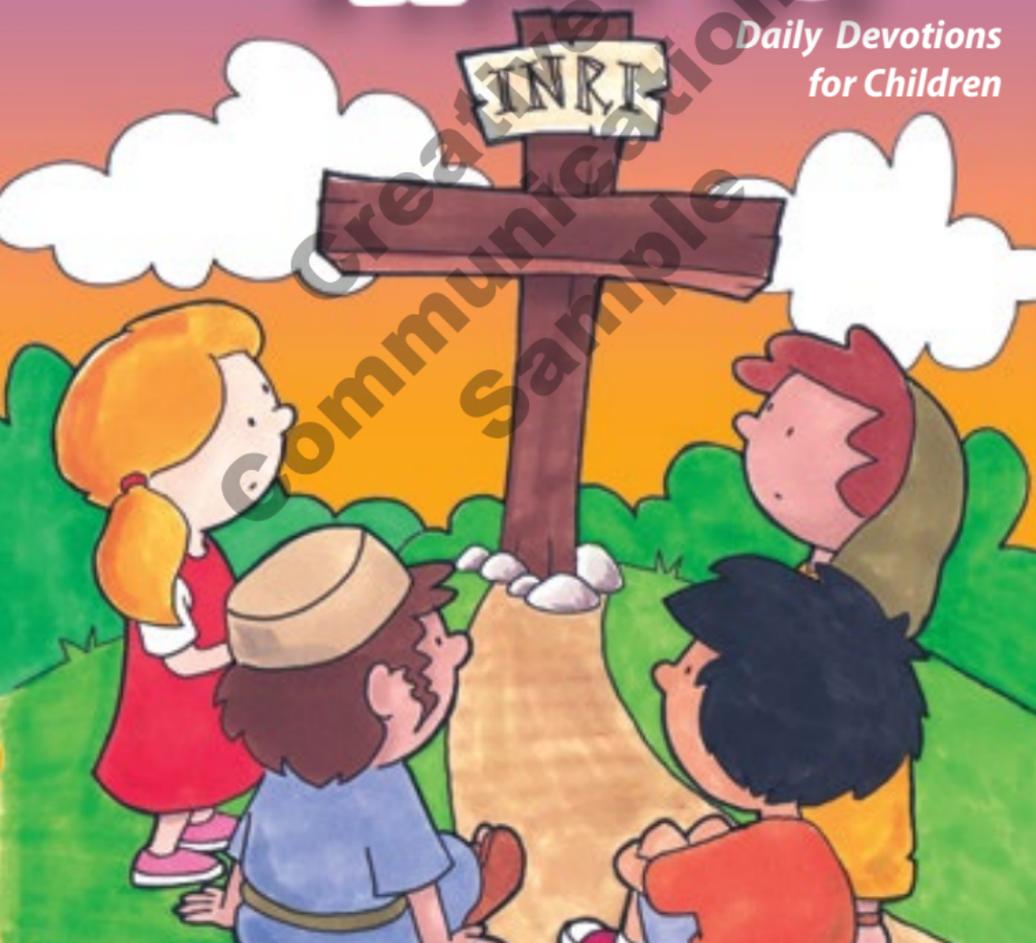


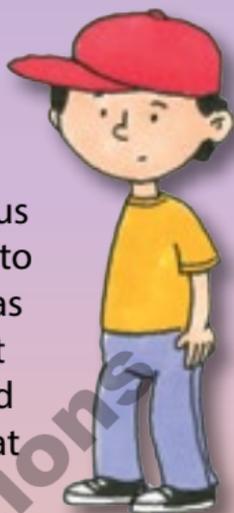
Were You There?

*Daily Devotions
for Children*



Were You There?

Ash Wednesday • John 3:16



I was not there. I was not with Jesus that week before Easter. I didn't get to see exactly what happened, who was there, or how people acted. I cannot be an eyewitness to Jesus' death and resurrection. So, how do I know what really happened?

The Bible is a book written by people who were given God's message directly through the Holy Spirit. While it is God's Word, it also shows the different views of eyewitnesses during Jesus' life. Isn't that incredible? I don't have to doubt that Jesus came to save me from my sins. I have God's Word and eyewitness accounts of what actually happened.

Holy Spirit, thank you for the Bible. Help me understand Lent better.

...When a ride was needed?

Thursday • Luke 19:28-34

Were you confused, donkey owner? Did you doubt the disciples when they said your donkey was for the Lord? Did you know this same Lord was your Savior from sin?

If Jesus' disciples asked me for something, I'd like to think that I would say yes. Knowing what I know now, I would feel honored to help Jesus. The man who owned the donkey didn't know exactly what was happening. The disciples didn't know either. Holy Week was just beginning. The man had faith his donkey was being used for something important. In the Bible, I see many people who trusted and even more who sinned. Sometimes I need to repent and turn back to God, asking for forgiveness and a stronger faith.

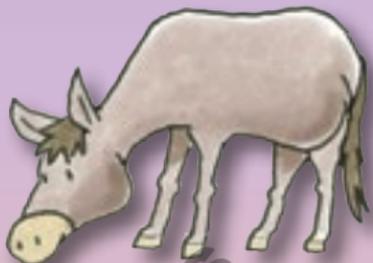
Jesus, help us to have faith and trust in you.



...to Carry him to town?

Friday • Matthew 21:4-6

Donkey, I wonder what you would say if you could tell your side of the story. Would you share how you reluctantly clopped along with the strangers who took you from your owner? Maybe you didn't think twice about it, because you were a humble animal who did whatever he was told.



Obedience. That was the donkey's task. The donkey fulfilled the purpose of the day—to carry my Lord Jesus into town. It carried a man who was also God. It felt the burden of the weight of his body upon its back.

Jesus felt the burden of the weight of all the sins of the world upon his.

Jesus, you took my sins with you to the cross. Even if I could obey you perfectly, I could never repay you for your sacrifice.

...When they waved Palms?

Saturday • John 12:13

Woman waving the palm branch, did you know why you were there? Did you just want a king on earth, or did you know who Jesus really was? Were you with Jesus when he performed a miracle? Maybe you saw him feed thousands of people. Maybe you yourself were healed. Did you know he's more than a man? He's more than a celebrity? He's God. He's your God.



I don't know who that woman was, but I imagine she might have seen Jesus before. She might have known he's her Lord. I know many people in that crowd actually thought Jesus would come to lead their government. They thought he would be a king on earth, not in heaven. I can celebrate, knowing that Jesus is my King, reigning in heaven right now.

King Jesus, reign in my heart and remind me that you are my King.

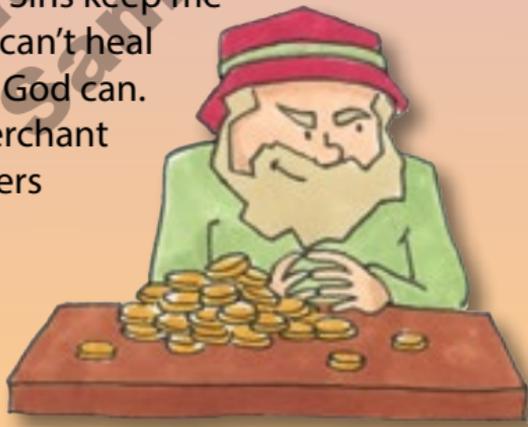
...When Church was Cleaned?

First Sunday in Lent • Matthew 21:12-14

Merchant, were you angry? Did you stare with your mouth hanging open, amazed that anyone could come into your selling space and flip over your table? Were you yelling at Jesus? Did you notice how he talked with authority you've never seen before? Did he make you think about why you were there in the temple? As you watched him leave, you may have noticed that the unclean, unwanted people came to him. And he healed them. Did you wonder if he could heal you, too?

Some people need physical healing. All people need spiritual healing. Sins keep me separated from God. I can't heal myself from sins. Only God can. When I sin, like the merchant in the temple, God offers me forgiveness.

Dear God, forgive me when I disobey you. Remind me of your love and forgiveness.



...to give all that you had?

Monday • Luke 21:1-3

Oh, widow, did you realize the disciples and Jesus watched you give your small offering? You may have tried to hide your actions, afraid of what others would think. Maybe you feared they would think you didn't give enough. But, Jesus saw not only your coins, but your heart as well.



Jesus knew that the widow at the temple gave fully, completely, and gladly. He didn't look at just her actions, but at her heart and mind. Jesus knows my heart and mind, too. He knows why I volunteer at church and why I go to Sunday school. He knows what I do when no one else notices. God is the only judge who matters. As he has given me faith, he has also made me able to do good works from the heart.

God, you judge me and give me grace to do good works. Fill me, so I overflow with faithfulness.

...When GOD raised him from the tomb?

Easter Sunday • Matthew 28:1-8

Jesus, do you know what I'm thinking?
I wish I could have been there to see
you after you rose from the dead. I
wish I could see you with my own
eyes. I want to hold your hand, to
hug you. I want to know that feel-
ing of excitement to see you alive
and in the flesh. Do you know how
much I love you, Jesus, even though I
couldn't be there?



Thank you, God, for sending me the gift of Jesus.
I praise you for raising him from the tomb long ago.
Thank you for giving me faith just like Jesus' disciples
who touched and held him, who heard his words and
trusted in him. I believe that Jesus is my Savior.

*Sometimes it causes me to tremble, to shake with
awe, thinking about what it was like to be there when
God raised Jesus from the tomb!*



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