

# From Gospel Week to Pentecost

Celebrating the expanding victory  
movement of the Messiah

# Definitions

- **Gospel Week:** From the Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday through Resurrection Sunday (April 17-24, 2011)
- **The Ascension:** 40 days after the Resurrection (Friday May 27, 2011)
- **Days of Intercession:** From The Ascension to Pentecost (May 27-June 5, 2011)
- **Pentecost:** 50 days after the Resurrection (Sunday June 5, 2011)

# Why Gospel Week is Important

- 1/3 of the four Gospels are dedicated to telling the story of this one week of human history
- What occurred is the central event of the whole of human history and the central event of the story of every individual Christian life
- You are shaped by what you celebrate most. Today what celebrations are shaping us?

# How to develop Gospel week traditions

- Begin by asking: what will move our minds to deepen our understanding of the Gospel and our heart to re-experience the wonder of the Gospel?
- This is where the creative members of the body must come alive - we're counting on you.
  - Musicians: write, perform, lead us in music.
  - Poets/Writers: Poems, stories, prose
  - Actors: sketches, re-enactments, Scripture
  - Artists: Visual expressions, art projects
  - Teachers: Object lesson, analogies, Bible studies

# Preparing our Hearts for Gospel Week

- Having the Gospel preached to our Hearts (Tim Keller - [sermons2.redeemer.com/](http://sermons2.redeemer.com/))
- Reading clear descriptions of the Gospel (What is the Gospel by Greg Gilbert)
- Bible reading/study of the Gospel
- The Gospel and the visual arts (movies, paintings etc.)
- The Gospel and the musical arts (compare Gospel-based songs to Christmas music)
- Other ideas?

# Principles of the Celebration

- Make it reproducible
  - Celebrate in homes (Christmas vs. Easter in the home)
  - Provide families with tools
  - Keep it simple
- Make the experience enjoyable
- Make it kid-friendly
- Build traditions one-year at a time
- Aim at the heart

# Celebration Tool Kit

- Meals: Specific foods and drinks and special meals (brunch, feasts, meals of remembrance)
- Decor: smells, colors, pictures, objects
- Special Songs: Set apart a special list of songs
- Liturgies in the home: At Home With God
- Daily Themes: Celebrating specific elements
- Friends and Family: Invite, enfold, and engage
- Community: The power of common traditions
- Surprises: Making it fun and memorable for your kids

*A Sample Gospel-week in a  
family with young children*

# Gospel Week Day #1

## The Triumphal Entry

- Meal: Sunday Brunch
- Story Theme: Jesus invades Jerusalem on a donkey.
- Implication: Jesus declares himself as the King humbly submits himself to the world saying “Crown me or kill me”.
- Kids Activity: Lay out a bunch of toy weapons (swords, guns or have them make the weapons) and tell the kids, you’re about to walk into a room where your worst enemies are waiting for you and want to kill you. How would prepare? Let them put on all the weapons.
- Teaching: Read Luke 19:28-44 (Maybe have the kids act it out) We were one of those enemies. And Jesus walked in unarmed and so we killed him. Welcome to Gospel Week.
- Sharing: Why did Jesus ride in on a donkey? Ask the kids who want to lay down their weapons now.? Why or why not? How does this part of the Gospel effect how we think about God? ourselves? others? How we live? How deeply we’re loved?
- Worship

# Gospel Week Day #2

## “Father, forgive them...”

- Meal: Monday Dinner
- Story Theme: Jesus first words on the cross “Father forgive them for they don’t know what they’re doing”
- Implication: Receiving this kind of forgiveness is what makes us love to quickly and fully forgive others.
- Kids Activity: Learning to absorb sin. Fill a bowl with packed paper towels and pour into it a cup of dark liquid labeled my sin. Jesus absorbed all of our sin and instead of crying out for revenge against us he cried out for our forgiveness. Take another bowl and put use a dropper or your finger to put only a drop of liquid in our bowl and ask, what should we do when others sin against us? Why?
- Teaching: Forgiveness is free but it wasn’t cheap. We must continually try to grasp how much forgiveness really costs. When our hearts begin to understand the kind of love Christ has for us we will instinctually forgive one another from the heart.
- Sharing: How has forgiveness impacted your relationship with God and others?
- Worship

# Gospel Week Day #3

“My God, My God why have you forsaken me?”

- Meal: Tuesday Dinner
- Story Theme: The cry of dereliction. God turns his back on his Son.
- Implication: Jesus was forsaken so we never have to be.
- Kids Activity: Create two paper sashes. On one write lots of sins (everything we are) and on the other write everything Jesus is. Then play this out. Have someone be Jesus and someone be a human which one can have a relationship with God. But what if they switched places, have them exchange sashes. Now what is my relationship with God like? What just happened to Jesus?
- Teaching: How different do you feel when you're clothed in Christ? How does it change your prayer life? Your view of yourself? others?
- Sharing: Which sash do you really feel like you wear? Pray for each other with the Jesus sash on that we'd really believe what it says about who we are.
- Worship

# Gospel Week Day #4

## “I thirst”

- Meal: Wednesday Dinner - Spicy Food
- Story Theme: Hell is the endless spiritual thirst of being separated from God the fountain of life (Luke 16:24).
- Implication: We need to drink all day everyday from our spring of life (John 7:37-39). We never need to experience spiritual thirst again.
- Kids Activity: Put oyster crackers with a bottle of hot sauce out for the kids to snack on with a glass of water as we discuss what Jesus was experiencing and the nature of spiritual thirsting.
- Teaching: Because of Christ we can constantly drink from this fountain of living water (Jeremiah 2:13)
- Sharing: What thimbles of water replace the fountain? How do you go to the fountain?
- Worship

# Gospel Week Day #5

## The Story of the Lamb

- Meal: Thursday Dinner - Passover Sedar (shorter and discussion oriented for kids)
- Story Theme: From Isaac to Passover to Jesus
- Implication: The only thing that can rescue us from impending judgment is the blood of a willing, innocent savior.
- Kids Activity: In the Bible family guilt passed to the first born son. On passover night, if we didn't have a lamb, who would be dead by morning? What did the Israelites do to protect their first born? Take a red cloth and put it on the door. Now are we safe? What about if the firstborn goes out of the house what happens? What about after they die? What about my personal guilt for everyone else? But with Jesus he took the blood of the lamb and put it on us. Now if I go out of the house and the death angel finds me what happens? What happens after I die?
- Teaching: Take the elements from the Lord's supper.
- Sharing: What's the difference between having the blood on the house vs. within us? What has that meant (does it mean) to your relationship with God and others?
- Worship: Behold the Lamb

# Gospel Week Day #6

## “It is finished”

- Meal: Dinner
- Story Theme: Jesus is our justification. The story is that he lived a perfect life and then received the full wrath of God. He made it!
- Implication: We no longer need to justify ourselves. We must put the full weight of our need for justification on Jesus and boast only in the cross.
- Kids Activity: Take a piece of paper and fold it in half. On the top half draw a picture of the cross with the caption, “Look how much he loves me” over the top. On the bottom draw pictures of things that make you feel good about yourself. Things you’re good at or want to be good at. Things you like about yourself etc.
- Teaching: We no longer need to justify ourselves. We’re free. It is finished. (Romans 4:5)
- Sharing: What does “it is finished” specifically mean in your life? What is finished for you?
- Worship

# Gospel Week Day #7

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit”

- Meal: Dinner
- Story Theme: Our life (spirit) is hidden with Christ
- Implication: Since we must trust God with our death we can trust God with our lives
- Kids Activity: use a paper scroll to go from one end of the room to another and draw a line that says “all time” and then plot how long a human life is (at the very beginning of the line) and one life is (just after the beginning). ALSO, before bedtime take a large sheet(s) and carry it with the kids into a closet (in a basement) and tell them tomorrow morning everyone get together and we’ll see what’s in the closet.
- Teaching: Why didn’t Jesus just enjoy his life? Why was his life so short?
- Sharing: What are ways we can invest our short life into the long life that really matters?
- Worship

# Resurrection Day

- Meal: Brunch
- Story Theme: Jesus conquers death and is crowned King of Kings and Lord of Lords
- Implication: Jesus is alive he has been crowned King and we will reign with him forever and ever!
- Kids Activity: Get all the kids together in the morning read one the stories of the resurrection and discuss what it must have felt like for the disciples and the women to find the tomb empty and realize that Jesus is alive. Then run down to the closet and look inside. Inside you can have the clothes that were bundled over the body neatly wrapped up and a life-giving surprise(s) or present(s) inside. Perhaps representing the rest of the gifts of the story - the adoption, the Holy Spirit, the Church and the Re-creation.
- Teaching: Before you open the closet read and discuss the resurrection and feelings it must have given Jesus' followers. Ask, what does the resurrection mean to you?
- Sharing: City-wide celebration at 5pm to share and worship - What struck you this week about the Gospel?

# Preparing for Gospel Week

- Preparing your attitude: Is it selfish to spend time and money crafting an amazing, celebratory week?
- Get everything you need for Gospel Week the week before.
- Cancel everything in the evening you possibly can
- Bring your family together and work as a team (don't let it fall on one poor person)
- Enfold singles or couples without kids
- Put your extended family to work (spiritual or physical)
- It's OK to save stuff for next year (don't get overwhelmed)
- Questions or Thoughts about Gospel Week?

# The Ascension

- Friday &/or Saturday training on Making Disciples (May 27/28)
- The Ascension was the day Jesus commissioned us to go and make disciples
- We want to release pastoral equippers to train us in shepherding those we're discipling

# Days of Intercession

- Each Oikos (disciple-making household) maps out 7 days of intercession
  - Prayer walking
  - An hour of prayer
  - A room of prayer
  - Periods of fasting

# Pentecost

- City-wide (neighborhood-wide) Sharing and Worship possibly at a park or public venue
- What did you hear during the days of intercession?
- What did God put on your heart?
- Any commitments made?