



A  
*Holy Week*  
ADVENT

*Walking with the Lamb*

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## HOW TO USE THIS HOLY WEEK ADVENT

Jesus, the Lamb of God, made seven simple I AM statements about Himself in the Book of John, declaring who He was and is and what He came to do. This Holy Week Advent will guide your family through the I AM proclamations of Jesus.

Beginning Palm Sunday, each day of Holy Week, have one family member read an I AM card aloud together. You'll want to have this family time in a place where you can set up seven three inch pillar candles. Arrange them in a circle or in a row on your kitchen table, or on your fireplace mantle. (Go to [everthinehome.com](http://everthinehome.com) to download free designs to print for your seven candles.)

On Palm Sunday, light the first six candles which correspond to the first six daily readings (leaving number seven, I AM the Resurrection and the Life to light on Sunday). Each day, light one less candle to show how Jesus' walk to the cross made the world a little darker each day. On Good Friday when you blow out the last candle it signals the death of the Light of the World.



On Silent Saturday, read the card but light no candles. You might cover all your candles with a black cloth to symbolize the mourning Jesus' disciples felt while Jesus was dead in the grave. Then on Resurrection Sunday, light all the candles to proclaim that the Light of the World is risen!

These daily Holy Week encounters with the Messiah focus your family on who Jesus is, culminating in the greatest miracle of all time, the resurrection of the Lamb of God!

If you don't have children at home or prefer to use the Holy Week Advent all at once, it is also ideal around an Easter table. Have the pillar candles set down the center of your table. Then have each dinner guest read one card, lighting the corresponding candle during the reading.

However you choose to use these in your home, learning more of who Jesus is will lead your family to worship Him more fully this Easter.



## PALM SUNDAY

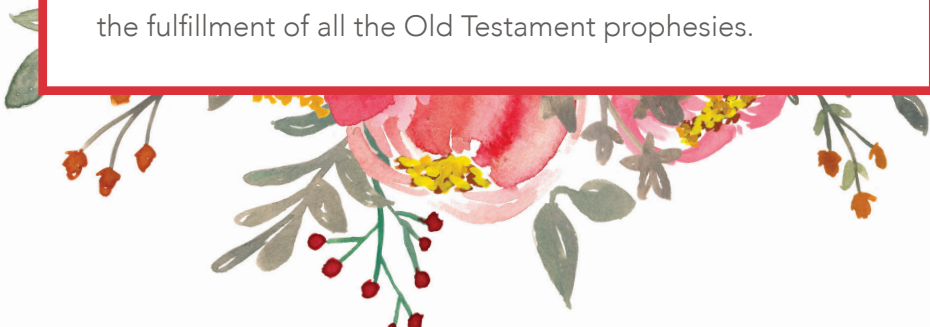
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Read this short story aloud to set the context:

For thousands of years clues about the coming Messiah were given and written in Old Testament scrolls, like bread crumbs sprinkled along the path. Then suddenly the clues stopped. For four hundred years from Malachi to Matthew there was not a single word from God to His people.

Then, on the darkest of days, an angel broke the canopy of space and announced, "This shall be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloth, and lying in a manger." **Another clue was given. Then when Jesus turned thirty, He began giving lots of clues. For the next three years Jesus connected the dots between all the clues God had given in the Old Testament to Himself.**

Today is Palm Sunday, the start of Holy Week, the day Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey. Each day this week read the I AM verses from the book of John where Jesus plainly told His disciples **He was the long awaited Messiah**. Each of these seven names tells us more about Jesus our Messiah who is the fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophecies.





## PALM SUNDAY



Light candles one through six.

*"I am the bread of life;*

whoever comes to me shall not hunger . . .

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

(John 6:35, 51)

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- Do you know what was in the Old Testament tabernacle and in the temple in Jerusalem? (Answer in Exodus 25:23 & 30.)
  - What kind of nourishment does Jesus give us as the Bread of Life?
  - Are you feeding your soul on Him?

Blow out all six candles.

## MONDAY



Light candles two through six.

*"I am the light of the world.*

Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

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- These words were spoken in the temple in Jerusalem. The Jewish rulers understood Jesus was identifying Himself with God, the Creator of light.
  - Was there something in the Old Testament tabernacle and temple that was used for light? (Answer in Exodus 25:31.)
  - Why is light so important to humans and every living thing on earth?

Blow out all candles.

## TUESDAY



Light candles three through six.

*"I am the door.*

If anyone enters by Me, He will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture."

(John 10:9)

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- How many kinds of doors can you name?
  - What is the purpose of a door?
  - How is Jesus like a door?
  - What does Jesus' door open?
  - Is there more than one door? (Revelation 3:20)

## WEDNESDAY



Light candles four through six.

*"I am the good Shepherd.*

I know my own and My own know Me. I lay down My life for the sheep." (John 10:14-15)

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- Do you know another shepherd in the Bible? What did he do to protect His flock? (*David killed the bear and the lion to save them.*)
  - What does Jesus, the good Shepherd, say He will do for His sheep, His children?
  - How do you feel knowing Jesus cares for you enough to lay down His life for you?



## MAUNDY THURSDAY



Light candles five and six.

*“I am the true vine.”*

Jesus said, ‘and My Father is the vinedresser. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.’”  
(John 15:1, 5)

- Do you remember that Jesus likened His blood to wine? When did He say that? (Read John 6:53–58.)
- Can grapes grow without being connected to the vine?
- Have you ever seen leaves or branches taken off a bush or tree? What happens to them?
- Jesus did nothing on His own initiative (John 12:49), He always depended on His Father to tell or show Him what to do. Here He tells us we must be connected to Him like He was to the Father. Are you living daily connected, drawing your life from Jesus the true vine?

## GOOD FRIDAY



Light candle six.

*“I am the way, the truth, and the life.*

No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)

Before His walk to the cross, Jesus spoke this trinity of names about Himself, the great I AM, to His disciples. He was still teaching, still guiding them even to His last breath. These names tell us more about Jesus, the Lamb of God.

- How many ways are there to God? How many did Jesus list? (*One. He is the way.*)
- Where does truth come from? Why did Jesus say **He is the truth?** (*You might read John 1:14.*)
- Why will it matter so much to the disciples to know Jesus is the life in just a few hours? (*Jesus is the life and He will live again!*)

At nine o’clock in the morning on Good Friday Jesus was nailed to the cross. At noon it became as dark as night, and the darkness lasted for three hours. What must it have been like for darkness to descend during the brightest part of the day? Just before three o’clock Jesus said, “Tetelestai,” which means, It is finished. Then He breathed His last breath. At that moment an earthquake shook the earth and the curtain in the temple was torn in two. The Lamb of God had given His life, His blood, for you and me.

## SILENT SATURDAY

Light no candles today.

"The woman at the well said to Him, 'I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am He.'" (John 4:25-26)

Very plainly Jesus said, "I AM MESSIAH."

- Do you know the story of this woman? What was her background?
- If Jesus was offering this woman eternal life, what does that mean for you?

Today was Saturday, and for the disciples Jesus is dead. They were sad. Their dreams were dashed. They didn't remember that Jesus said, "I am the life." Are there times in your life that you, too, forget what Jesus said?

Saturday was also their Sabbath day. No work was done. People were at home. But it was not an ordinary Sabbath. No one could forget what they'd seen: the crucifixions, the earthquake, the darkness, the temple curtain torn open. For the disciples of Jesus their world was shattered. All they had hoped for and believed was shattered. They wondered, *Did we misunderstand His message? Was it all in vain? But what about the miracles?*

Light no candles today to remember the Light of the World was gone. Cover all your candles with a black cloth. You may choose not to turn on any lights all day to remember how the disciples felt. This is a day of waiting.

## RESURRECTION SUNDAY



## CHRIST IS RISEN!

Light all seven candles.

*"I am the Resurrection and the Life.*

Whoever believes in Me,  
though He die, yet shall He live."  
(John 11:25)

Today we celebrate the greatest. MIRACLE. EVER!

The resurrection of the sinless spotless Lamb of  
God is the most glorious event of all time!



Easter Sunday is a day to celebrate more than any other day of the year. Jesus is alive forevermore! May you sing and dance and feast and have great joy all day today and in the days to come.

To help you keep this miracle fresh, do what many Christians did for centuries and many still do around the world, greet your family and friends with these words:

**“CHRIST IS RISEN!  
CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!”**

(If you are reading this with your family, start right now by proclaiming with enthusiasm and joy, Christ is risen! Invite everyone present to respond, Christ is risen indeed!)

Walking with the Lamb  
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