

## A Note from CMT

Hello friends! We hope you are well! Our hope and prayer is that this time of year is about the deeper meaning of the celebration of Easter for you and your families. Not just about eggs and bunnies! This *Children's Message* includes Holy Week activities to make your Easter celebration more meaningful and fully experience the joy of the hallelujahs on Easter Sunday! Try adding one or more (or all!) of these activities into your week!

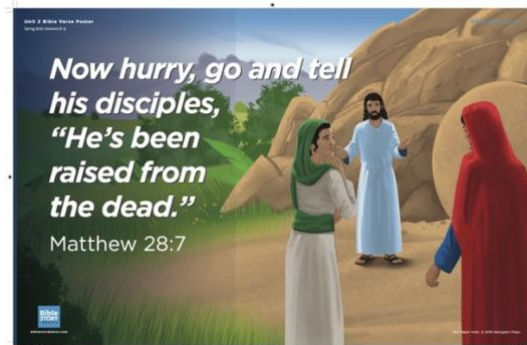
We are here if you need us! New Hope Church and her Staff are actively engaging in the ministries of the church. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any one of us.

You are in our prayers.

God bless you and Keep you,  
The Children's Ministry Team



## April Bible Verse of the Month



## FaithKids@Home

Check out this awesome online family worship experience! These videos are around 20-25 minutes long and include a great message, fun worship songs and reflection/prayer time! We hope your family will join us in this awesome opportunity to worship at home!

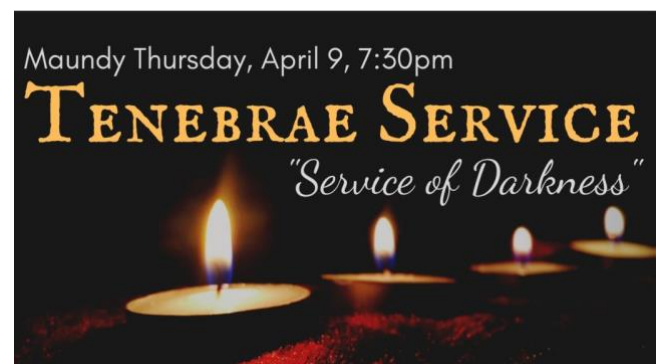
Click here for Lesson 3:

<https://youtu.be/ftGr8Wx2Y6s>

Did you miss a week? Check them out here!

Lesson 1: [https://youtu.be/WA\\_wS8OeiUs](https://youtu.be/WA_wS8OeiUs)

Lesson 2: <https://youtu.be/L552j0k6OIA>



## What is Holy Week?!

Holy Week is the week leading up to Easter. It begins with Palm Sunday and is a week of reflection on the events leading up to Easter.

## Palm Sunday

This is the Sunday before Easter, where we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

To celebrate at home: Watch our Virtual Palm Sunday worship service!

## Maundy Thursday

The Thursday before Easter Sunday that commemorates the Last Supper.

To celebrate at home: Tune into the Maundy Thursday virtual worship service. Check New Hope Church's website or your email for the link on April 9<sup>th</sup>!

Take time to wash each other's feet, explaining to your children that it's a way to serve each other. Read John 13:1-17, 31-35 together and then wash your children's feet. Encourage them to wash each other's feet. Discuss what it means to serve others and share ideas about how to better live this out in your daily lives.

## Good Friday

This day is the most solemn day of the church year, the Friday before Easter. This day observes the day Jesus was crucified.

To celebrate at home: Create a cross together as a family and take a silent walk around your neighborhood at noon.

## Holy Saturday

The Saturday before Easter, the day Jesus was in the tomb. This is a day of quiet reflection on what life would be like without Jesus.

To celebrate at home: Keep Saturday Solemn. Turn off electronics, limit activities, and imagine life without Jesus. This is a day to sit at the tomb of Jesus and wait expectantly for his return, mourn his death and reflect on his sacrifice.

## Easter Sunday

Hallelujah!! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Celebrate with GREAT JOY!

To celebrate at home: Rise early and watch the sunrise, the promise of a new day. Tune into New Hope Church's virtual worship service.

Family Easter Lesson! Click here to check out an awesome Easter lesson to discover how Jesus came back to life so we can live forever!



## Easter Egg Hunt

We will miss being able to celebrate with you all at our annual Easter Egg Hunt this year but encourage you to make one for your children to do at home! You can use candy or one of the non-traditional hunt ideas below! Send us pictures of your hunt!

## New Life Hunt

Hunt outdoors for signs of spring. For example, you might find new green grass, a robin's eggshell, or a flower. To minimize environmental interference, shout "New Life!" when you find something, then run to see what's been found without removing or disturbing it. Talking point: remind your children how each item is a sign of the new life we have in Jesus!



## Bible Verse Hunt

Write parts of a Bible verse on squares of brightly colored paper or Post-It notes. Hide the squares around your home or in an outdoor area. When all the squares are found, put the verse together in correct order!

## At-Home Family Easter Activities

[Faith Seedlings](#): Use this at-home family Easter activity to sprout a seed this spring as the perfect reminder of the new life we have in Jesus as his children!

## [7 Uplifting Easter Activities for Families!](#)

Celebrate Jesus' Resurrection with these 7 surprising and uplifting Easter activities based on the Bible.

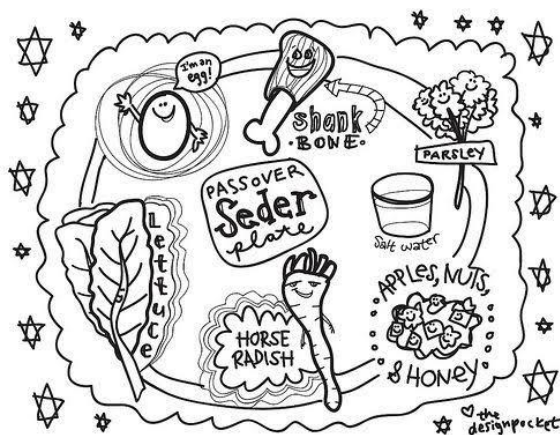
Jelly Bean Prayer: Use Jelly Beans to help tell your children the story of Easter!



### A Messianic Seder or "Yucky Food Sunday"

We will miss our annual Palm Sunday tradition of celebrating a Seder with you. On this Sunday we normally prepare a Seder plate and go through this Passover ritual. We remember the original Seder held in Egypt as the Israelites prepared to experience God's deliverance under the leadership of Moses. We also remember that Jesus, the Messiah celebrated a similar meal with his disciples just before his death and sacrifice to free us from our sins.

Take a look at the picture of the Seder plate below:



As you can see, this plate has a variety of foods that are not what you usually eat for supper! In fact, some of our students have called this "Yucky Food Sunday". They include:

- **Karpas** or Parsley because Passover is celebrated in the spring, a season of new life (in Jesus)
- **Salt Water**: to remember that life is often filled with tears.

- **Z'Roa** - or lamb shank bone is a symbol of the Passover Lamb whose sacrifice spared the Israelites from death of their first born. It also foreshadows the death of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

- **Maror** - or bitter herbs (usually horseradish) eaten with the Passover Matzah bread to remind us of the bitterness of slavery- not so tasty!

- **Kharoset** - a tastier mixture of apples, nuts and honey -- much more tasty! also eaten with the Matzah symbolic of the mortar used by the Israelites to build Pharaoh's cities.

- **Beytzah** - a roasted hard boiled egg (like an Easter egg) symbolic of sacrifice. Its oval shape has no beginning or end and is also a symbol of eternal life.

The Seder begins with the festival tradition of lighting a candle, as we recall the Messiah's commandment that we be the light of the world. It also includes sharing small cups of grape juice along with eating the Matzah bread, much as we do when we celebrate Communion, commemorating Jesus's Last Supper on the original Maundy Thursday. This Messianic version of the Seder beautifully ties together both Old and New Testament stories of faith so important to this season with both Passover and Holy Week coinciding this year.

In the words we recite at the end of the Seder, Hallelujah, Praise the Lord!

Mr. and Mrs. Whittington