

PASSPORT



JOURNEY
through the PASSION:
A GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY EXPERIENCE

NAME:

AGE:

BIRTHDATE:

WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

PASSPORT TO THE PASSION

Welcome to “Journey through the Passion,” an interactive experience for kids and their parents.

Through this journey you’re going to learn and experience the events leading up to the very first Easter.

In your hand you hold a Passport to the Passion. This passport is your guide for the weekend. It will lead you to various locations on the Gateway campus that you need to experience on your journey, as well as prompt conversations you should have before Easter Sunday!

The following pages describe five locations on the Gateway campus. Feel free to visit these locations in any order that you choose, just be sure you visit “Destination: The Meaning of the Mystery” last. Most locations are a self-guided experience, so make sure to read about each location in this passport and discuss the questions as a family. When you complete a location, don’t forget to get your passport stamped by a location guide.

The final two locations in this passport are for you to complete on Saturday and/or Sunday. Read and discuss the questions with your family and bring the passport back on Sunday to get the final pages stamped!

What are you waiting for, enjoy the journey!

DESTINATION: PALM SUNDAY DONKEY WALK

VERSES: Matthew 21:1-11

LOCATION: The Backyard — 12 on the map

For hundreds of years, the Jewish people had been looking forward to a promised king, a king that God had promised to provide. This would be a man who would deliver them from their enemies and establish a kingdom that would never end. They had pictured that their mighty king would charge into the city of Jerusalem on the back of a beautiful white horse and take control of Israel with force and might and begin his rule. But it didn't quite happen that way. What happened was a bit unexpected.

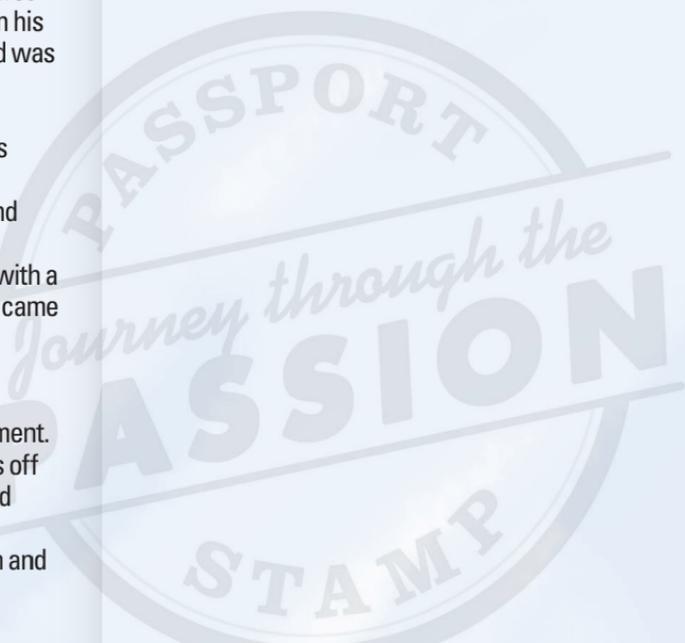
As Jesus approached the walls of Jerusalem, there was nothing mighty or noble about him. In fact, he was quite simple. One of his disciples found a donkey to borrow and Jesus climbed upon the back of this wobbly animal. In complete humility, Jesus triumphantly entered the city with a most unexpected arrival. A humble entry as a king who came to serve rather than to be served.

Surprisingly, quite a crowd developed. Although Jesus looked nothing like a king, they gave him the royal treatment. They placed their coats on the ground and cut branches off the trees and made a path for Jesus to follow. They cried "Hosanna, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" They celebrated the one who came to save them and rule them. Jesus was the humble king!

QUESTIONS:

If the President came to your town, what would you expect their entrance to look like?

What did Jesus' simple and humble entrance say about him as a man?



DESTINATION: SPOTLESS LAMB PETTING CORRAL

VERSES: Matthew 21:12-17

LOCATION: The Backyard — 13 on the map

One day during Holy Week, Jesus came to the temple to pray and worship God. What Jesus saw there made him very unhappy. While people had always provided lambs for sacrifice, things had gotten out of control. Merchants had turned the temple into a market, and rather than being a house of God, the temple had become a place to make money. Jesus wanted the temple to be a place that was holy and peaceful, so he decided to do something about it. At the top of his voice he yelled and chased the merchants out. He even tipped the tables over and made the greedy people leave.

Why were all these people there in the first place?

Before and during the time that Jesus lived, people worshiped God by providing a lamb for sacrifice. This lamb would be perfect and spotless. Why? Because we're not perfect. We make mistakes. We lie. We steal. The Bible calls this sin. God had a plan for this. Instead of you and I paying the price for our wrongdoing, a perfect and spotless lamb could take our place. It was a messy business, but that's what sin is—messy.

QUESTIONS:

The sacrifice of a lamb illustrates the pain of sin. Share with each other how your sin has hurt somebody else.

If people had to sacrifice lambs to God to cover our sins and be made right with God before and during the time Jesus was alive, why don't we still do that today? What changed?

DESTINATION: BAG OF SILVER CRAFT TENT

VERSES: Luke 22

LOCATION: Kids Quest C — 14 on the map

Have you ever had a best friend? One of those friends that knows everything about you, but loves you anyway? Jesus was that kind of friend. Jesus was kind and loving to all people, but for several years Jesus had twelve very close friends that did everything together. They traveled together, ate together and Jesus taught them everything, especially about God's great love for them.

In spite of all that Jesus did, something surprising happened—something totally unexpected. Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' closest friends, revealed his true nature. Like a slap in the face, Judas betrayed Jesus.

Judas knew that there were others in Jerusalem who wanted to capture and kill Jesus, and he realized that knowing everything about Jesus could be worth some money. So he secretly went to the religious leaders and betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Judas gave into temptation, something he would later regret with all his heart.

QUESTIONS:

How would it feel if one of your very best friends betrayed your friendship (like told a lie about you)?

The Bible says that Jesus knew Judas was going to betray him. Why do you think Jesus didn't stop him?

DESTINATION: PASSOVER MEAL

VERSES: Mark 12:12-26

LOCATION: Kids Quest A — 15 on the map

The Last Supper. As far as meals are concerned, it's one of the most famous. The Last Supper wasn't an ordinary meal—it was pretty significant. It's actually the reason why there were so many people in Jerusalem that week. The Last Supper was the Passover Meal, something the Jews took very seriously. The Passover Meal was how the Jews remembered the great things that God had done for the Jewish people over the centuries. Every part of the meal, including the food itself, was a symbol of something that happened in their past.

Jesus was a Jew, and he knew the full meaning of the Passover Meal. He knew all the symbols and at this particular Passover and he inserted a few symbols of his own. When his friends entered the room he got on his knees and washed their dirty feet. This was something a servant did, not a king or the savior of the Jewish people. Secondly, Jesus took the bread and wine and assigned new symbols to them. Not of events from the past, but of events that would happen soon. He then picked up the bread and broke it saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he held up the wine and said, "This is my blood... which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

QUESTIONS:

Why do you think Jesus washed his friends' feet?

The Passover had been celebrated a very specific way for centuries. Why do you think Jesus changed it?

DESTINATION: THE MEANING OF THE MYSTERY

LOCATION: Kids Quest B — 16 on the map

Tonight was filled with various experiences depicting actual events in Jesus' final week. The unexpected arrival on a donkey, the scene Jesus caused in the temple, the exchange of silver coins for the price of betrayal, and the final meal with the disciples all pointed to one final moment. Each event was connected to the other, almost as if it had been planned.

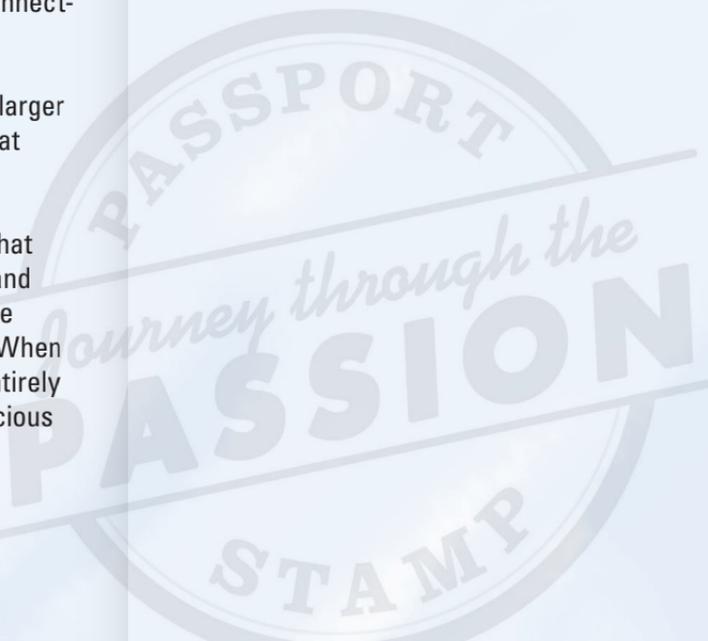
Was it? Was the death of Jesus Christ part of a larger plan, or was it a horrible accident, something that should have never happened?

Looking back in history we can see something that the disciples didn't. When Jesus was arrested and taken away to be killed they witnessed a horrible crime, something that wasn't fair or even right. When we look back at the event, we see something entirely different. We see the ultimate act of love, a precious and beautiful gift that we can never repay.

QUESTIONS:

Most of us have learned, "Jesus died for our sins." After your journey tonight, what does that mean to you now?

What are some ways that we might express thanks for what Jesus did for us?



DESTINATION: Waiting with Hope

LOCATION: Your home on Saturday

The day after Jesus died on the cross must have been a very hard day for all of Jesus' family and friends. You learned last night that his death on the cross wasn't just a big accident, but the ultimate act of love. However, Jesus' friends and family didn't know that. The day after his death they were likely very sad. Most of them probably cried through the night, asking themselves, "what just happened?" Just a few days before they saw Jesus triumphantly entering Jerusalem on a donkey as the promised king, now he was gone. How disappointing.

One thing we can depend on is that things don't always turn out the way we expect. Although we know this story ends with a happy ending, getting to the happy ending isn't very easy. On the day after his death, Jesus' family and friends didn't feel very happy, and they probably felt like this was the end of the story. If only they knew what was about to happen the next day, maybe they wouldn't have been so sad. Sometimes God's plans are bigger than our understanding in the moment.

QUESTIONS:

Have you ever been really, really sad about something that ended up working out to be really good in the end?

Although Jesus' death was really sad, it was part of God's plan to do something really good. Knowing that God has good plans, what might we do the next time something bad happens in our lives?

DESTINATION: A Promise Kept

LOCATION: Kids Quest during one of the Saturday or Sunday Easter services
(REMEMBER: Bring your passport!)

Happy Easter! This is a GREAT day! Just a few days ago we were filled with sadness because of the death of Jesus, but now that sadness is replaced with joy. Early on Easter morning, Mary and several others went to the tomb, but when they got there, Jesus was gone. Angels declared that he had risen from the dead!

Wait a second, isn't this what Jesus said?

Look at what Jesus said to his friends in Matthew 20:17-19. Everything that Jesus said would happen actually happened. Jesus made a promise and it was a promise kept!

Thousands of years before Jesus came, God promised that He would make a way to bring people back to Him. God promised that He would provide a way so that all people could be free of sin. God sent His son Jesus to die in our place. Jesus was a promise kept!

CONCLUSION:

We've learned from our journey that God really loves us. He wants to have a friendship with us. He made a promise to make things good, and even though it was difficult and painful sending His son to die in our place, He did it because of His great love for us.

God keeps His promises.

