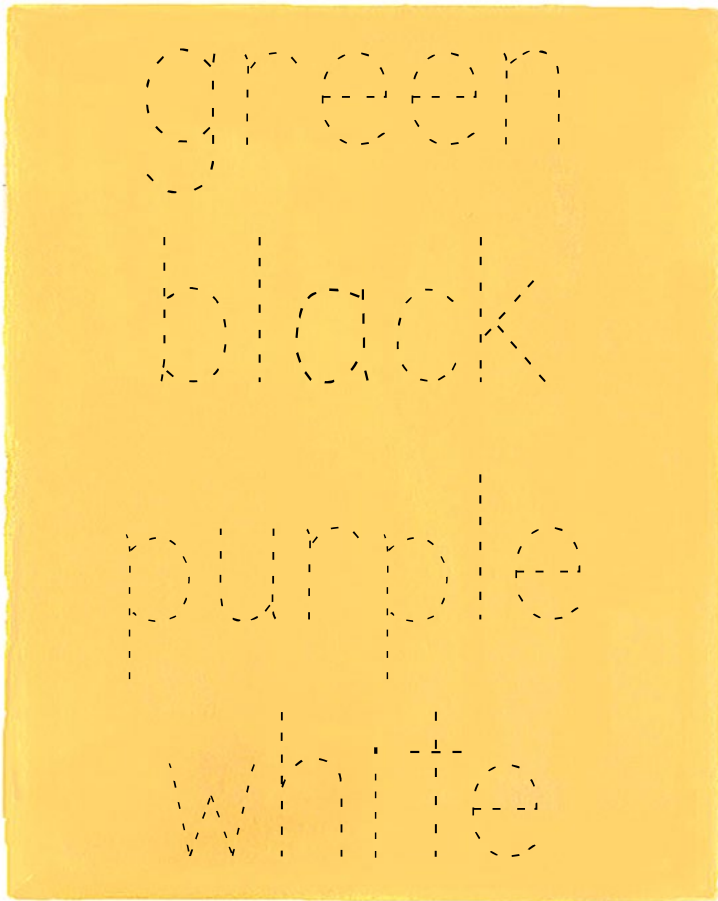
Recognizing symmetry and patterns is beneficial for reading and math concept development. On a walk or a car ride, encourage your child to notice and point out things that are symmetrical. While playing with toys or blocks, set them in a pattern for your child to recognize and then continue. Playing together helps children to learn, and it's fun too!





# Holy Week S

During Holy Week, we see changes in how our church looks as we remember what happened in Jesus' life and how our lives changed thanks to Jesus' death and resurrection. When you go to church on the days of Holy Week, take your *Happy Times* and see if you can find the colors and symbols below. When you find a color, trace its name. When you find a symbol, color it in. It may take the whole week to be able to see all of the colors and symbols!



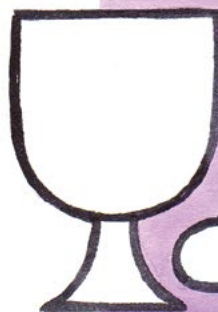
**Parent  
Talk**

Holy Week can be a busy time. It may be difficult to get our children to listen. It may be important for them to hear the whole story of what Jesus did. Find the symbols and colors here to connect them to the week. If they don't understand better, read it to him or her from the Bible or a Bible storybook. Matthew 26:17-28:10; Mark 14:12-16:8; Luke 22:7-24:12;

# Symbol Hunt



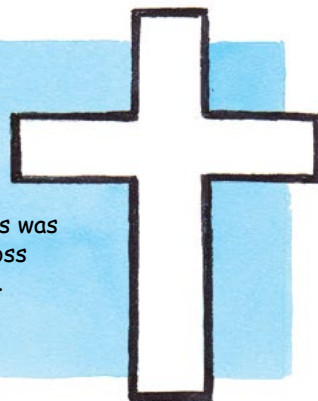
Palm Leaf—People waved palms to celebrate as Jesus rode by on Palm Sunday.



Cup and Bread—These are part of the Lord's Supper, the special meal Jesus gave to His disciples on Holy Thursday. He gives us this special meal too!



Crown of Thorns—The soldiers put this on Jesus' head and called Him the King of the Jews. Jesus is our Savior King!



Cross—Jesus was hung on the cross on Good Friday.



Butterfly—This symbol reminds us of the new life we have in Jesus because He died and rose again for us!

ur children to worship several times in one week, but it is did for us. Engage your child in worship and help him or her worship service. Also, tell your child the story at home, or even y book like *The Story Bible*. The story of Holy Week can be found in and John 18:1–20:23. (Palm Sunday is in Matthew 21:1–11.)



# Good Question!

David loved to ask questions. He asked why, how, what, who, and when questions.

One evening, David and his father were playing before bed. "How high can we build with my blocks?" David asked.

"Good question! Let's find out!" said Daddy.

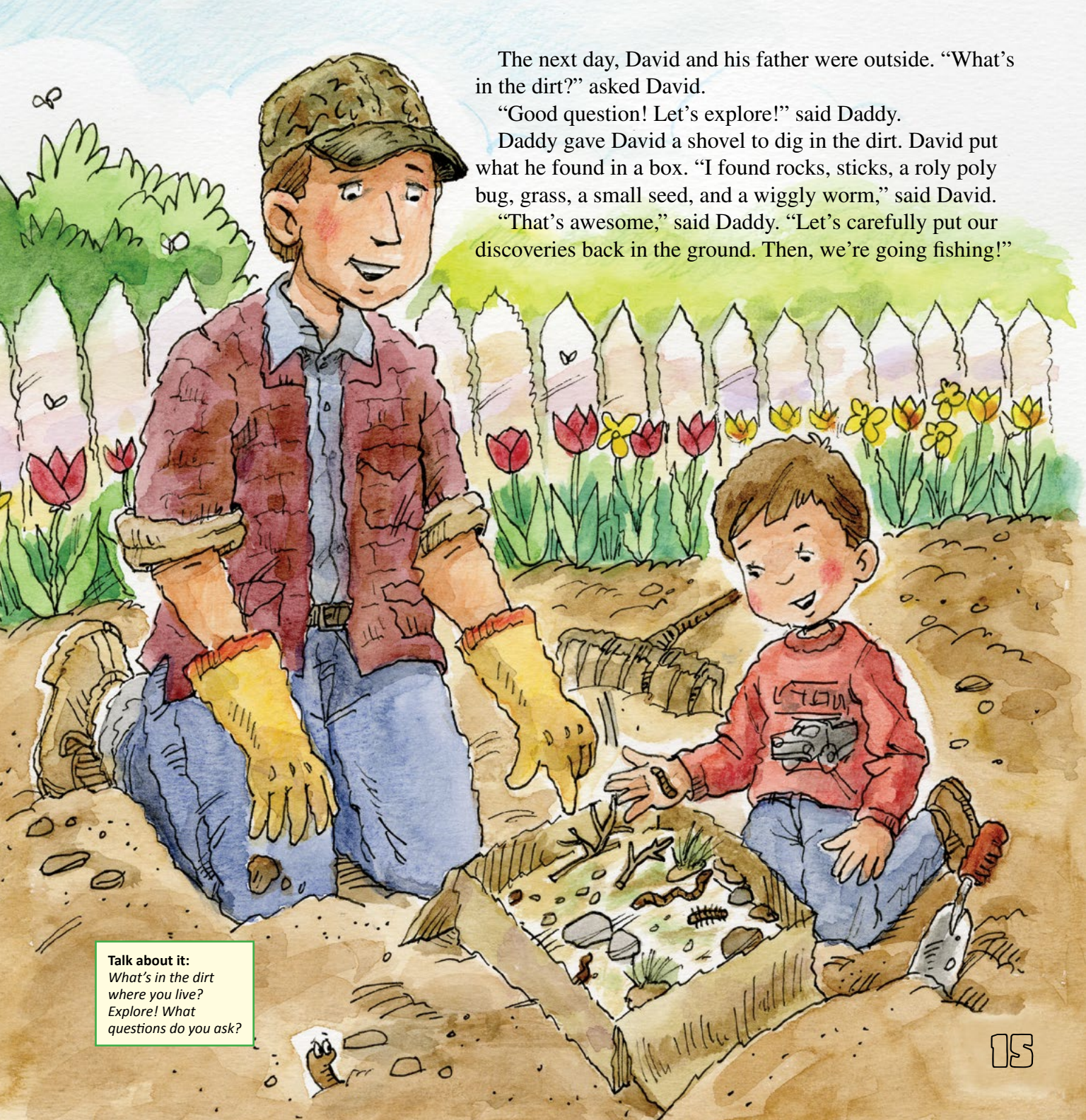
David built a tower with blocks on the carpet.

It was four blocks high, and then it fell over. Daddy suggested that David build on the flat table, and he built it ten blocks high. Then, David gave Daddy a turn, and he built it to be twenty-one blocks high before it fell over! Then, it was time for bed. "We found out that we can build a tower twenty-one blocks high," said David.



**Talk about it:**  
How high can you build with blocks?  
Does it make a difference where you build? Find out!





The next day, David and his father were outside. “What’s in the dirt?” asked David.

“Good question! Let’s explore!” said Daddy.

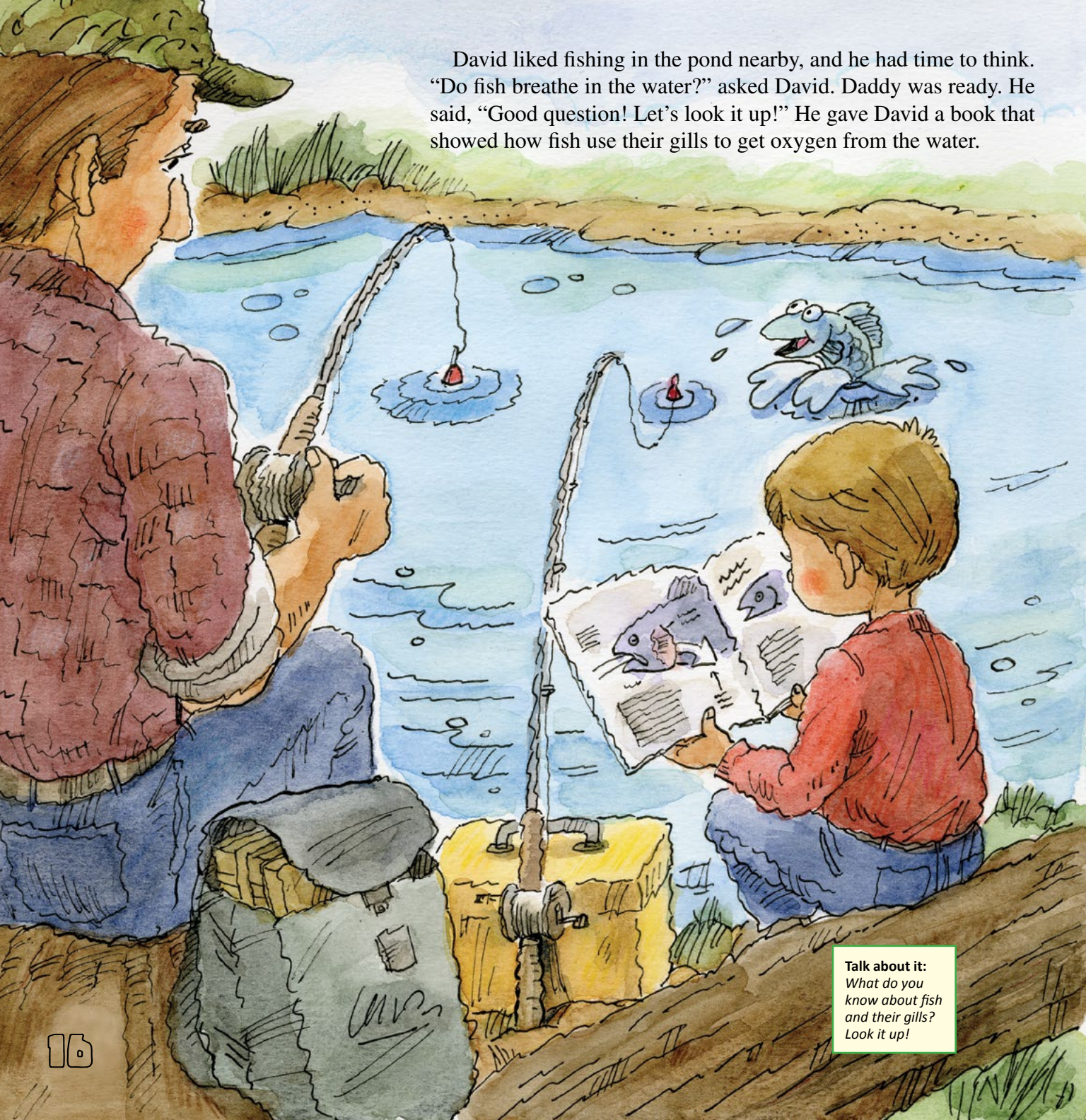
Daddy gave David a shovel to dig in the dirt. David put what he found in a box. “I found rocks, sticks, a roly poly bug, grass, a small seed, and a wiggly worm,” said David.

“That’s awesome,” said Daddy. “Let’s carefully put our discoveries back in the ground. Then, we’re going fishing!”

**Talk about it:**  
What’s in the dirt  
where you live?  
Explore! What  
questions do you ask?



David liked fishing in the pond nearby, and he had time to think. “Do fish breathe in the water?” asked David. Daddy was ready. He said, “Good question! Let’s look it up!” He gave David a book that showed how fish use their gills to get oxygen from the water.



**Talk about it:**  
What do you  
know about fish  
and their gills?  
Look it up!



“What do farmers do?” asked David.

“Good question!” said Daddy. “Let’s ask an expert!”

So Dad asked a farmer to talk to David about what a farmer does each day. Dad said, “Can you guess who our expert is?”

“No,” said David. Dad replied, “It’s Grandma!” Grandma answered all of David’s questions and showed him around the farm, especially the dairy barn where the cows were milked.

“Daddy, I have one more question. When can we go visit Grandma?” Daddy was ready for that question too!

“Good question, David! And I have a good answer! We’re going next month to celebrate Grandma’s birthday! Get more questions ready!”

“Hooray!” said David.



## Parent Talk

Curiosity in children really is a good thing! God made them that way! Be prepared to answer questions, give suggestions for finding things out, and encourage independent discovery and exploration within safe parameters. Provide resources like books and experiences to support curious minds!



## Palm Sunday

Hosanna! Save us! Hosanna we cry.

*Pretend to wave a palm branch.*

Hurry, hurry! King Jesus rides by.

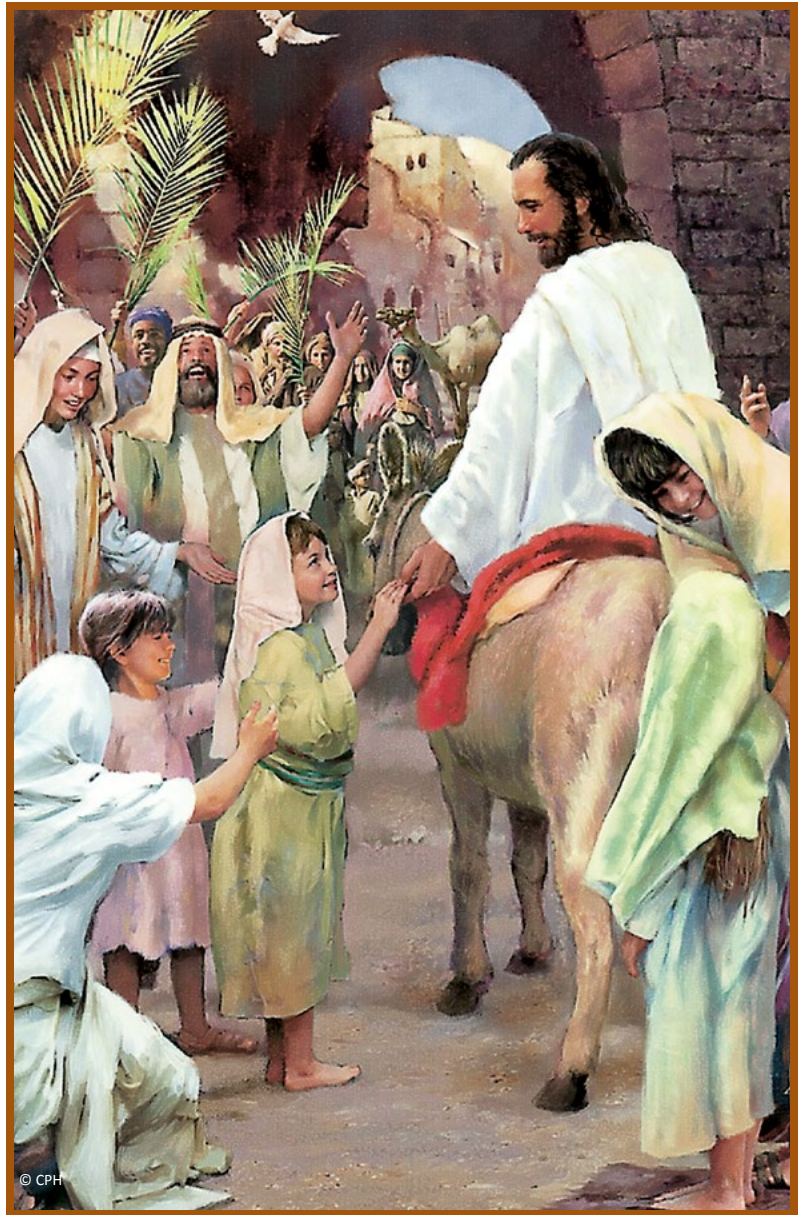
*Pretend to hold reins and ride a donkey.*

Hosanna! Save us! Hosanna we sing.

*Pretend to wave a palm branch.*

He is our Savior. Let praises ring.

*Pretend to ride donkey; wave palm branch.*



From *Wiggle and Wonder*, page 19. © 2012  
Concordia Publishing House.

## Parent Talk

Act out the poem with your child. Talk about how we praise Jesus. We praise Him with the words we say in prayers and in our conversations, in the songs we sing, and through the things we do as we help others in His name. Then, reflect on how you and your child have praised or could praise Jesus today!



© CPH

Draw another palm branch or coat on the path. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. What did the people do? What did they say? Jesus is our King and Savior. How can you praise Him?



## A New Creation

Make these simple and beautiful butterflies. Hang them up to remind everyone that “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

### WHAT YOU NEED

- Large sheet of white paper
- Newspaper
- 2 pipe cleaners (optional)
- Scissors
- 3 spoons
- Glue or stapler (optional)
- Tempera paints in primary colors (red, yellow, and blue)
- 3 bowls

### WHAT YOU DO

1. Ask an adult to cut a butterfly shape out of the large piece of paper. Fold the paper in half and cut the wing shape with the middle of the butterfly on the folded part of the paper.
2. Cover your work surface with newspaper. Put each color of paint into its own bowl. Add a spoon to each bowl. Use the spoons to put small scoops of paint on one half of the butterfly.
3. Ask an adult to fold the butterfly in half again, with the paint on the inside. You press down on the butterfly to press the paint onto the other side of the butterfly.
4. Open up your butterfly and enjoy the beautiful colors that you made. Do you notice some new colors? Did some of your colors mix to make something new?
5. If desired, curl the ends of the pipe cleaners and use glue or staples to attach them to the butterfly for antennae. After the paint dries, hang your butterfly up where you will see it and remember that in your Baptism, God makes you His new creation because Jesus died and rose again to take away your sin.



When you pressed down on the folded butterfly wing, you created new colors. The colors you used first—blue, red, and yellow—are called *primary colors*. The new colors you made are called *secondary colors*. You might have made purple, orange, or green. The pictures below show the two primary colors that

combine to make a secondary color. If you make another butterfly, see if you can make another new color too!

When the folded paper was cut to make your butterfly wings, the wings were symmetrical. Do you remember what that means?

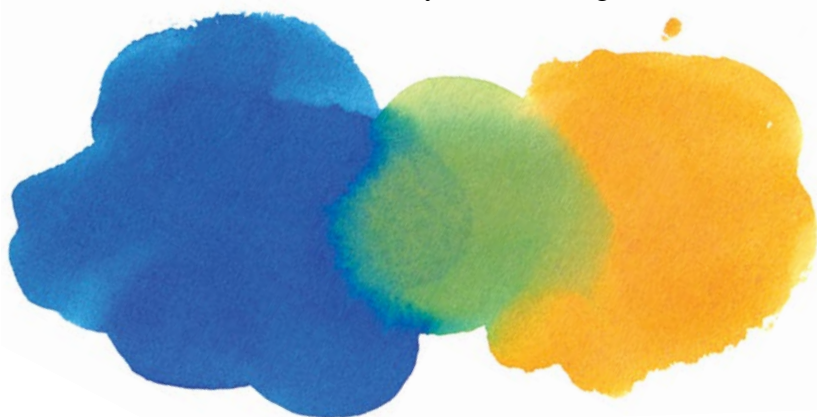


Yellow and red make orange.

Blue and red make purple.



Blue and yellow make green.



## Parent Talk

At Easter, churches may have banners with butterflies on them. The butterfly is a symbol of the new life we have in Jesus. Make several butterflies with your child to give as a gift to friends, aunts and uncles, or grandparents for Easter. If these special people in your child's life don't know Jesus, this would be a great opportunity to share His love with them.



# Roaring Lions

Lions are one of God's amazing creatures. Find out about this awesome animal! Think about the behavior of lions. How is what they do the same or different from what you and your family do?



© iStock

Lions live in family groups called *prides*. Prides stick together and protect one another. How does your family stick together and help one another?



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Male lions have manes—hair around their heads—that make them look bigger and scarier to other animals. How does your family keep safe?



© iStock

Lions love to lie around! They spend 16–20 hours a day resting or sleeping! When do you rest or sleep? How would you rest if you were a lion?



© iStock

Baby lions, called cubs, love to play with one another and their parents! How do you play with other kids and your parents? Can you play like a lion cub?

Lions are mentioned many times in the Bible. Find out what the Bible, God's Word, says about Samson and the lion in Judges 14:5–6 or Daniel in the lions' den in Daniel 6. And read Revelation 5:5, where Jesus is called "the Lion of the tribe of Judah."

# The Eggs-cellent Story of Jesus!

**D**O YOU HUNT for eggs on Easter? This egg hunt activity tells the story of Holy Week, when Jesus died to save us from the punishment of our sins and then rose again! Tell this story to your friends and family. Ask an adult for seven plastic Easter eggs and for help with the story. Cut out the symbols from the side of this page. Put one in each egg. To tell the story, open each egg, show the symbol and say this:

**Palm Leaf**—On Palm Sunday, Jesus came into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people waved palm branches and shouted, “Hosanna!”

**Bible**—On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Jesus taught His disciples about God’s plan to save us.

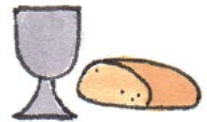
**Cup and Bread**—On Thursday night, Jesus shared a special meal with His disciples. We call this meal the Lord’s Supper. This meal gives forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

**Hands Praying**—On Thursday, Jesus prayed. He talked to His Father in heaven.

**Cross**—On Friday, Jesus was crucified and died on the cross for us all.

**Tomb**—On Friday, His friends put Jesus’ body in a tomb and rolled a big stone in front of it.

**Jesus is alive!**—On Easter Sunday morning, the tomb was empty because Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus, our Savior, is alive!



**Parent  
Talk**

Children love to open things and find out what is inside. This activity helps your child learn the story of Holy Week and gives him or her a way to tell the story. If your child enjoys telling the story, find a friend or family member and have your child use the eggs to tell the story about this Holy Week when Jesus saved us all.



# Watch It Grow

Do this activity with adult help. Watch how a seed grows and changes.

## What you will need:

- A bean seed
- Paper towel
- Plastic zipper bag
- Tape

## What to do:

Get the paper towel a little bit wet and place it in the bag. Add the seed to the bag. Close the bag most of the way, but leave some space for air to get in. Tape the bag to a sunny window. Now, watch and wait. Check your seed each day to see how it grows and changes!



## Parent Talk

Growing plants is a fun activity for children, but it can often seem like it takes so long! With this activity, your child can see the daily changes that normally take place under the surface of the soil. As the seed grows, talk about how growth and change is a miracle of God's creation. God is growing your child too. God has given him or her gifts and abilities that grow sometimes quickly and sometimes slowly. When the seed starts getting leaves, transfer it to a pot or a garden and continue to watch it grow.

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