Junior Journey Unplugged


**Bottom Line:** Because Jesus is alive, it changes everything.

**Memory Verse:** God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

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Thank you for leading your family during this difficult time. The BT Kids Team has prepared this resource for you to use instead of or to reinforce the Junior Journey to the Cross video, by looking at various artwork and images to help guide conversation. Within each station is a Start the Conversation question designed to help connect each member of your family to the story through visualization or application and get you talking. An activity page is also available in a separate file for your children to color and follow along with your conversation.

Please let us know how this worked out, and feel free to share with your friends and neighbors. We are praying for our Bent Tree families and our community.

Praying with and for you!
Pastor Michelle Henderson and the BT Kids Team
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**Station 1—Entering Jerusalem: Jesus came.**

**FAMILY LEADER:** “Jesus and his followers had been traveling toward Jerusalem for Passover. On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus told his disciples to find a donkey for him to ride, and he rode into the city. The people were so excited, throwing their coats on the road and grabbing palm branches off the trees. They waved the palm branches and shouted, ‘Hosanna! Hosanna!’ which means ‘God saves.’ It was just like the prophets of old has said would happen. They said that the Messiah, the Promised One, would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey and save God’s people. Imagine what Jesus’ friends and followers must have thought as they watched the crowds praise him like a victorious king. They must have been so excited to think that everything they had hoped for and waited for was starting to happen. Jesus came to save us, but it didn’t look at all like his friends expected.”

**Start the Conversation:** Imagine you were there when Jesus entered Jerusalem. What would that have been like?

What would riding on a donkey be like? How would it smell and feel?

Would it be loud? How loud do you think it would be?

How do you think Jesus’s friends felt when they saw everyone shouting “Hosanna”?

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**Station 2—Upper Room: Jesus served.**  

**FAMILY LEADER:** “Jesus came to Jerusalem to celebrate a special festival called Passover. He and his friends gathered together to eat the special Passover meal. While they were there, Jesus did something strange. He took a bowl and a towel, and he washed his friends’ feet. Each dirty, stinky foot, he placed in the water and wiped it clean with a towel. Normally, a servant would do that, but because there was no servant here, Jesus did it. Jesus served. He did a job no one wanted to do even though he was God’s Son.

“Then he took the bread from the meal and shared it with his friends. He told them that like he gave the bread to them, he was going to give his life for them—and that means us, too. Then he took a cup of wine and shared it with them. He told them that the wine was the hint of a new promise from God and that he was going away, but he promised that three days later, he would come back.”

**Start the Conversation:** Jesus served others in the upper room by doing something that wasn’t his job to do. How can you serve someone in your family?
- What is the worst grossest chore you can think of that someone else does? How do you feel about doing that chore for someone else?
- Does it feel better to serve someone else or to be served? Why?

**Station 3—The Garden: Jesus prayed.**  

**FAMILY LEADER:** “After that Jesus took his friends to a garden, which was a bit of a walk to a place called the Mount of Olives. When they got there, Jesus asked Peter, James, and John to follow him and pray with him. Jesus walked a little farther away from them and began to talk to God. He asked God if it would be possible to find another way, but if not, he would follow. He knew he needed God’s help so Jesus prayed.

“John, Peter, and James bowed their heads to pray. But guess what? They fell asleep—not once, not twice, but three times. Every time Jesus found them napping, he was sad but very forgiving. Jesus needed that time to talk to his Father to be strengthened for what was ahead. Jesus’ friends didn’t know what was going to happen, but Jesus did. He knew he was going to die. The garden was such a beautiful and peaceful place, but that night, it was the last place Jesus and his friends were all together before they took him away.”

**Start the Conversation:** What’s a hard thing that you could pray and ask God for help?
- How has God answered you when you prayed for help?

**Station 4—The Soldiers: Jesus hurt.**  
*Matthew 26:47-75; John 18*

**FAMILY LEADER:** “While Jesus and his friends were in the garden, some soldiers came with one of Jesus’ friends Judas. Judas had decided to help some people who didn’t like Jesus. Those men paid Judas money to help them capture Jesus. The soldiers took Jesus away.
“All of Jesus’ friends except John and Peter ran away. But Peter soon left because some people in the crowd said he was Jesus’ friend. Peter was afraid he would get in trouble and so he lied, telling them he wasn’t Jesus’ friend. John watched as the soldiers also hurt Jesus. They put a crown of thorns on Jesus’ head and made fun of him. Jesus hurt for us.”

Start the Conversation: In this part of the story, who hurt Jesus? Have you ever hurt anyone that you love?

Have you seen anyone you loved get hurt? How did that feel?

Station 5—The Cross: Jesus loved.


FAMILY LEADER: “This is the place where Jesus loved the greatest. But even on the cross, he was thinking of others—of you and me. He said, ‘Father, forgive them because they don’t know what they are doing.’ And it wasn’t just for those who said he should die, it was for all of us. He went to the cross to make a way for us to be with him and God forever. He knew our sin—anything we do, say, or think that’s not God’s way—kept us from being with God, who is perfect and can’t be around sin.

“Jesus, who never sinned and was perfect, took all our sin on himself and died so that our sin would be forgiven. That’s how much he loved you and me. He was willing to go to the cross to make a way for us to be God’s kids forever and for us to live free from sin. Jesus’ friends were so sad that they forgot that Jesus had promised he would come back.”

Start the Conversation: How do you think Jesus’ friends felt when they saw Jesus on the cross? How do you feel that Jesus loved you so much that he died for you?

Station 6—The Tomb: Jesus won.


FAMILY LEADER: “After he died, Jesus’ friends brought his body to the tomb. There was a big stone rolled over the entrance to keep people out.

“Early on the third day, that Easter Sunday, some women who were his friends went out to the tomb. But on their way there, the earth shook, and they were afraid. They rushed to the tomb and saw the stone rolled away. Then, an angel came and said, ‘Don’t be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said he would.’ They were overjoyed. Jesus won! Jesus had defeated sin and death; everything he had said was true.

“Jesus is alive! He’s alive! That’s why we celebrate Good Friday and Easter to remember that Jesus is alive and it changed everything.”

Start the Conversation: How does Jesus’ being alive change everything?

Imagine believing that someone you loved has died. How would you feel?

How would you feel if you found out that it wasn’t true?
What do you think Jesus’ friends thought about Jesus being alive?

**Station 7—The Ascension: Jesus sends us out.**
_Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-20_

**FAMILY LEADER:** “Jesus stayed with his followers and friends for 40 days. He taught them so much in that time, but then he told them that he had to go back to his Father, to God. Before he left, he gave his friends and followers a special job to do. He told them to go and tell others everywhere what they had seen and heard while following him. He told them to tell everyone that he is alive. And then he went back up to heaven.

“So that’s what they did. And guess what? That special assignment that Jesus gave them is for anyone who believes in and follows Jesus, that means the assignment is for us, too. _He sends us out_. You can go and tell others Jesus’ story and how he is alive. You can tell them how he came to show us how much God loves us by making us right with God, to take our sins away, and to make a way for us to live the way we were created to live.”

**Start the Conversation:** Who can you tell about Jesus?

Consider making a card for each person your child names and pray for opportunities to talk about Jesus.
STATION 3: THE GARDEN
STATION 4: THE ARREST
STATION 5: THE CROSS
STATION 6: THE TOMB
STATION 7: THE ASCENSION