



KIDS

HAPPY *Easter* DEVOTION GUIDE

EASTER WEEK DEVOTIONAL

WE HOPE YOU WILL SHARE THESE STORIES AS A FAMILY IN THE WEEK LEADING UP TO EASTER AND THAT IT WILL BE A POWERFUL TIME OF CONNECTING WITH JESUS. FIRST, READ THE VERSE; THEN, USE THE DEVOTIONAL TO CONNECT YOURSELF TO THE STORY. DON'T FORGET TO PRAY TOGETHER AND THANK JESUS FOR THE POWERFUL GIFT OF FOREVER LIFE WITH GOD.



SUNDAY, APRIL 5
PALM SUNDAY
MATTHEW 21:1-11

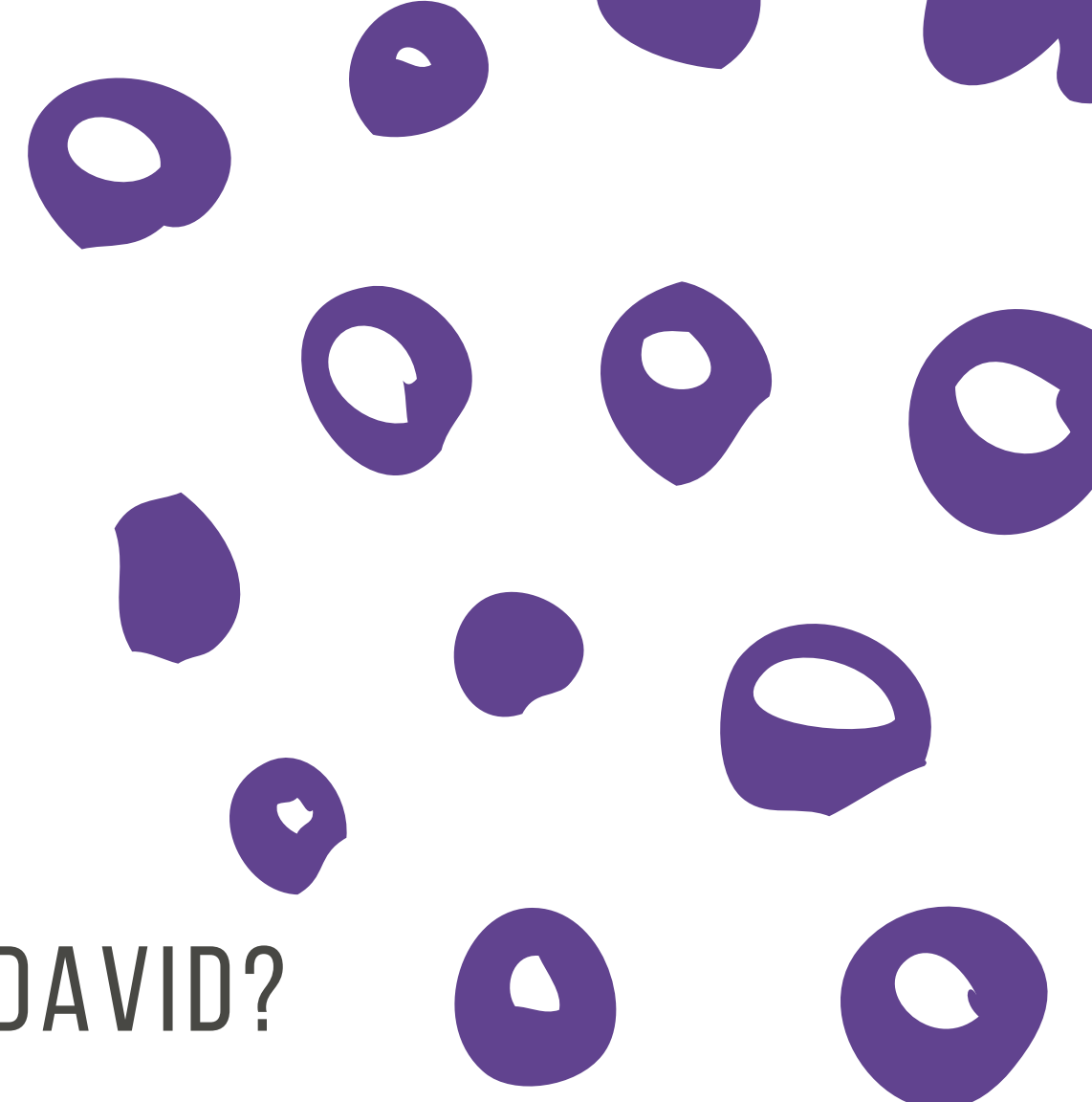
JESUS WAS FULFILLING AN OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY BY RIDING A COLT INTO JERUSALEM: ZECHARIAH 9:9, "YOUR KING HAS WON A VICTORY, AND HE IS COMING TO YOU. HE IS HUMBLE AND RIDES ON A DONKEY. HE COMES ON THE COLT OF A DONKEY."

WHAT IS A PROPHECY? A PROPHECY IS SOMETHING GOD REVEALED WOULD HAPPEN BEFORE IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED.

DO YOU WANT TO SEE SOME OTHER OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES THAT JESUS FULFILLED? (HERE ARE A FEW THAT YOU CAN LOOK UP IN YOUR BIBLE: MICAH 5:2, ISAIAH 9:6, ISAIAH 53:3)

THE JEWISH PEOPLE THOUGHT THAT JESUS WAS COMING TO BE THEIR EARTHLY KING, THAT HE WOULD OVERTHROW THE ROMANS! BUT GOD HAD A VERY DIFFERENT PLAN FOR JESUS. SOMETIMES GOD'S PLANS DON'T MAKE SENSE TO US.

CAN YOU SHARE A TIME YOU COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT GOD WAS DOING IN YOUR LIFE BUT THEN YOU UNDERSTOOD LATER?



MONDAY, APRIL 6
DAVIDIC COVENANT
2 SAMUEL 7:8-16

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT KING DAVID?

GOD LOVED DAVID SO MUCH, EVEN THOUGH DAVID DIDN'T ALWAYS FOLLOW GOD. GOD LOVED DAVID SO MUCH THAT GOD MADE DAVID A VERY SPECIAL PROMISE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT TEACHES US ABOUT WHO GOD IS? JESUS FULFILLED THE DAVIDIC COVENANT, WHICH WAS A PROMISE GOD MADE TO DAVID THAT SOMEONE FROM HIS FAMILY WOULD RULE OVER GOD'S PEOPLE FOREVER.

DO YOU THINK THE JEWISH PEOPLE WERE EXPECTING SOMEONE LIKE JESUS? HOW DO YOU THINK JESUS WAS DIFFERENT FROM THEIR EXPECTATIONS?

CAN YOU THINK OF A TIME WHERE JESUS KEPT HIS PROMISE TO YOU?



TUESDAY, APRIL 7

MUSTARD SEED

MARK 4:30-32

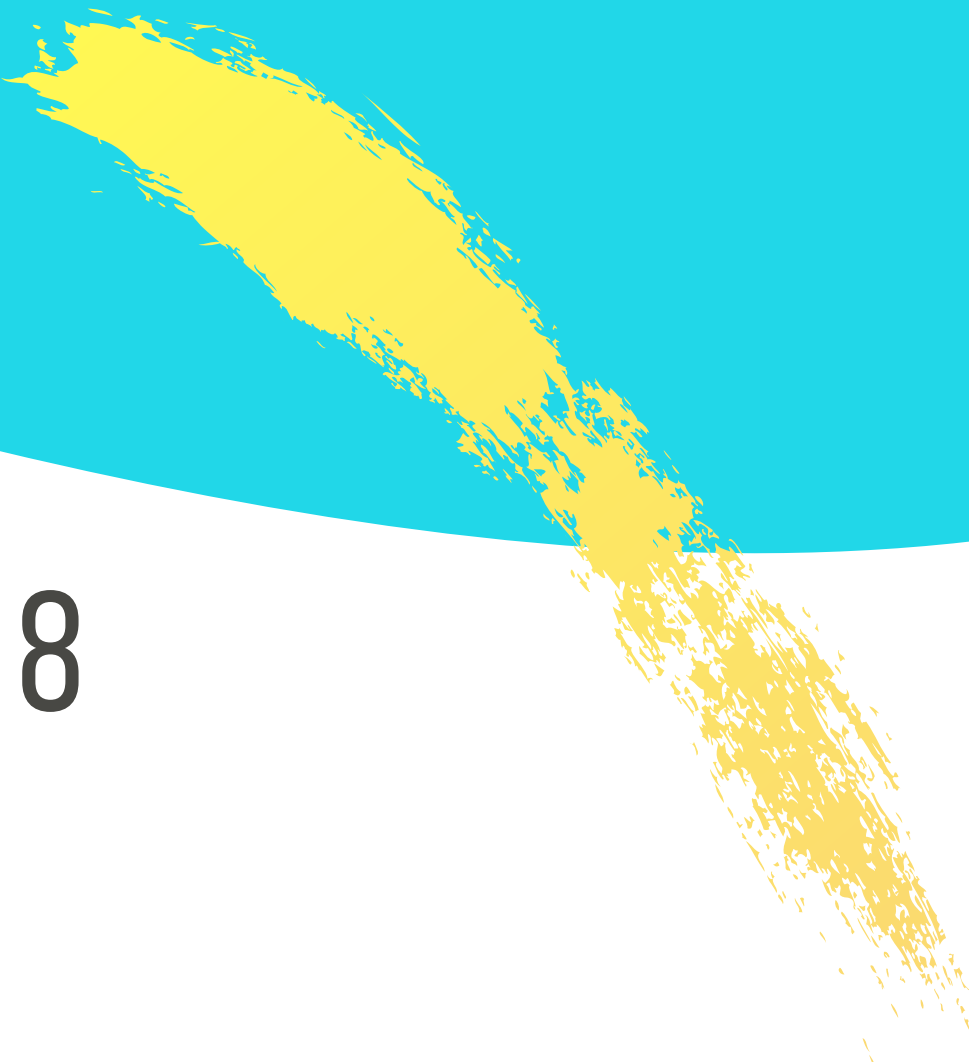
WHEN JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD BEING LIKE A MUSTARD SEED, HE WAS USING A PARABLE.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT A PARABLE IS? IT IS A SHORT STORY THAT USES AN UNRELATED EXAMPLE TO COMMUNICATE A TRUTH. JESUS TAUGHT A LOT USING PARABLES.

WHAT ARE SOME OTHER PARABLES JESUS TAUGHT? (HERE ARE A FEW YOU CAN LOOK UP IN YOUR BIBLE: MATTHEW 13, MATTHEW 20:1-16, LUKE 15:11-32)

JESUS CAME TO PROCLAIM THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS HERE!

AS WE THINK ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, HOW DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD LIVE? HOW SHOULD WE TREAT OTHER PEOPLE? WHO IS OUR KING?



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8
PASSOVER
EXODUS 12:1-17

A LONG TIME BEFORE JESUS CAME, THE ISRAELITES WERE SLAVES IN EGYPT WHEN THE PASSOVER HAPPENED. THEY HAD BEEN WAITING FOR GOD TO DELIVER THEM OUT OF SLAVERY, BUT PHARAOH KEPT SAYING "NO" WHEN MOSES ASKED. AFTER A LONG TIME OF WAITING, GOD ULTIMATELY FREED THE ISRAELITES. THEY CALLED THIS "PASSOVER."

HOW DO YOU THINK IT WOULD HAVE FELT TO WAIT ON GOD? SOMETIMES, GOD ASKS PEOPLE TO WAIT. AND WE CAN ALL BE VERY IMPATIENT!

CAN YOU THINK OF A TIME YOU WERE WAITING ON GOD TO ANSWER A PRAYER?



THURSDAY, APRIL 9 MAUNDY THURSDAY

LUKE 22:7-20

JESUS WAS CELEBRATING PASSOVER WITH HIS DISCIPLES. PASSOVER IS A CELEBRATION JEWISH PEOPLE USED TO REMEMBER WHEN GOD SAVED THE ISRAELITES.

THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE AND THROUGHOUT CHURCH HISTORY, GOD'S PEOPLE GATHERED TO CELEBRATE GOD'S FAITHFULNESS OVER MEALS. WHAT ARE SOME TIMES WE EAT MEALS TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE?

WE REMEMBER JESUS' WORDS AT THE LAST SUPPER EVERY TIME WE TAKE COMMUNION. TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU DO WHEN YOU TAKE COMMUNION AND WHAT YOU REMEMBER ABOUT JESUS.

COMMUNION HELPS US REMEMBER THAT GOD GAVE UP LIFE SO THAT **WE** COULD LIVE FOREVER WITH GOD. WHEN WE RECEIVE COMMUNION, WE CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE FOR US AND OUR INVITATION TO LIVE WITH GOD FOREVER.

GATHER SOME BREAD & JUICE, AND SHARE IN COMMUNION AS A FAMILY & REMEMBER.



FRIDAY, APRIL 10
GOOD FRIDAY
MATTHEW 26:36-66

BEFORE JESUS WAS ARRESTED, HE PRAYED IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE. HIS PRAYER TO GOD WAS FULL OF SADNESS. HE KNEW THAT HE WAS GOING TO SUFFER AND DIE, AND EVEN THOUGH HE HAD THE POWER TO CHANGE WHAT WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN, HE DIDN'T. WHY NOT? WHAT DOES THAT TEACH US ABOUT JESUS AND HIS LOVE FOR US?

JUDAS WAS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS WHO BETRAYED JESUS. LATER, WE LEARN THAT PETER, ANOTHER DISCIPLE, LIED ABOUT KNOWING JESUS THREE TIMES! EVEN LATER, AFTER JESUS ROSE AGAIN, HIS DISCIPLE THOMAS DOUBTED THAT JESUS WAS ALIVE AGAIN UNTIL HE SAW JESUS AND FELT HIS WOUNDS.

THESE WERE MEN WHO GAVE UP EVERYTHING TO FOLLOW JESUS, AND EVEN THEY HAD TROUBLE FOLLOWING HIM AND BELIEVING HIM. BUT JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLED THEM WITH BELIEF.

CAN YOU THINK OF A TIME IT WAS HARD TO FOLLOW JESUS?



SATURDAY, APRIL 11
HOLY SATURDAY
MATTHEW 27:24-54

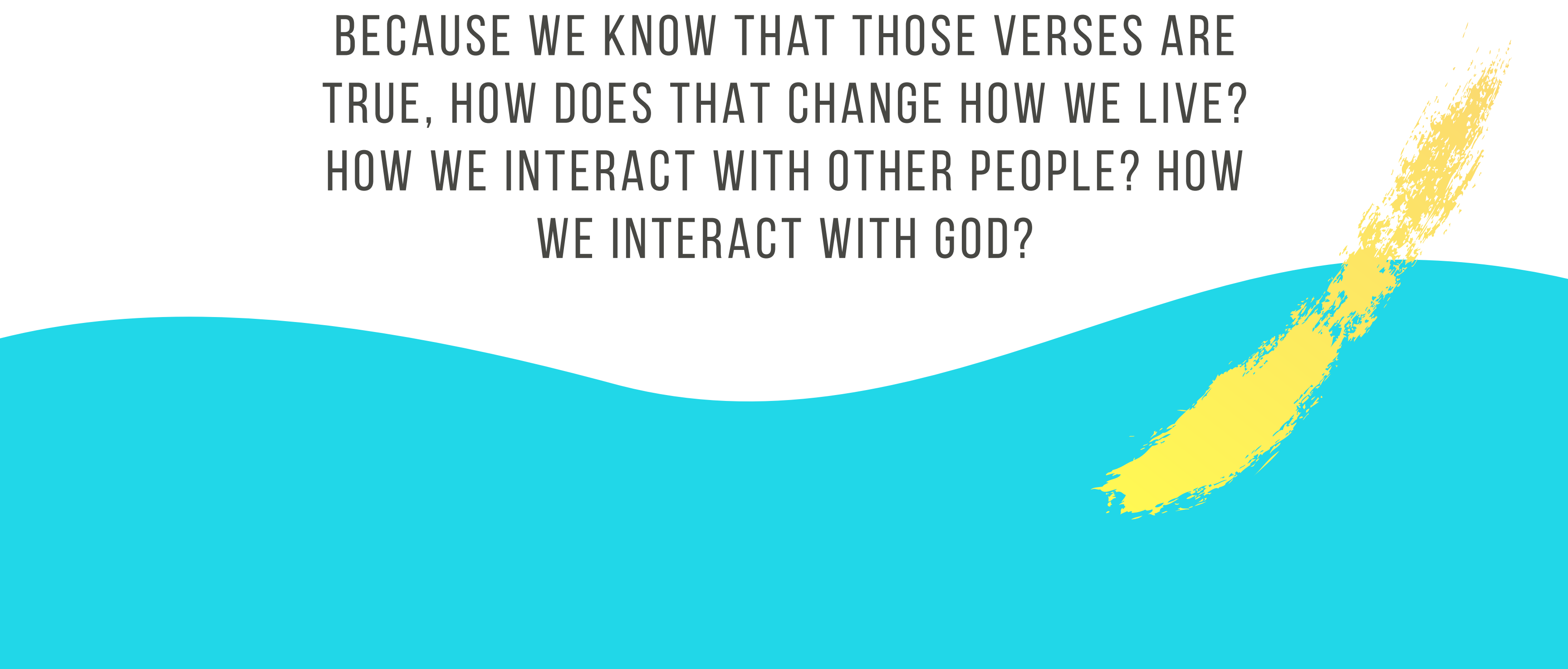
WHEN JESUS DIED, HE FELT THE SIN OF THE
WORLD. SIN IS WHEN WE PURPOSELY DO
SOMETHING THAT DISRESPECTS GOD, OTHERS, OR
OURSELVES.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TELL US THAT RESULT OF
SIN IS? (READ ROMANS 6:23)

SIN LEADS TO DEATH. BUT GOD CAME TO EARTH
AND OVERCAME DEATH AND GAVE US THE GIFT
OF LIFE--FOREVER LIFE WITH GOD.

READ JOHN 3:16-17 AND REFLECT ON ITS
MEANING.

BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT THOSE VERSES ARE
TRUE, HOW DOES THAT CHANGE HOW WE LIVE?
HOW WE INTERACT WITH OTHER PEOPLE? HOW
WE INTERACT WITH GOD?





SUNDAY, APRIL 12
EASTER SUNDAY
LUKE 24:1-12

LUKE 24:11 SAYS THAT THE DISCIPLES DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT JESUS HAD RISEN AGAIN, AT FIRST. PETER DIDN'T BELIEVE UNTIL HE WENT AND SAW THE EMPTY TOMB. WE KNOW THAT PETER WENT ON TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL TO MANY PEOPLE! IN FACT, IT IS BECAUSE OF PETER THAT WE HAVE THE CHURCH TODAY.

HOW WOULD YOU HAVE REACTED IF YOU HAD BEEN PETER? FIRST TO THE NEWS AND THEN TO THE EMPTY TOMB?

SOMETIMES, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE ALL THAT GOD DID TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO LIVE WITH GOD FOREVER. SPEND A MOMENT TO THANK GOD.

NOW, HOW CAN WE CELEBRATE GOD'S GIFT OF FOREVER LIFE?