

Garden to Garden - Part 6

Five-Day Family Devotional: "What Will You Do with Jesus?"

Day 1: Peace before Pilate

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:11-12

Devotional Thought: Jesus stood before Pilate, accused of proclaiming Himself the King of the Jews. Despite the accusations, Jesus remained silent, demonstrating His peace, strength, and submission to God's will.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you feel when someone accuses you of something you didn't do?
2. Why do you think Jesus chose to remain silent instead of defending Himself?
3. How can we show strength and trust in God when we face difficult situations?

Parenting Tip: Encourage your children to calmly and peacefully express their feelings when they face accusations or misunderstandings. Teach them the importance of trusting God and responding with grace.

Prayer Focus: Pray for the strength to trust God in difficult situations and to respond with grace and patience.



Day 2: Amazing Peace and Wisdom

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:13-14

Devotional Thought: Jesus' calm presence and wisdom left a strong impression on Pilate. Matthew tells us that he was amazed that Jesus would not respond to the accusations hurled at Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What amazes you about Jesus?
2. How can we help others to see the wisdom of Jesus?
3. Have you ever been amazed by someone's peace or wisdom? Share your experience.

Parenting Tip: Model for your children amazement and gratitude for Jesus. Share stories of how Jesus has impacted your life to inspire your children.

Prayer Focus: Pray for opportunities to demonstrate the calm presence and wisdom of Jesus to others and for hearts that are open to being amazed by His presence.



Day 3: The Great Exchange

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:15-26, 2 Corinthians 5:21

Devotional Thought: Barabbas, a guilty man, was set free while Jesus, the innocent, took his place. This is a picture of what Jesus did for us—He took our place and bore our punishment.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does it make you feel to think that Jesus took your place of punishment?
2. Why do you think Jesus chose to take our place?
3. How can we show gratitude for what Jesus has done for us?

Parenting Tip: Use this story to teach your children about grace and forgiveness. Find opportunities to show them great grace. Encourage them to show gratitude and kindness to others as a reflection of Jesus' love.

Prayer Focus: Thank Jesus for taking our place, and pray for hearts that are filled with gratitude and a desire to live for Him.



Day 4: The Innocent Punished

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:27-31

Devotional Thought: Jesus endured great suffering, not just physically but spiritually, by bearing our sins and the anger of God that we deserve. His sacrifice was the ultimate act of love (John 3:16).

Discussion Questions:

1. How does knowing that Jesus suffered for your sins (or disobedience) make you feel?
2. How should Jesus' sacrifice affect the way we live each day?
3. What are some ways we can show love to others like Jesus showed love to us?

Parenting Tip: Help your children understand the depth of Jesus' love and sacrifice (Romans 5:8). Encourage them to think of ways to show others love and kindness.

Prayer Focus: Pray for a deeper understanding of Jesus' sacrifice and for the ability to love others as He loves us (John 13:34).



Day 5: The Biggest Question

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:22

Devotional Thought: Pilate asked, "What shall I do with Jesus?" This is the most important question we will ever answer. Our response determines our relationship with Jesus and our eternity.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you respond to the biggest question? Do you want to have a relationship with Jesus?
2. What difference does a relationship with Jesus make in your life?
3. What are some ways we can share Jesus with others?

Parenting Tip: Encourage your children to think about their personal relationship with Jesus. Help them understand that choosing to follow Jesus is a daily decision.

Prayer Focus: Pray for each family member to make a personal decision to follow Jesus and for the courage to share His love with others.

