The Way to the Savior

A FAMILY EASTER DEVOTIONAL

Jeff and Abbey Land

Presented to:

From:

On this date:

This book is dedicated to our parents,
Roy and Linda Drake and Art and Anne Land,
for showing us the way to the Savior.

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"For I know the plans I have for you. . . . plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a HOPE."
—Jeremiah 29:11
Hope
The prophets promised that hope would come in the form of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Love

For God LOVED the world in this way:
He gave his one and only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
will not perish but have eternal life.
—John 3:16

God loves people so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to be crucified for our sins.

Give Thanks

When you picture a table filled with ham, deviled eggs, and coconut cake, what special holiday comes to mind? These foods are often eaten at Easter dinner, a time when families come together to celebrate the holiday. Some families use this special day to gather for reunions or an annual egg hunt.

But Easter is more than a day to eat delicious food with loved ones and to eat candy; it's a time to give thanks for the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. Being thankful is biblical. This means the Bible says to be thankful all the time, not just on certain days. You have many reasons to be thankful, and the most important reason is Jesus. Jesus' death on the cross provides you with the opportunity to choose to spend eternity with Him. That's definitely something you can be thankful for!

Dear God,
Thank You for all the blessings in my life, especially Jesus! You are amazing, and I'm thankful for everything You've done for me. Amen.

CROSS CONNECTION

Make a list of things in God's creation for which you are most thankful.

"Give THANKS *to the* LORD*; proclaim his name! Make his works known among the peoples. Declare that his name is exalted."* —ISAIAH 12:4

He did not COMMIT *sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.*—1 Peter 2:22

No Sin Found

Sin is anything you do that doesn't please God. Every single person who walks on earth has sinned, except one. Jesus lived on this earth, yet He never sinned. He never said anything wrong or did anything to displease God!

Will you commit to being more like Jesus and trying not to sin? No matter how hard you try, you will still make mistakes. You will still say things that aren't pleasing to God, but God will still love you. God wants you to do your best and remember Jesus is the best example to follow in how to live your life.

The devil will sometimes make sin look enticing. Remember, he tricked Adam and Eve into thinking they needed the forbidden fruit. You will give in to temptation from time to time, but if you ask, God will forgive you.

Dear God,
Thank You for sending Jesus as the perfect example for me to follow. Help my actions and words be pleasing to You. Amen.

CROSS CONNECTION

What sins do you struggle with? How do you try to avoid temptation?

I'll Get You Back

When another person hurts you, it's frustrating. Maybe a friend deliberately says something mean about you, or maybe someone physically hurts you. You might think, *I'll get you back.*

The Bible says that before we pray, we should think about the people we have a grudge against. A *grudge* is holding on to anger toward someone for doing something harmful to us in the past. Holding grudges isn't healthy. Instead of holding a grudge, we should forgive that person. When we do, it means that God will also forgive us when we ask Him.

Jesus is a great example of forgiveness. He forgives people for their sins—when they ask—even though they don't deserve it. He wants people to come to Him with pure hearts and honest intentions. Is there someone you need to forgive today?

Dear God,
You are a forgiving God. You forgive me even though I don't deserve it. Help me to forgive people I need to forgive. I want to follow Jesus' example. Amen.

CROSS CONNECTION

Are you holding a grudge against anyone? What is a healthy way to deal with those feelings?

Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, **FORGIVE** *him, so that your Father in heaven will also forgive you your wrongdoing.*
—Mark 11:25

Your Rescuer

The headline read, "Man Saves Child, Woman from Near-Drowning in the Arkansas River." Wow! A man risked his own life twice to pull two people out of the river. Neither the child nor the woman realized how swiftly the river was flowing. They both slipped and fell into the water. The man reacted quickly both times, helping each person to safety.

Would you have jumped into a river to save a stranger? Jesus performed an even bigger rescue. He didn't just risk His life for you; Jesus gave it. Fully. Jesus knew you would sin, and if He didn't come to earth, you would suffer from the consequences of your sins forever. Because He wanted people to be forgiven of their sins, He willingly hung on the cross and endured physical pain. The people yelled at Him and mocked Him. But Jesus knew He was on the cross for a good reason. *You* are the reason. Jesus wants you to know God and trust Him to rescue you.

Dear God,
Thank You for Jesus. He took the punishment for my sin. Help me to trust Jesus fully as my Lord and Savior. Amen.

CROSS CONNECTION

Why is it impossible for you to save yourself from death? How does it make you feel to know you can trust Jesus to rescue those who believe in Him?

He TRUSTS *in God;*
let God rescue him now—
if he takes pleasure in him!
For he said, "I am the Son
of God."—MATTHEW 27:43

Even the Wind Obeys

Have you ever been scared during a storm? The wind blasts the trees back and forth. The lightning cracks wildly through the sky. The thunder roars so loudly that your whole house shakes. It can be terrifying.

Today's Bible reading comes from the story of Jesus and His disciples during a great storm at sea. The wind and the rain were beating up against their boat so strongly that the disciples feared the boat would sink and they would all drown. Jesus must have been scared too, right? Wrong! He was asleep! He was so asleep that the disciples had to wake Him up. He got up and simply said, "Silence! Be still!" Immediately the storm stopped.

Because Jesus was the authority, the storm listened to Him. The disciples were amazed that even the weather obeys Jesus. If the weather obeys Jesus, don't you think you should too?

Dear God,
You are so powerful! Help me to obey You each and every day. Amen.

CROSS CONNECTION

Think about the last time you called on God for help. Share what happened and how you felt. Spend time thanking God for always answering your cries.

Then he said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" And they were terrified and asked one another, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea OBEY *him!"* —Mark 4:40–41

Going a little farther, he fell facedown and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

—Matthew 26:39

Read Matthew 26:36–51

Are You Sure?

Have you ever known God wanted you to do something, but you prayed and asked again, just to be sure? If God tells you to do something, you better do it, right?

Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, praying. He knew what was about to happen. He was going to be crucified on a cross. Even though Jesus knew what His future held, He was calling out to God, praying, and telling God He was sad. Jesus said to God, "If it is possible, let this cup pass." After calling out to God three times, Jesus said, "Your will be done." Jesus accepted what was about to happen to Him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, appeared in the garden and kissed Jesus on the cheek to betray Him. Jesus was arrested, and He knew exactly what was coming next. Even though Jesus knew what the future held, He was obedient and willingly followed God's plan.

Dear God,
Help me to always pray to You for guidance when I am scared or unsure of the future. Show me the plans You have for me so I may follow them. Amen.

CROSS CONNECTION

What are some of the emotions you think Jesus experienced during His time in the garden?

Prepare your hearts for Easter!

Amid the bustle of springtime chores and storefront bunnies, reminding your children of the true meaning of Easter can be a challenge. But this forty-day devotional brings the family together during Lent for a meaningful Easter season focused on Christ instead.

The Way to the Savior guides families through eight aspects of Lent and ends with a focus on Jesus' last days and resurrection.

With activity ideas and space to add Easter memories as well, this collection of devotions will become a family keepsake, bringing your family together to celebrate the Easter season and the way to the Savior year after year.

Jeff and Abbey Land have been celebrating Easter together for nearly twenty years, and their four sons are now part of the celebration. Abbey is an author and curriculum writer, and Jeff serves as the children's pastor at Sugar Creek Baptist Church in Sugar Land, Texas.

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