



## Preface

Families have become inundated with so many responsibilities and activities that often lead to a lack of time spent together and a lack of time spent in family worship. It is the desire of the family (children and students) and worship ministries of Calvary to see our families growing deeper in relationship with God and with each other. We believe that the biblical model for discipleship begins in the home, and it is our desire to equip parents to help teach their children the Scriptures, while also hoping to grow parents in their faith.

Our hope is to see families disconnect from all the distractions that have their attention and to turn that focus to each other. Our plan provides five weekly Bible studies for the family to study together, all of which will engage each member of the family. Secondly, the plan will provide the family with a weekly memory verse. We encourage each family member to learn the verse for the week. Finally, we hope that each family will use the hymn to sing together in worship.

The Christian life was not meant to be lived alone, and we hope that you will engage together in your faith, allowing God to take you to new depths as a family.

Trusting God together,

The Calvary Team



## Hymn of the Week: "Jesus Paid It All"

Each week, there will be a hymn for you to sing as a family. There is a link provided below to a YouTube video that will help you if needed. If someone in your family plays an instrument and would like to accompany the singing, that would be great. If you would like to sing a cappella, that is wonderful. There is no right or wrong way to sing together as a family. Sing and worship the Lord together. Praise Him for all that He has done and is doing. The link and lyrics are provided below:

Link: <https://youtu.be/D5DyeCx8H4U>

### Verse 1

I hear the Savior say  
Thy strength indeed is small  
Child of weakness watch and pray  
Find in Me thine all in all

### Chorus

Jesus paid it all  
All to Him I owe  
Sin had left a crimson stain  
He washed it white as snow

### Verse 2

Lord now indeed I find  
Thy power and Thine alone  
Can change the leper's spots  
And melt the heart of stone

### Verse 3

For nothing good have I  
Whereby Thy grace to claim  
I'll wash my garments white  
In the blood of Calvary's Lamb

### Verse 4

And when before the throne  
I stand in Him complete  
Jesus died my soul to save  
My lips shall still repeat

CCLI Song # 7020118

Elvina M. Hall | Elvina Mabel Hall | Mike Passaro | Shelly Moore

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## Family Activity

This is an opportunity for you to do something fun as a family. It's time to get outside your comfort zone! For this activity, act out one of the scenes that occurred after Jesus resurrected with your family. Think outside the box and use props and costumes. Take pictures and send them to us or put them on social media. If you post pictures to social media, please use #CalvaryFamilyConnections, so we can see how much fun your family is having learning together. Have fun!



## CALVARY FAMILY CONNECTIONS

“Jesus Meets Mary Magdalene”// **DAY 1**

Scripture: John 20:11-18 (Parental Note: Encourage one of your children to read the passage.)

**Memory Verse: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3, CSB)**

On Easter morning, after Jesus had been sacrificed on Calvary’s cross, we see the stone covering Christ’s tomb had been rolled away. In both the Gospels of John and Mark, we find that Mary Magdalene is the first to visit the empty tomb. Mary Magdalene was a devoted follower of Jesus Christ and was a witness to his crucifixion, burial, and His resurrection. However, Mary Magdalene’s story did not begin here. In Luke 8:1-2, we are introduced to Mary Magdalene as Jesus casted out the demons that possessed her. After this event, throughout Scripture we see the transforming power of her conversion as she dedicates her life to support Christ’s ministry.

We must consider the reasons why Jesus chose to first reveal himself post-resurrection to Mary Magdalene. It was not by accident or coincidence that Mary Magdalene was the first person to see the resurrected Christ. Here was a woman who was once filled with evil spirits and considered an outcast by the religious people; yet, Jesus chose her. This is proof that we, like Mary Magdalene, do not have to be defined by our pasts. Like Mary Magdalene, we recognize that through his healing and forgiveness, we are delivered from the bondage of sin and are free to live our lives in complete devotion of Christ.

In finding the empty tomb, we see Mary Magdalene weeping with great sorrow. She was overcome with grief over the cruel and vicious events of the crucifixion, and she now believed the body of Christ had been taken from the tomb. Even after she encountered the angels and Jesus himself, whom she believed to be the gardener, she remained distraught. It is not until Jesus spoke her name that her great sorrow turned into living hope. Similar to Mary Magdalene, we should have this same hope when we reflect on the resurrection of Christ and the life He has given us. Jesus conquered death, and because of our faith in Him, we now have victory over the grave. Jesus’ triumph over this final evil provides assurance of our eternal life in Him.

As soon as Mary Magdalene understood who Jesus was, He commissioned her to go tell others about what she had witnessed. In this moment, Mary Magdalene would have been the only person who had seen the Risen Lord. For those few moments, she was the church. After hearing His instructions, Mary Magdalene hurried off and exclaimed the good news to the disciples. Jesus is alive! She was not only the first person to witness Jesus in his resurrected form, but she was also the first person sent to tell others of the resurrected Christ. Just as Mary Magdalene joyfully shared the good news of Christ, we, too, should proclaim His resurrection and the hope that He gives to everyone who will hear. We are the church, and we are responsible for sharing the Gospel.

Mary Magdalene loved and served Jesus. We see her grief and sorrow transformed to victory and joy as she meets her risen Savior. We, too, should have this same reaction as we reflect upon the resurrection of Christ. As Christians, we are called to proclaim this same message of hope: “Alleluia! He is Risen!”

1. Other than her past, what makes Mary Magdalene an unusual choice for Jesus to reveal himself, especially during considering the societal norms of this time?



2. What does Jesus say to Mary Magdalene that helps her recognize him? What can you do to ensure that you recognize the voice of God when he speaks to you?
3. Do you know someone who needs to know the good news that Jesus has risen from the dead and offers the gift of eternal life? Who is that person and why did they come to your mind? Pray for that person as a family.



## CALVARY FAMILY CONNECTIONS

“On the Road to Emmaus”// DAY 2

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35 (Parental Note: Encourage one of your children to read the passage.)

**Memory Verse: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3, CSB)**

Jesus is alive! He has risen from the grave, conquering sin and death. Amazingly, after Jesus’ death, He spent time on this earth, and throughout the Scriptures, we read of interactions that Jesus had with people during the forty days He spent on earth after His resurrection.

This is the first encounter of three after Jesus’ resurrection recorded by Luke. In this passage, we read of Jesus meeting a man named Cleopas and another unknown person on the same day he had risen from the grave. They are walking on the road to Emmaus, which was a town about seven miles from Jerusalem. It is unknown as to why they were coming from Jerusalem or why they were going to Emmaus, but we will see that God had them there with reason.

As Jesus began to interact with these two, they did not recognize who He was. They expressed their disappointment as they walked away from Jerusalem. As Jewish people, they were convinced that Jesus would be their Messiah; however, they wanted Him to be a Messiah who would conquer governments and who would reign politically. However, this never was Jesus’ plan. We do that sometimes in our lives, don’t we? We create expectations, and then when those expectations aren’t met, we are disappointed. Maybe we want a certain gift for our birthday, and then on that day, we tear open the paper, only to find a gift we weren’t expecting. It’s a good gift, but it is not the gift we were expecting. We might be disappointed, even in the good. This is what Cleopas and this other person were experiencing. They were missing the good gift!

If we are not careful, we, too, can create expectations regarding Jesus that are not true of Him. It is essential that we believe Jesus is Lord, and we must allow Him to be Lord, trusting Him in all aspects of our lives. False expectations create a false faith.

Within the conversation, Cleopas and his friend refer to Jesus as a prophet, which is a correct—but incomplete—description of Jesus. The Bible teaches that Jesus is Prophet, Priest, and King, meaning He is THE Prophet, THE Priest, and THE King. All other individuals who carried these titles were special humans, but none were like Jesus, because they were not fully God and fully man.

After listening to the despairing and disappointing comments from Cleopas and his friend, Jesus makes it known that they are missing the big picture! He calls their attention to the prophets of the Old Testament. He makes it clear that the Old Testament prophets had prophesied of the very moment in which they were living. They spoke of Jesus’ suffering continually. God had made a promise to the world that would be fulfilled through His Son, Jesus, and Jesus had obeyed His Father in Heaven, suffering the eternal wrath of God for our sake, so that He would be glorified.

Jesus taught Cleopas and his friend from the Scriptures—which would have been the Old Testament—over a length of time. This should cause us to pause! How often do we look for truth in the Scriptures? Living our lives, being fed solely through someone else’s teaching, all while never reading and studying the Bible for ourselves was never God’s intention for our lives as His children. Certainly, we are called to sit under the teaching of others, but we will never fully experience a growth in our personal relationship with Jesus if we are relying on others to grow our relationship with Him. If you



have a friend, do you expect your mom and dad to teach you about your friend? Of course not! You hang out with your friend and learn more and more about him or her through your personal relationship.

It is our calling from God to read and study the Scriptures ourselves. We are called to walk in relationship with Jesus. Cleopas and his friend were missing the big picture of what was taking place because they were looking to the culture for answers, not God's Word. They were creating expectations and self-desires, not understanding God's plan and His desires.

Hearing the Scriptures taught so clearly by Jesus, these Cleopas and his friend wanted to stay with Him. They asked Him to come into the city with them. They found themselves seated around a table with Jesus, and Jesus took bread and broke it. This is the same image from the Last Supper, and in that moment, they knew they were in the presence of the resurrected Jesus. In His divine power, Jesus immediately disappeared. The moment they realized they had been in the presence of Jesus all this time, they exclaimed how their hearts had burned within themselves as Jesus taught them from the Scriptures. Just as Jesus walked with the Cleopas and his friend, we, too, can walk with Jesus. We can hear Him speak regularly His truth into our lives. This will only occur, however, if we are regularly reading and studying His Word. What a joy to know that our hearts can burn with His teaching!

1. Are there times in your life when you expected something from Jesus, but instead, He did something else? If so, looking back, how can you see that His way was better than your desire?
2. Knowing that Jesus suffered for us, and we are called to follow Him, how should we as Christ-followers respond to suffering?
3. What are ways you can personally grow your relationship with Jesus?
4. How can you be intentional in studying God's Word more?
5. Pray: Ask God to give you wisdom in understanding that His ways are better than our ways; ask God to give you wisdom in understanding that suffering allows us to be more mature followers of Jesus; and ask God to give you a deep desire to study His Word regularly in order that you will burn with His teaching.



## CALVARY FAMILY CONNECTIONS

“Jesus Meets the Disciples and Thomas”// **DAY 3**

Scripture: John 20:19-29 (Jesus’ initial encounter with the disciples is also recorded in Luke 24:36-43)

(Parental Note: Encourage one of your children to read the passage.)

**Memory Verse: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3, CSB)**

Imagine yourself with your family locked inside your home. Then, there is someone else standing among you! Naturally, you would be terrified, unsure of what to do. This is the feeling that the disciples had when they first encountered Jesus after his resurrection. For fear, they had hidden themselves behind a locked door afraid of the religious leaders. Jesus then appeared to them, never opening the door, but in his resurrected body he was able to pass through the walls. His first words to the disciples were words of comfort, “Peace, be with you!” He then, according to Luke’s account, shows them his wounds, and for further proof that he is not a ghost, He eats some fish.

Jesus showed compassion and concern for the disciples; He comforted them; and then He told them of the mission that was before them. He told them again, “Peace be with you,” and He followed this with the command that the disciples would be sent to spread the Gospel. Jesus’ words comforted the disciples and helped them realize the duty to which they were being called, to build the church. They learned quickly that they would not be alone in their endeavor to spread the Gospel, because Jesus then foretold the coming of the Holy Spirit and all that they would be able to do by and through Him. What great news this was for the disciples and for all followers of Christ to know that He will be with us always through the spirit.

Thomas was missing from the first appearance. Just like many of us, Thomas would only believe if he could see Jesus with his own eyes. Do you remember a time when someone told you about the biggest fish they had ever caught? Did you believe them or ask for a picture for proof? Too often, we allow doubt to prevent us from enjoying all that God has to offer. It is also important to note, while Thomas is most noted for his doubt, the other disciples had the same doubts when Jesus first appeared to them eight days earlier. They wondered, “Is this a ghost!”

Doubt is a tool that Satan uses craftily to create strife in our relationship with God. He desires that we do not trust God and rely on ourselves. Our sinful desires, however, are liars. It’s important to remember, Jesus did not count Thomas’ faith any less because he had doubts, but He does recognize those who trust without seeing. Oh, that we may trust God at his word and surrender our lives fully to him.

1. Why was it important for Jesus to prove to disciples that he was not a ghost and was truly with them.
2. Imagine you are one of the disciples. Jesus has just fulfilled all that he had told them he would and has resurrected from the dead. How do you think this affected their faith?
3. How should we respond to the call given to the disciples to be sent out?
4. We are not alone in having doubts, what are some ways to overcome your doubts?



## CALVARY FAMILY CONNECTIONS

“The Gift of Forgiveness”// DAY 4

Scripture: John 21:1-19 (Parental Note: Encourage one of your children to read the passage.)

**Memory Verse: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3, CSB)**

Have you ever hurt someone you loved? There is no worse feeling in this world. Peter—one of Jesus’ disciples—was experiencing this pain. Peter loved Jesus, but during Jesus’ trial and crucifixion, Peter denied Jesus and his devotion for Him three times, just as Jesus sovereignly said he would. Peter never had a chance to apologize to Jesus. I cannot imagine how Peter must have felt.

On this early morning, the disciples were fishing. Professional fishermen of this era would fish during the night so they could sell fresh fish in the market the same day. The disciples had fished all night; however, they had caught nothing. Suddenly, they heard a voice from the bank; however, with it being dim light, they could not see a person. All they heard was a voice. The voice told them to cast their net to the right side of the boat, and it says, the disciple whom Jesus loved—we believe this is John, the author of this Gospel—knew it was Jesus. Peter could not wait! It says he covered himself and jumped into the water and swam to Jesus. We see Jesus’ divine power as the disciples caught a net full of fish, even though we know they had already tried to catch fish in that spot with no success.

Peter swam to Jesus and the rest of the disciples came to shore, where they would build a fire, eat fish and bread, and fellowship together.

After breakfast, Jesus began to question Peter. He asked, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” In this question, it is believed that Jesus was asking Peter if he loved Jesus more than the disciples. The disciples were like family to Peter. They were brothers. Amidst humans, this question seems to be rooted in jealousy, but remember, Jesus is God, and God deserves our full devotion and love. We should love Him more than anyone or anything in this world. God’s call for us to love Him more than anyone or anything in this world is for His glory and our good. When we love God more than anything else in this world, everyone and everything that we love in this world is loved better by us. When parents love God more than their children, they love their children better. When children love God more than their parents, they love their parents better.

This is God’s call for each of us: love Him the most! This is what Jesus was asking of Peter, and in calling Him to love Him more than anyone else, He calls Him to also feed His sheep. He is calling Peter to take the Gospel—the good news of God and all that He has done and is doing—and share it with those around him. He is also asking him to physically care for those around him. We see a foreshadowing of the Church! As members of the body of Christ, we are called to love God and to love each other.

Ultimately, we see that Peter’s commitment to Jesus will come with a cost. Jesus gives a foreshadowing of how Peter’s life will ultimately end in persecution and death as a result of following Jesus. Jesus paid an eternal debt for each of us, and it came at a great cost. Although there is nothing we can do to earn or pay for our salvation, there may come an earthly cost for following Jesus, as the evil in this world hates those who love Jesus. Satan wants nothing more than to try and slow the spread of the Gospel by hurting those who love Jesus and want to tell the world about Him. Jesus has



given His all for us. Will we give our all for Him? Jesus has conquered sin and death once and for all. Although our earthly bodies could be harmed, we have nothing to fear, because Jesus has promised us an eternity with Him!

Jesus died in order to save Peter from the sin of this world. His death on the cross forgave Peter of his sin of denial, just as it forgave Peter for every other sin he would commit. Just as Jesus reconciled Peter to Himself and gave purpose to his life, Jesus has reconciled us to Himself and has given us purpose. Today, we are hearing the same words that Peter heard: "Follow me!" Will we follow Jesus as individuals? Will we follow Him as families? Love God the most and love the world with the Gospel. This is our calling!

1. What are some ways that we hurt Jesus?
2. Name specific traits of Jesus that you love.
3. Give specific ways that your family can "feed Jesus' sheep."
4. Pray: Ask God to forgive you where you have failed Him; ask God to show you how you can love Him more than anyone or anything in this world; ask God to show you how you can feed His sheep; and ask God to give you grace and strength to persevere in all circumstances.



## CALVARY FAMILY CONNECTIONS

“Jesus Gives the Great Commission and Ascends”// DAY 5

Read Matthew 28:18-20 & Acts 1:3-11 (Jesus’ ascension is also recorded in Luke 24:49-53) (Parental Note: Encourage one of your children to read the passage.)

**Memory Verse: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3, CSB)**

Lasting words. This is what Jesus left for his disciples and all Christ followers as He prepared to ascend to Heaven. Jesus began by reminding them who He was and that He had and has all authority in Heaven and on earth. This is important for us to remember, as well. Our relationship with Christ reflects what we really think about him. A surrendered life views Jesus as the Lord over all areas of life. Conversely, when we do not surrender all aspects of our life to him, we essentially are saying that we do not trust Jesus to lead us. His leadership in our life is either all of nothing.

GO! Jesus followed His statement on His authority with the command—or the Commission, as known historically within the church—for His followers to go. The Christian life is not a life that should be lived secluded. Too often, we seclude ourselves from growing because we think we have a better plan; we seclude ourselves from the church because of made-up excuses; and we seclude ourselves from the world because we are afraid how they may react when we tell them about Jesus. The Commission was never to sit, it was to go; even when we may not have all of the answers, even when we may not feel prepared. We are to go and trust God to lead us.

Make disciples! Jesus commands us to make disciples. This does not mean to simply make converts. That’s a one-time occurrence. A disciple is someone that is actively growing through an ongoing and intentional process. Disciples are people that have been saved, are growing in relationship with Christ, and are being sent to spread the gospel. Jesus desires disciples, who are fully committed to him, growing in relationship with each other, and making more disciples, to replicate themselves. The biblical model is laid out in Deuteronomy 6, where parents are taught to be the primary disciple-maker in the lives of their children. Parents, you are discipling your children whether you realize it or not. What type of example are you leading? Who or what are you discipling them to love?

As Jesus prepared to go, He once again told the disciples that He has prepared them to go to the world. Parents, do your kids listen the first time they are asked? Probably not. Christ followers are like this, too—hard-headed! Jesus instinctively sees fit to once again tell the disciples that they are being sent. They have been called to go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. The disciples had to leave Galilee, their comfort zone, to go to Jerusalem to begin building the church. God has called each of us to go. Sometimes this means leaving the comfort of all that we know; sometimes this means stepping out in faith, even when we do not feel adequate. The Lord will lead. He has sent his Spirit to lead us!

Jesus ascended into heaven, and the disciples longingly gazed after him. They were then promised that Jesus would come again in this same way. The Gospel of Luke says that after he ascended, they were in the temple regularly praising him. We too, can continually praise him, because we have the same hope that the disciples had—the hope that He will come again. May we follow our call to make disciples, leading others to know Him and have comfort in the hope that He will return to rule and reign for all eternity.



1. How does your life reflect what you think about Jesus? Are you fully surrendered? Are there areas of your life you need to hand over to him?
2. What holds you back from answering the call to go?
3. How are you growing in your relationship with God? What do you need to improve upon?
4. Parents, how seriously have you taken your charge to disciple your children? How can we help you be better equipped?

