

Bible Journeys provide unique opportunities for families to work together to provide special events where church and community families can experience God's Word together and come to understand what it means and how to live it in their everyday lives!

Spring is a busy time of year for church and for families with everyone preparing for Resurrection Sunday, Spring Break, Graduations and looking forward to the end of another year of school – or at least the children are! *Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey* is an ideal opportunity for churches to involve families in ministering to one another as they learn together why Resurrection Sunday is the greatest event in the history of the world!

Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey is an event with four stations families “journey” through to learn what Resurrection Sunday is all about. They will learn why Jesus prayed in the Garden. They will discover what happened when Jesus was arrested and put on trial. They will hear how Jesus died on the cross for an “end” none of us would have chosen and then celebrate as they learn how “the end” was really the “beginning”! In the party room families will celebrate this new beginning as they present the canned and boxed foods they brought for families in need. Each station involves families in learning, activity and discussion so this isn't just another “event”, but rather an opportunity for everyone to learn how the Resurrection was the greatest event in the history of the world!

As you plan your *Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey*, consider the following options –

- Present your journey as a special event for your mid-week club ministry.
- Present your journey as a special event on a Friday evening or Saturday before Resurrection Sunday
- Present your journey as a special event during Spring Break
- Present your journey as a special event on Resurrection Sunday morning.

Determine how and where you would like to involve the families in your church and community in a *Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey* and then decide how you would like to present this event. It is an ideal opportunity for you to involve families – some could sign up to help with decorating each station. Some families could sign up to prepare the activities everyone completes as they journey through the stations. Some families could sign up to help with brief mini-dramas, or to lead the music. There are many opportunities for families to help in the preparation and presentation of this event; decide how much help you want from the families and use the reproducible promotional materials included in this resource to let families know how they can be involved and where to sign up!

Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey is a unique opportunity to involve families in serving together in simple activities which when put together provide a ministry to other families in their church and community! Not only may families give to others by bringing canned and boxed food for needy families, but they may have a part

in preparing and presenting this ministry event as well! *Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey* is also an event your children's ministry leaders or youth group could prepare and present to families if this is a more effective way for your church to minister to the families in your church and community.

So, to help you as you make plans to hold your *Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey*, work through the following countdown!

Two months before your event -

1. Decide on a date and time
2. Determine how you will involve families and/or your youth group
3. Begin to promote this event and provide opportunities for families to sign up to help –
 - a. Decorating teams – you could have one team of decorators who help with all stations, or you could have individual families or groups of families sign up for specific stations.
 - b. Drama teams – provide opportunities for families or members of your youth group to sign up for specific stations.
 - c. Music teams – again, provide opportunities for families or members of your youth group to sign up for specific stations.
 - d. Activity leaders – once again, provide opportunities for families or members of your youth group to sign up for specific stations.
4. Recruit a special team of “pray-ers”. Ask people in your church to pray for this event – pray for those involved and for those who attend so they will learn what Resurrection Sunday is really all about and how knowing this truly affects their everyday life! Involve people in praying for families that they will learn how to understand and live God's Word together and will commit to make it a part of their family life!
5. Begin to gather materials for decorating your stations and for the activities in each station – you could have the families who sign up to decorate or help with activities also bring items they will need, or you could make a list of items you need and allow anyone in the church to sign up to donate needed items; or if your budget allows, you could purchase needed items.
6. Visit all adult Sunday School classes, explain the *Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey* and how families have the opportunity to help with this event.
7. Email families in your church to let them know how they may be involved in this unique ministry opportunity.
8. Promote in your mid-week ministry and with posters around your community – get a group of creative people – could be children – and have them make posters to promote your Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey – provide poster board, paper, markers, other art supplies and make as many as you will need to promote your event. Also have your creative people make fliers then give these to families to share with people in their neighborhood!
9. Provide invitations for families to hand out to friends and neighbors.

10. Make copies of your Children's Ministry Informational flier – if you do not have one, consider making a flier with info on your Children's Ministry opportunities and goals so you have them available to give to any community families who attend your event and to hand out in Sunday school and mid week ministries.

One Month before your event –

1. Hold a meeting with the families/teens who signed up to help with your event. Hand out “parts” and arrange for a specific time for the decorating team to do their decorating.
2. Continue to promote and invite families from your church and community to attend this event.
3. Touch bases with your “pray-ers” to let them know how things are coming and thank them for their continued prayers!

One Week before your event –

1. Touch bases with all your volunteers to be sure everyone is still planning to participate and has the supplies and resources they need. Remind the decorating team of when to meet for decorating and remind the others of the time you need them to arrive on the day/evening of your event.
2. Touch bases with your “pray-ers” to let them know how things are coming and thank them for their continued prayers!

The day/evening of your event –

1. Make sure you have copies of the following items –
 - a. Children's Ministry info fliers
 - b. Family fliers for each station
 - c. Craft supplies for each station
2. Visit each station to make sure everything is set up and ready – leave Family fliers in each station.
3. Be ready to greet families as they arrive and direct them to your starting location.
4. Be prepared to greet new families from the community – introduce visitors to church families especially if they didn't come with a church family.
5. Lead families on their *Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey* – Enjoy the event!

The day after your event –

1. Follow up with any visitors who attended your event.
2. Thank your Pray-ers and let them know how your event went!
3. Mail or email thank-yous to the families who helped prepare or present your event.

4. Begin to think about and plan your next *Bible Journey*!

Tips for the *Journey*!

Small Churches –

1. Often it is a real challenge for smaller churches to provide outreach events with the shortage of children's ministry volunteers, but *Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey* involves families in simple, doable and meaningful activities. You need one or two people to plan and lead a *Journey* and then with the help of families in your church you will find you really can provide this type of special event ministry opportunity!
2. Involve your entire church in providing the supplies you need for decorating and activities. This prevents the *Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey* from being a strain or stress on your budget and involves everyone in your church!

Large Churches –

1. You may want to involve teams of families or double up and prepare two – or more – identical "sites" for your *Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey*. With more than one site you will be able to move families through your event so they all end up at the Party together.

Remember, the purposes for your *Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey* are to

- equip parents so they will experience how to teach their children and learn together
- reach out to community families
- help church and community families understand what Resurrection Sunday is all about and how it changes their everyday lives
- involve families in your church in a project they can work on together

Plan well, but enjoy your event and be sure you have people praying for these outcomes!

Resurrection Sunday Journey

Station #1 – Praying in the Garden

Decorating Suggestions -

- Simple Decorations –
 - Use clay pots with real or fake flowers and plants
 - Make trees on the wall with brown construction paper
 - use paper to make flowers/plants/trees and put on the walls with the trees and use green AstroTurf or carpet squares to make “grass” for the garden
 - you might add a few silk/plastic/real plants
- Additional Decoration Ideas – use any/all of the above ideas and . . .
 - Use fishing line to hang “birds” from your ceiling
 - Use chicken wire and newspaper to make trees, paint the trunks and place around and in the corner of your room
 - Bring in a large stone or two or build them from chicken wire and newsprint

Supplies –

- Simple Craft Supplies –
 - Green construction paper – up to two sheets per person
 - Pencils, crayons, markers
 - Hole punches
 - Scissors
 - Two-sided tape
- Extra Craft Supplies –
 - Green Construction paper, shiny green gift wrap, green fabric or green heavy foil/plastic wrap – enough for each person to trace/cut both their hand prints
 - Scissors – they will need to be sharp scissors if you opt for green fabric (if you select fabric for the handprints, after your event you could give the handprints to ladies in your church who know how to applique quilts and ask them to make a quilt to give to someone in your church or community who needs to be encouraged by prayer)
 - Pencils, crayons, markers
 - Hole punches
 - Scissors
 - Two-sided tape
 - Fish line
- Family Fliers for Station #1 – one per family – you will find these in the reproducible resources
- Pencils/pens

- Bibles

Props –

- Paper for signs – one per child
- Crayons/markers
- Bathrobes so everyone may dress in Bible times costumes – ask families to bring their own robes to wear if you like, but be sure to have extras on hand for anyone who didn't bring their own.

Directions –

- Jesus' disciples and sign holders – children/sign holders will make signs showing someone sleeping, snoring – use words, stick figures . . . show your imagination. During this portion of the mini drama, parents/disciples will “sleep” and sign holder/children - will hold signs over sleeping disciples/parents

Greet everyone and have families sit in sharing circles – knee to knee – on the floor.

Say – **We are going to learn about one of the most exciting events in the history of the world! I'm going to need all of you to help! For our little drama, all the parents will be “disciples” and all the kids will be “sign holders”! Parents, I mean “disciples” you will need to follow along with the action in our drama. You won't have to say anything, just nod when appropriate, sit on the floor and “fall asleep”! Think you can do that?** (Allow parents to respond)

Say – **Kids, you get to be sign holders! In a moment you will have a few minutes to make a sign showing a person who is sleeping. Feel free to show your creativity or to use stick figures and the letter “z” to show someone who is sleeping. Keep in mind; you will only have a few minutes to complete your sign. During our drama when the disciples, ah, your parents, sleep, hold your sign above their heads. In our drama when they “wake up”, step back a step and put your sign behind your back until they “sleep” once again! Think you can do that?** (Allow children to respond)

Say – **Great! Let's take a couple minutes to make our signs.** (Send in Station #1 Activity leaders and allow them to lead the entire group in how to make their signs. Call everyone together after just a couple minutes)

Say – **I like your great signs! Let's get started with our drama and see what we can learn about why Resurrection Sunday is the greatest event in the history of the world!**

Script for Praying in the Garden

Cast –

- Jesus
- Peter
- James – non-speaking part
- John – non-speaking part
- Jesus' disciples and sign holders – non-speaking part – parents/"disciples" will stay where "Jesus" tells them to stay and fall asleep, "sign holders"/children will hold signs about the sleeping disciples over the heads of the sleeping disciples/parents whenever they are "sleeping"
- **Optional Teen Drama Portion – teens will make signs to hold over Peter, James and John's heads during the drama**

(Send in Jesus, Peter, James, John and disciples)

Jesus – **Thank you My faithful disciples for coming to Gethsemane with Me. I need to spend some time talking with God, My Father. (Point to your disciples/parents) Please stay here while I go to pray. Peter, James and John, please come along with Me.**

(Have disciples/parents sit where "Jesus" pointed out for them – they will sleep when Peter, James and John sleep and children/sign holders will hold their signs as instructed)

Jesus – **Thank you Peter, James and John. I'm so very sad and feel overwhelmed with what I know is about to happen. I need to talk with God! Please stay here and pray for Me while I go on a little farther.**

Peter – **Certainly, Jesus. I, I mean we, all three of us will pray for You. Come on James and John, let's pray for Jesus. (Kneel with "James" and "John" and for a moment look like you are praying, then lie down and "sleep")**

(Send in teens/sign holders and have them hold sleeping signs over the disciples and Peter, James and John)

Jesus – (Move a little farther away and kneel to pray) – **Father, if it is possible take this suffering away from me! But, I truly want what You want.**

Jesus – (Get up and walk back to Peter, James and John) – **Peter, James and John! Couldn't you stay awake even for one hour to pray for Me?**

(Peter, James and John – and disciples - will sit up surprised and sad when Jesus wakes them – sign holders will put their signs behind them and step back a couple steps)

Peter – (Sit up, look around surprised and then look down, sad) – **I'm so sorry, Jesus! I, we, all three of us, wanted to pray for You . . . we tried to pray, but I guess we must have fallen asleep.**

Jesus - **I know you want to pray for Me, but I also know you are tired. Why don't you try again and pray for Me while I go to pray again.** (Step away again to pray)

Peter – **Yes! Good idea! We, all three of us, will definitely stay awake this time and pray for You! Come on James and John! Let's pray for Jesus!** (Try once again to pray, but then Peter, James and John will all lay down and sleep again – teen sign holders will hold their signs over disciples, Peter, James and John once again)

Jesus – (Kneel and pray once again) - **Father if there is any way for people to receive Your Grace without Me having to suffer, please remove this coming suffering from Me. But, if suffering is the only way for people to receive Your Grace, then let it be.**

Jesus – (Walk over to Peter, James and John, see they are sleeping, leave them sleeping and return a few steps away to pray again. Kneel and pray once again) - **Father if there is any way for people to receive Your Grace without Me having to suffer, please remove this coming suffering from Me. But, if suffering is the only way for people to receive Your Grace, then let it be.**

Jesus – (Walk back to Peter, James and John and the other disciples – wake them all up) – **I see you are still sleeping. It is time to wake up. It is time for me to do what I came here to do.**

(Have Jesus, Peter, James, John, disciples and sign holders return to their seats)
Say – **Jesus had just spent the last three years traveling throughout the land of Israel teaching people about God's love, Grace and forgiveness. He knew for people to truly be forgiven and experience God's Grace and love He had to go through unthinkable pain and agony. He knew the pain of being separated from God the Father would be even worse than the physical pain of dying on the cross. Jesus asked God if it were possible . . . if there was any other way for**

people to receive God's Grace without Him having to suffer then to please remove the coming suffering from Him. But, if suffering was the only way for people to receive God's Grace, then He loved us enough to go through what needed to happen. Jesus knew it was time for Him to do what He came here to do.

Send in your Station #1 Activity Leaders to lead families in tracing their hands on the paper or other material you selected for this activity. Have everyone trace both their hands, fingers closed, then cut their hands out. Provide markers/crayons for everyone to write their names on the "insides" of their hands, then putting the hands together – as if they are "praying hands" punch one hole through both hands near where the wrists would be and if using fishing line, fasten together and hang from the tree in the room to give the tree "leaves". If using two-sided tape you may tape at the wrists and then tape to the tree/wall. As families work on their praying hands/leaves talk about times when you prayed for others or when others prayed for you.

Have families meet in their family group to work through their Family Flier for Station #1 – allow approximately five minutes for this then more group to Station #2 – Jesus is Arrested and put on trial.

Station #2 – Jesus is Arrested and put on trial

Decorating Suggestions - decorate like a garden with a night sky in one area and in another like the inside of the Chief Priest's "office"

- Simple decoration ideas –
 - use paper or plastic disposable colored table cloths to hang on the walls to make the night sky and beige construction paper for "bricks" and walls
 - use "twinkle" lights to make "stars" in your night sky or cut paper stars to tape to your "sky" and hang from the ceiling – use sparkle paper or glitter glue to make your stars "shine"
 - bring in simple wood chairs/benches and a table for the "court"
 - follow ideas for Station #1 in decorating your garden side of your room
 - make "robes" from paper grocery bags, or sheets of paper for the High Priest, Chief Priests and Teachers of the Law – they will easily be able to "tear" their robes if they have paper robes to wear
 - cardboard "swords"
- Extra decoration ideas –
 - Follow direction ideas above for stars and night sky and use some of the ideas from Station #1 for the garden side of your room.
 - For the court side, use ideas above and add tapestries and rugs to give it a formal look
 - Use the paper bag/paper robes idea so your Chief Priests/Teachers of the Law/Family members are able to "tear" their robes

Supplies –

- Simple Craft Supplies –
 - Hard boiled eggs - one per person
 - Markers
- Extra Craft Supplies –
 - Same supplies as in the simple ideas
- Paper lunch bags – one per family
- Pencils, pens
- Bibles
- Family Fliers for Station #2 – one per family – you will find these in the reproducible resources

Props –

- "robes" made from paper bags – non-speaking family groups will wear the "robes" and stand around the High Priest during the drama

Directions -

- Bring families to the "garden at night" and have them sit on the floor in their small groups.

Say – Resurrection Sunday is really about choices – God’s unexpected choice to give us forgiveness and Grace! Jesus’ choice to obey God and show His love by allowing mere men to arrest Him and put Him, the Creator of the Universe, on trial. Let’s see what happened after Jesus woke His sleeping disciples. **(Bring in your Station #2 Mini-drama family/teens)**

Script for Jesus is Arrested, Put on Trial and Convicted -

Cast –

- Jesus
- Judas
- Disciples - will “fight” the soldiers then run away when Jesus is arrested
- Soldiers – will “fight” the disciples and arrest Jesus
- High Priest
- Witness
- Chief Priests and Teachers of the Law – non-speaking family part – they may stand behind the High Priest and nod in agreement to everything he says. They will also “rip” their “robes” – paper bags – when the High Priest does so – feel free to be overly dramatic – and say Jesus should be put to death when the High Priest asks what to do with Jesus!
- Crowd – non-speaking family part – this group will stand and listen to the priests and respond as the dialog indicates
- **Optional Teen Drama Portion – if you have teens, allow them to play the parts of the Disciples and Soldiers and use the provided dialog.**

(Have Jesus, His disciples, Judas and the soldiers meet in the center of your Bible Lesson stage area)

Judas – (Walk up to “Jesus”) – **Hello Teacher.** (Give “Jesus” a “kiss”)

Jesus – **Hello Judas, My friend. Go ahead and do what you came here to do.**

(Have soldiers step forward and gently grab “Jesus” to arrest Him. When this happens, the disciples will pull out their “swords” to “fight” the soldiers)

Optional Teen Drama Portion –

Soldier #1 – **Stay where you are Jesus! Reach for the skies!**
(Gently grab Jesus to arrest Him)

Disciple #1 – **What’s going on here? Take your hands off Jesus!**
(Move towards Soldier #1 and draw your sword)

Soldier #2 – **Stand back disciple! Drop your sword!**

Disciple #2 – **You’ll have to make us – we will defend Jesus!**

Soldier #3 – **We’re only going to say it one more time! Stand back disciple. We are arresting Jesus. Drop your sword!**

Disciple #3 – **Drop my sword? You and what army will make me?** (Look around then say) **Oh yeah. You and the army you are with.**

Jesus – **No, no, no! Put your swords away. Don’t you know I could ask My Father to send thousands and thousands of His angels to save Me from these soldiers? But, if I asked for angels to save Me then how would people be able to receive Grace from God? This is how things must be!**

(Have Jesus’ disciples “run away” and then have the soldiers lead “Jesus” away. Send in High Priest with the Chief Priests and Teachers of the Law non-speaking families following him. Have Jesus stand in the middle of your stage area.)

High Priest – **Well, Jesus. Here we all are. It was inevitable. You claim to be God and are leading our people astray. You know I can’t allow you to continue to teach and incite the people. You will need to be put to death. Of course, as High Priest, I’m completely interested in the *truth*, or at least I want it to look like I am.** (Look all around and speak to the “crowd”) **Who among you has *evidence, proof of Jesus’ guilt?*** (Look around, but receive no answers)

High Priest – (Somewhat exasperated) – **Come now, come now! There must be someone who has *proof of Jesus’ guilt*. I, ah, we all know He is guilty and deserving of death, but of course we want to have evidence and proof of His guilt. Don’t be shy! Who can give us the *proof* we are looking for?**

(Send in Witness)

Witness – (Look nervous) – **Hello your highness, ah, I mean, High Priest, sir.**

High Priest – (Wrinkle your nose and look up and down at your witness) –
Yes? Do you have proof for us?

Witness – (Still nervous) – **Yes, sir, your high priest sir! I heard Jesus say He would tear down God’s temple and then build it up in just three days.** (Step off to the side)

High Priest – (Use a lot of “drama”) – **What? Jesus threatened to destroy God’s temple and then said He could build our temple again in just three *days* when we know it took years and years for our fathers to build it? Such a threat isn’t just a threat against a mere building! This is a threat against our people and our God! (Turn to Jesus) Aren’t You going to even *try* to defend Yourself against this very serious charge?**

(Have “Jesus” remain silent)

High Priest – (Angry) – **“I command you under oath by the living God. Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”**

Jesus – **Yes, I am the Christ, the Son of God and the day will come when you will see Me sit at God’s right hand and coming in the clouds.**

High Priest – (Be extremely over-dramatic) – **Blasphemy! Blasphemy!** (“Tear” your “robe”, cover your ears – use much drama) **I never thought the day would come when my ears would hear such blasphemy! My poor ears! This Jesus has spoken great evil against God. We don’t need any more witnesses! You all heard Him speak this vile blasphemy! What should we do with this Jesus?**

Chief Priests/Teachers of the Law families group – (Tear your “robes”) **Put Jesus to death! Put Him to death!**

(Have Jesus, High Priest, Witness, Chief Priests and Teachers of the Law families group all leave your stage area)

Say – **Jesus really could have asked His Father to send thousands and thousands of angels to save Him from the soldiers. Jesus did not have to allow the soldiers to arrest Him. He did not have to allow the High Priest, Chief Priests and Teachers of the Law to put Him on trial. But, He knew if He asked for angels to save Him people would never be able to receive Grace from God. Jesus knew this was how things must be! He allowed Himself to be arrested when He had done**

nothing wrong. He allowed the priests to falsely charge Him with a crime and sentence Him to death – all because He loved us.

Send in Station #2 Activity leaders and allow them to lead the entire group in how to decorate their eggs in pastel colors – however they like using as many colors as they like. Tell families they will need to bring their eggs with them to the next station where they will complete their decorations – provide a paper lunch bags for one parent to carry their family's eggs to the next station.

Have families meet in their family group to work through their Family Flier for Station #2 – allow approximately five minutes for this then more group to Station #3 – This isn't the "end" I would have put on this story.

Station #3 – This isn't the “end” I would have put on this story . . . but the End is really the Beginning!

Decorating Suggestions - decorate to look like a palace on one side, a lonely hill with three crosses in the middle and a garden tomb/cave on the other side

- Simple decorating ideas –
 - use paper or plastic disposable colored table cloths to hang on the walls and ceiling to make the walls and ceiling of a palace on one side of your stage area/room and a hill on the other
 - bring in some fancy chairs, vases, anything “fancy”
 - Cut three crosses from paper and put on the top of the “hill”
 - Use plastic table cloths to make a garden tomb
 - Place flowers around the tomb and make paper flowers to put on the walls
- Extra decorating ideas –
 - Use tapestries or signs made from purple and gold metallic fabrics to make the walls look like a room in a palace on one side of your room
 - Bring in fancy chairs, vases, anything “fancy”
 - Build crosses from chicken wire and paper or using wood to put on a “hilltop” on the other side of your stage area/room
 - Build a “cave/tomb” using large cardboard boxes or chicken wire and paper
 - Place potted/silk flowers plants around the tomb to make a garden scene
 - Make a large stone from cardboard or chicken wire and paper

Supplies -

- Basic Craft Supplies –
 - Eggs from last station
 - Glue dots
 - Glitter in a variety of colors
- Extra Craft Supplies –
 - Same supplies as for basic supplies plus –
 - 4” – 6” lengths of bright colors of embroidery floss
 - Mod Podge or mixture of glue and water
- Pencils/pens
- Bibles
- Family Fliers for Station #3 – one per family – you will find these in the reproducible resources

Props –

- Robes for families to “dress” as in Bible times
- Paper swords and shields for the soldiers

Directions -

- Bring families to the “the palace” and have them sit on the floor

Ask – If you were asked to write a story about a good guy and a bad guy how would you want it to end? **(Allow people to respond)**

Say – Often this time of year we celebrate “Easter” and everywhere we go we see pastel eggs, bunnies, baskets, candy and do happy, fun events, like egg hunts and parties. However; Easter, Resurrection Sunday, isn’t about bunnies and eggs. The real, true account of Resurrection Sunday is filled with sadness and pain. The Good Guy, Jesus, was falsely accused of a crime by men who were jealous of Him. The bad guys, the priests, seemed to get away with their lies and evil jealousy. If I wrote a story I would not write the “ending” like what follows for Jesus. **(Bring in your Station #3 Mini-drama family/teens)**

Script for Jesus Dies on the Cross, is buried and then Rises from the Dead!

Cast –

- Pilate
- Chief Priest
- Jesus – any male – non-speaking part
- Angel
- Mary
- The other Mary
- Crowd before Pilate – family groups mostly non-speaking part except when the Chief Priests/Pilate ask who they should set free the crowd will say, “Barabbas”. When asked what to do with Jesus, the crowd will say, “Crucify Him!”
- **Optional Teen Drama Portion – soldiers who crucify Jesus, stand guard at Jesus’ tomb and faint after the earthquake when the angel shows up**

(Send in Pilate, Chief Priest, Jesus and the Crowd – have family groups stand around and respond as directed)

Pilate – **Hello Chief Priest. Let’s make this brief and to the point. I have considerably more important things I’d like to do today than try to solve a minor dispute between you and Jesus. It would be nice if you could all solve your own problems without bothering me.**

Chief Priest – **Well, we certainly do not want to “bother” you as we know how busy you are, but this Jesus is no “minor” problem. He speaks blasphemy and He must be put to death.**

Pilate – **Put Him to death? Don't you think you are over-reacting and certainly over-reaching? Surely we could solve this "issue" without being so drastic as to put Him to death.**

Chief Priest – (Upset and over dramatic) - **This is a very serious situation and we are not over-reacting or over-reaching. Jesus must be put to death for blasphemy!**

Pilate – (Turn to Jesus) – **It seems Your Chief Priest thinks You are a danger and must be put to death. What do You have to say about this?**

(Have Jesus remain silent)

Pilate – **Aren't You going to even try to defend Yourself?**

(Have Jesus remain silent)

Pilate – (Look at Jesus) – **I know You are not really guilty of any crime worthy of death. I'm sure the Chief Priest is just jealous. Don't worry. I think I have a plan to keep You from being put to death!** (Turn to Chief Priest) – **Each year during your Passover celebration it is my tradition to release one prisoner. This year you may choose between this Jesus Who really isn't a criminal or you may choose to free the hated criminal Barabbas. Who do you want me to free?** (Smile and look confident)

Chief Priest – (Turn to the "Crowd") – **People of Israel, this Jesus is far worse than Barabbas. Jesus has committed blasphemy! Choose Barabbas! Let Pilate know we want Jesus to be put to death!**

Pilate – **Who do you want me to free?** (Smile and look confident)

Chief Priest and Crowd – **Free Barabbas! Free Barabbas! Free Barabbas!**

Pilate – (Shocked) – **But this Jesus hasn't done anything wrong! What should I do with Jesus?**

Chief Priest and Crowd – **Crucify Him! Crucify Him, Crucify Him!**

Pilate – (Very unhappy) – **I do not believe Jesus is guilty and I do not believe He deserves to be put to death, but apparently Barabbas is going to be set free and this Jesus will be crucified. I'm washing my hands of this as it is not my fault**

Jesus is going to be put to death. You are the ones responsible for His death.

(Send Pilate, Chief Priest and Crowd off your stage area)

Optional Teen Drama Portion – have teen soldiers lead Jesus to the side of your room with the crosses and silently act out the following dialog as it is spoken.

Say – **Jesus was beaten, whipped and taken to a place outside of town called, Golgotha. The soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross and He died. Jesus never did anything wrong, He never sinned and yet, because He loves you and I so much He willingly took our place and our punishment so we could receive God’s amazing gift of Grace and forgiveness! After Jesus died, some of His friends buried His body in a tomb. They all thought this was a horrible, unexpected, tremendously sad end to Jesus. I would not have “written” the “end” to Jesus like this, but then I’m not Jesus and He knew something no other people knew. He knew the third day everything would change in the most incredible way!**

Optional Teen Drama Portion – have teen soldiers stand guard at Jesus’ tomb

Say – **You have had the opportunity to learn about some of the most amazing events to ever happen in the history of the world. Jesus, Who was none other than God Himself, allowed Himself to be falsely arrested, tried and convicted to death on a cross. He never did anything wrong and He certainly didn’t deserve to be put to death on a cross and yet, He was willing to allow these things to happen to Him because He knew a price had to be paid for our sin. Jesus was willing to take our place so we could be forgiven! The cross seems like a very final “end” to the true account of Jesus, but it really was only the beginning!**

Mary – **I hope the guards at Jesus’ tomb are in a good mood and are willing to help us with the stone.**

The other Mary – **Yes. We will need their help to move the stone so we can get in the tomb to finish putting spices on Jesus’ body. I agree. I hope the guards will be willing to help us!**

Mary – **We will find out soon enough as the tomb is there – I can see the guards**

(Have everyone “shake” from the earthquake. Send in the Angel and when the “guards” see the angel, have them “faint”)

Angel – (Speak to the Marys) – **Do not be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, but He isn’t here! He has risen from the dead just like He said He would so now He is alive!**

Mary – **Alive? Jesus is alive?**

The other Mary – **Jesus, alive? If Jesus is alive this would be the best and happiest day of my life!**

Mary – **Hurry! Let’s go tell His disciples! Jesus, alive?!!**

Jesus – **Hello!**

Both Mary’s – **Jesus!** (Kneel at Jesus’ feet and worship Him)

Jesus – **Don’t be afraid! Go tell My disciples to meet Me in Galilee!**

Have both Marys get up and hurry off the stage area while saying – **Jesus is alive! He really is alive!**

(Send Guards, Angel, Marys and Jesus off the stage area)

Say – **Jesus loves us so much He was willing to pay the price and take our punishment for sin. Jesus died on the cross was buried and after three days He rose from the dead so we may receive God’s gift of Grace and forgiveness for our sins! Jesus’ death wasn’t “the end”! It was really “the beginning”! The beginning of the opportunity for each of us to be able to be truly forgiven for our sins! The beginning of the opportunity for us to really know and walk with Jesus!**

(Send in Station #3 Activity leaders and allow them to lead the entire group in how to finish decorating their eggs – simple option – affix the glue dots and roll in glitter or sprinkle a variety of colors of glitter to the dots. Extra option – after adding the dots/glitter, dip lengths of floss in glue/mod podge and “swirl” floss in designs on egg. Provide area for each family to set their eggs to dry – if necessary – and let them know they may return to get their eggs later.)

(Have families meet in their family group to work through their Family Flier for Station #3 – allow approximately five minutes for this then more group to your party!)

Station #4 - The Party!

Decorating Suggestions -

- decorate for a party - balloons, streamers, etc
- set chairs in circles so families may sit together

Supplies -

- cookies and ice cream
- plates and spoons
- beverage
- cups and napkins
- Small round Coffee filters – one per person
 - Washable markers
 - Small paper bathroom cups – one per person
 - Water
 - Paper towels
 - Hole punch
 - Paper – one per person
 - Clear contact paper
- Scissors

Directions -

- Bring families to the “the Party” and have them sit on the chairs

Say – **We have had the opportunity to learn about how God showed His great love and Grace by sending Jesus to take our place on the cross and rise from the dead to bring us forgiveness! Let’s work on a project to help us remember how Jesus’ death and resurrection brings us forgiveness and life!**

(Hand out filters, markers, cups, water)

Say – **Using a dark colored marker, draw a big heart in the middle of your filter and fill it in with the marker.** (Allow a moment for everyone to do this - be sure each person has a piece of paper to put under their filter as the marker will bleed through)

Say – **Fill your cups 2/3rds full of water then put your finger in the middle of your filter and push down so the middle makes a “point”. Place this point into your cup with the ends “flaring” out over the edges of the cup – only put the “point” you made into the water. Set your cups to the side so they do not spill – we will come back to them in a few minutes.** (Allow a moment for everyone to do this)

Say – **We all sin; we all do things we know are wrong. Our sin comes between us and God and prevents us from being able to know and walk with God. We just learned about Resurrection Sunday, the day**

we celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection so we can be forgiven for our sins! God loves us so much He had a plan to give us Grace and forgiveness so we can know and walk with Him! We receive Grace and forgiveness when we ask for them! If you would like to talk with one of us about how you may receive God's Grace and forgiveness, feel free to do so! We would love to talk with you more about this! Thank You God for Your amazing gift of love and Grace! Thank You for Your love for us, we love You, too! Amen!

Say – We celebrate Resurrection Sunday because of the Grace and forgiveness Jesus' death and resurrection made available for us! We absolutely know we can trust God and praise Him for His amazing Grace!

Say/Ask - Look at your coffee filters. What do you see? (By now, if they had them in the water enough – the color from the marker should be completely gone except for a tiny bit around the edges – the middle of the filters should be white)

Say – Because of what Jesus did on the cross we can ask Him for forgiveness for our sins. When we ask for His grace and forgiveness, Jesus takes those sins completely away. We may have consequences from our sin – for example if we lied we have to go and tell the truth, but our sin is gone; forgiven when we ask for forgiveness! We can absolutely rejoice and praise God for this amazing Grace and forgiveness! Take paper towels and “blot” your filters to dry them; then use bright colored markers and write, “Grace”, “Forgiveness”, “Life”, “Love” on your filters and decorate with any designs you like.

Allow everyone to decorate their filters.

Say – Use tape/contact paper to cover your filter, punch a hole in the top and take home to hang in your window to remind you of God's Grace and forgiveness Jesus' death and resurrection made possible!

You may close by giving families an opportunity to talk with designated people if they would like to choose to believe in Jesus.

Say – We asked everyone to bring a food item with them when they came tonight. We are going to show God's love and Grace to others and donate these food items to _____ (local food pantry) to help families in need!

Play praise music. If you like you can have a music family/team lead people in singing praise songs as they spend some time fellowshiping and enjoying refreshments.

Reproducibles –

Scripts – make copies for your drama people

Script for Station #1 - Praying in the Garden

Cast –

- Jesus
- Peter
- James – non-speaking part
- John – non-speaking part
- Jesus' disciples and sign holders – non-speaking part – parents/"disciples" will stay where "Jesus" tells them to stay and fall asleep, "sign holders"/children will hold signs about the sleeping disciples over the heads of the sleeping disciples/parents whenever they are "sleeping"
- **Optional Teen Drama Portion – teens will make signs to hold over Peter, James and John's heads during the drama**

(Send in Jesus, Peter, James, John and disciples)

Jesus – Thank you My faithful disciples for coming to Gethsemane with Me. I need to spend some time talking with God, My Father. (Point to your disciples/parents) Please stay here while I go to pray. Peter, James and John, please come along with Me.

(Have disciples/parents sit where "Jesus" pointed out for them – they will sleep when Peter, James and John sleep and children/sign holders will hold their signs as instructed)

Jesus – Thank you Peter, James and John. I'm so very sad and feel overwhelmed with what I know is about to happen. I need to talk with God! Please stay here and pray for Me while I go on a little farther.

Peter – Certainly, Jesus. I, I mean we, all three of us will pray for You. Come on James and John, let's pray for Jesus. (Kneel with "James" and "John" and for a moment look like you are praying, then lie down and "sleep")

(Send in teens/sign holders and have them hold sleeping signs over the disciples and Peter, James and John)

Jesus – (Move a little farther away and kneel to pray) – **Father, if it is possible take this suffering away from me! But, I truly want what You want.**

Jesus – (Get up and walk back to Peter, James and John) – **Peter, James and John! Couldn't you stay awake even for one hour to pray for Me?**

(Peter, James and John – and disciples - will sit up surprised and sad when Jesus wakes them – sign holders will put their signs behind them and step back a couple steps)

Peter – (Sit up, look around surprised and then look down, sad) – **I'm so sorry, Jesus! I, we, all three of us, wanted to pray for You . . . we tried to pray, but I guess we must have fallen asleep.**

Jesus - **I know you want to pray for Me, but I also know you are tired. Why don't you try again and pray for Me while I go to pray again.** (Step away again to pray)

Peter – **Yes! Good idea! We, all three of us, will definitely stay awake this time and pray for You! Come on James and John! Let's pray for Jesus!** (Try once again to pray, but then Peter, James and John will all lay down and sleep again – teen sign holders will hold their signs over disciples, Peter, James and John once again)

Jesus – (Kneel and pray once again) - **Father if there is any way for people to receive Your Grace without Me having to suffer, please remove this coming suffering from Me. But, if suffering is the only way for people to receive Your Grace, then let it be.**

Jesus – (Walk over to Peter, James and John, see they are sleeping, leave them sleeping and return a few steps away to pray again. Kneel and pray once again) - **Father if there is any way for people to receive Your Grace without Me having to suffer, please remove this coming suffering from Me. But, if suffering is the only way for people to receive Your Grace, then let it be.**

Jesus – (Walk back to Peter, James and John and the other disciples – wake them all up) – **I see you are still sleeping. It is time to wake up. It is time for me to do what I came here to do.**

Script for Station #2 - Jesus is Arrested, Put on Trial and Convicted -

Cast –

- Jesus
- Judas
- Disciples - will “fight” the soldiers then run away when Jesus is arrested
- Soldiers – will “fight” the disciples and arrest Jesus
- High Priest
- Witness
- Chief Priests and Teachers of the Law – non-speaking family part – they may stand behind the High Priest and nod in agreement to everything he says. They will also “rip” their “robes” – paper bags – when the High Priest does so – feel free to be overly dramatic – and say Jesus should be put to death when the High Priest asks what to do with Jesus!
- Crowd – non-speaking family part – this group will stand and listen to the priests and respond as the dialog indicates
- **Optional Teen Drama Portion – if you have teens, allow them to play the parts of the Disciples and Soldiers and use the provided dialog.**

(Have Jesus, His disciples, Judas and the soldiers meet in the center of your Bible Lesson stage area)

Judas – (Walk up to “Jesus”) – **Hello Teacher.** (Give “Jesus” a “kiss”)

Jesus – **Hello Judas, My friend. Go ahead and do what you came here to do.**

(Have soldiers step forward and gently grab “Jesus” to arrest Him. When this happens, the disciples will pull out their “swords” to “fight” the soldiers)

Optional Teen Drama Portion –

Soldier #1 – **Stay where you are Jesus! Reach for the skies!**
(Gently grab Jesus to arrest Him)

Disciple #1 – **What’s going on here? Take your hands off Jesus!**
(Move towards Soldier #1 and draw your sword)

Soldier #2 – **Stand back disciple! Drop your sword!**

Disciple #2 – **You’ll have to make us – we will defend Jesus!**

Soldier #3 – We’re only going to say it one more time! Stand back disciple. We are arresting Jesus. Drop your sword!

Disciple #3 – Drop my sword? You and what army will make me? (Look around then say) Oh yeah. You and the army you are with.

Jesus – No, no, no! Put your swords away. Don’t you know I could ask My Father to send thousands and thousands of His angels to save Me from these soldiers? But, if I asked for angels to save Me then how would people be able to receive Grace from God? This is how things must be!

(Have Jesus’ disciples “run away” and then have the soldiers lead “Jesus” away. Send in High Priest with the Chief Priests and Teachers of the Law non-speaking families following him. Have Jesus stand in the middle of your stage area.)

High Priest – Well, Jesus. Here we all are. It was inevitable. You claim to be God and are leading our people astray. You know I can’t allow you to continue to teach and incite the people. You will need to be put to death. Of course, as High Priest, I’m completely interested in the *truth*, or at least I want it to look like I am. (Look all around and speak to the “crowd”) Who among you has *evidence, proof of Jesus’ guilt*? (Look around, but receive no answers)

High Priest – (Somewhat exasperated) – Come now, come now! There must be someone who has *proof of Jesus’ guilt*. I, ah, we all know He is guilty and deserving of death, but of course we want to have evidence and proof of His guilt. Don’t be shy! Who can give us the *proof* we are looking for?

(Send in Witness)

Witness – (Look nervous) – Hello your highness, ah, I mean, High Priest, sir.

High Priest – (Wrinkle your nose and look up and down at your witness) – Yes? Do you have proof for us?

Witness – (Still nervous) – Yes, sir, your high priest sir! I heard Jesus say He would tear down God’s temple and then build it up in just three days. (Step off to the side)

High Priest – (Use a lot of “drama”) – **What? Jesus threatened to destroy God’s temple and then said He could build our temple again in just three *days* when we know it took years and years for our fathers to build it? Such a threat isn’t just a threat against a mere building! This is a threat against our people and our God! (Turn to Jesus) Aren’t You going to even *try* to defend Yourself against this very serious charge?**

(Have “Jesus” remain silent)

High Priest – (Angry) – **“I command you under oath by the living God. Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”**

Jesus – **Yes, I am the Christ, the Son of God and the day will come when you will see Me sit at God’s right hand and coming in the clouds.**

High Priest – (Be extremely over-dramatic) – **Blasphemy! Blasphemy!** (“Tear” your “robe”, cover your ears – use much drama) **I never thought the day would come when my ears would hear such blasphemy! My poor ears! This Jesus has spoken great evil against God. We don’t need any more witnesses! You all heard Him speak this vile blasphemy! What should we do with this Jesus?**

Chief Priests/Teachers of the Law families group – (Tear your “robes”) **Put Jesus to death! Put Him to death!**

(Have Jesus, High Priest, Witness, Chief Priests and Teachers of the Law families group all leave your stage area)

Script for Station #3 - Jesus Dies on the Cross, is Buried and then

Rises from the Dead! -

Cast –

- Pilate
- Chief Priest
- Jesus – any male – non-speaking part
- Angel
- Mary
- The other Mary

- Crowd before Pilate – family groups mostly non-speaking part except when the Chief Priests/Pilate ask who they should set free the crowd will say, “Barabbas”. When asked what to do with Jesus, the crowd will say, “Crucify Him!”
- **Optional Teen Drama Portion – soldiers who crucify Jesus, stand guard at Jesus’ tomb and faint after the earthquake when the angel shows up**

(Send in Pilate, Chief Priest, Jesus and the Crowd – have family groups stand around and respond as directed)

Pilate – Hello Chief Priest. Let’s make this brief and to the point. I have considerably more important things I’d like to do today than try to solve a minor dispute between you and Jesus. It would be nice if you could all solve your own problems without bothering me.

Chief Priest – Well, we certainly do not want to “bother” you as we know how busy you are, but this Jesus is no “minor” problem. He speaks blasphemy and He must be put to death.

Pilate – Put Him to death? Don’t you think you are over-reacting and certainly over-reaching? Surely we could solve this “issue” without being so drastic as to put Him to death.

Chief Priest – (Upset and over dramatic) - This is a very serious situation and we are not over-reacting or over-reaching. Jesus must be put to death for blasphemy!

Pilate – (Turn to Jesus) – It seems Your Chief Priest thinks You are a danger and must be put to death. What do You have to say about this?

(Have Jesus remain silent)

Pilate – Aren’t You going to even try to defend Yourself?

(Have Jesus remain silent)

Pilate – (Look at Jesus) – I know You are not really guilty of any crime worthy of death. I’m sure the Chief Priest is just jealous. Don’t worry. I think I have a plan to keep You from being put to death! (Turn to Chief Priest) – Each year during your Passover celebration it is my tradition to release one prisoner. This year you may choose between this Jesus Who really isn’t a criminal

or you may choose to free the hated criminal Barabbas. Who do you want me to free? (Smile and look confident)

Chief Priest – (Turn to the “Crowd”) – **People of Israel, this Jesus is far worse than Barabbas. Jesus has committed blasphemy! Choose Barabbas! Let Pilate know we want Jesus to be put to death!**

Pilate – **Who do you want me to free?** (Smile and look confident)

Chief Priest and Crowd – **Free Barabbas! Free Barabbas! Free Barabbas!**

Pilate – (Shocked) – **But this Jesus hasn’t done anything wrong! What should I do with Jesus?**

Chief Priest and Crowd – **Crucify Him! Crucify Him, Crucify Him!**

Pilate – (Very unhappy) – **I do not believe Jesus is guilty and I do not believe He deserves to be put to death, but apparently Barabbas is going to be set free and this Jesus will be crucified. I’m washing my hands of this as it is not my fault Jesus is going to be put to death. You are the ones responsible for His death.**

(Send Pilate, Chief Priest and Crowd off your stage area)

Optional Teen Drama Portion – have teen soldiers lead Jesus to the side of your room with the crosses and silently act out the following dialog as it is spoken.

Say – **Jesus was beaten, whipped and taken to a place outside of town called, Golgotha. The soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross and He died. Jesus never did anything wrong, He never sinned and yet, because He loves you and I so much He willingly took our place and our punishment so we could receive God’s amazing gift of Grace and forgiveness! After Jesus died, some of His friends buried His body in a tomb. They all thought this was a horrible, unexpected, tremendously sad end to Jesus. I would not have “written” the “end” to Jesus like this, but then I’m not Jesus and He knew something no other people knew. He knew the third day everything would change in the most incredible way!**

Optional Teen Drama Portion – have teen soldiers stand guard at Jesus’ tomb

Say – **You have had the opportunity to learn about some of the most amazing events to ever happen in the history of the world. Jesus, Who was none other than God Himself, allowed Himself to be falsely arrested, tried and convicted to death on a cross. He never did anything wrong and He certainly didn't deserve to be put to death on a cross and yet, He was willing to allow these things to happen to Him because He knew a price had to be paid for our sin. Jesus was willing to take our place so we could be forgiven! The cross seems like a very final “end” to the true account of Jesus, but it really was only the beginning!**

Mary – **I hope the guards at Jesus' tomb are in a good mood and are willing to help us with the stone.**

The other Mary – **Yes. We will need their help to move the stone so we can get in the tomb to finish putting spices on Jesus' body. I agree. I hope the guards will be willing to help us!**

Mary – **We will find out soon enough as the tomb is there – I can see the guards**

(Have everyone “shake” from the earthquake. Send in the Angel and when the “guards” see the angel, have them “faint”)

Angel – (Speak to the Marys) – **Do not be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, but He isn't here! He has risen from the dead just like He said He would so now He is alive!**

Mary – **Alive? Jesus is alive?**

The other Mary – **Jesus, alive? If Jesus is alive this would be the best and happiest day of my life!**

Mary – **Hurry! Let's go tell His disciples! Jesus, alive?!!**

Jesus – **Hello!**

Both Mary's – **Jesus!** (Kneel at Jesus' feet and worship Him)

Jesus – **Don't be afraid! Go tell My disciples to meet Me in Galilee!**

Have both Marys get up and hurry off the stage area while saying – **Jesus is alive! He really is alive!**

(Send Guards, Angel, Marys and Jesus off the stage area)

Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey . . . Count me in! I want to help!

Decoration Team – leave your name, phone number and email . . .

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Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey . . . Count me in! I want to help!

Drama Team – leave your name, phone number and email . . .

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Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey . . . Count me in! I want to help!

Activity Leader Team – leave your name, phone number and email . . .

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Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey . . . Count me in! I want to help!

Praise and or Pray-er Team – leave your name, phone number and email . . .

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Please pray for our Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey! Our Goals are to . . .

- reach unsaved children and parents with the Good News of the Resurrection and Jesus' gift of Salvation!
- equip parents so they will experience how to teach their children and learn together
- reach out to community families and give them a positive family experience at our church
- help church and community families understand what Resurrection Sunday is all about and how it changes our everyday lives
- involve families in your church in a project they can work on together

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Family Flier – Station #1 – Jesus Prays in the Garden –

Mark 14:32-41

- Why did Jesus want His disciples to pray?
- Why did Jesus pray and what did He pray about?
- Jesus' disciples were only a short distance from Jesus – they could certainly hear Him as He prayed. They knew Jesus was distressed and they heard Him call God His Father. What does it mean to you that when Jesus was distressed He called God His Father?
- How might it help you if you knew you could call God your Father when you were feeling distressed?

Family Flier – Station #2 – Jesus is Arrested, Put on Trial and Convicted –

Mark 14:43-65

- Jesus was betrayed by one of His Own disciples, yet He didn't lash out at Judas. He calmly told Judas to do what he came to do. While it was Judas' choice to betray Him, Jesus also had a choice to make. He told His disciples to stop fighting because He could have called an army of angels to fight for Him. Why didn't Jesus call the angels to save Him?
- In the garden Jesus talked with God, His Father and chose to accept His will – even when it meant He would be betrayed, arrested, put on trial and falsely convicted then hung on a cross. Why would He do all that for you and for us all?
- At His trial, Jesus was falsely accused of breaking the Law of God. What was His response?
- How do I respond when people falsely accuse me of something?

Family Flier – Station #3 – Jesus dies on the cross, is buried and rises again!

Mark 15 & 15 –

- Jesus never did anything wrong, He never sinned and yet He willingly took our place and our punishment. Why did He do this?
- After Jesus died, some of His friends buried His body in a tomb. They all thought this was a horrible, unexpected, tremendously sad end to Jesus, but what did He know that no other people knew?
- How is the cross really the beginning even though it seemed like a very final “end” to the true account of Jesus?
- How does knowing these things change my life today?
- How can I live my life tomorrow to show this change?

Family Information Cards –

Thank you for joining us on our Resurrection Sunday Bible Journey. Please fill in the following information –

Family Name _____

These are the people in our family _____

Our address _____

Our Phone Number _____

You can reach us by email at _____

We are members at/attend _____ church.

We would appreciate more information on your church. Yes _____ No _____

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Family Name _____

These are the people in our family _____

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