

April 2023



Darkest Night | Brightest Day -Marty Machowski

April's book of the month is particularly aimed at families with children this Easter season. For a week before Resurrection Sunday, Darkest Night, will guide your family through understanding and remembering Jesus' last week leading up to the cross. It is written to be accessible to children and designed specifically for family consumption, but the idea could be utilized by all whether you get the book(s) or not. Each day for the week before Easter you will have a harmonized gospel account with questions paired with the the verses from which the story was taken. It's a great way to, as a family, set your hearts and minds on Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Starting Palm Sunday (4/2/23), each day there is a single short (~2 pages) reading with some simple discussion questions. The questions tend to be pretty fact-based, "what happened?" types of questions. I would encourage parents to consider further implication/worship-style questions to guide discussion. Nevertheless, each day, you will have

about 20-30 minutes of good reading and discussion leading up to good Friday (Cross) and on into Saturday (burial). Each day's reading is basically a harmonization of the events as recorded in each of the 4 gospel accounts.

Then on Resurrection (Easter) Sunday, you flip the book backward from Darkest Night to Brightest Day with each day following the same pattern, but this time focusing on Jesus' resurrection and appearances to the disciples between His resurrection and Pentecost.

This book will provide good, guided readings for a family and plenty to discuss regardless of the age of the children. Even if you don't have children, take the verses for each day and read along and meditate on God's Word as you prepare you heart to remember and celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection this Easter.

Jacob Hantla

Darkest Night

Palm Sunday 4/2: The Triumphal Entry (Mat 21:1-17 | Mark 11:1-18 | Luke 19:28-48 | John 12:12-33)

Monday 4/3: The Trap (Matthew 21:23-22:22 | Mark 11:27-12:17 | Luke 20:1-26)

Tuesday 4/4: The Betrayal (Matthew 26:1-5, 20-30 | Mark 14:1-2, 18-26 | Luke 22:1-2, 14-23 | John 13:21-30)

Wednesday 4/5: The Arrest (Matthew 26:36-56 | Mark 14:32-52 | Luke 22:39-53 | John 17:1-18:11)

Thursday 4/6: The Trial (Matthew 26:57-27:31 | Mark 14:53-15:20 | Luke 22:54-23-25 | John 18:12-19:16)

Good Friday 4/7: The Cross (Matthew 27:32-56 | Mark 15:21-41 | Luke 23:26-49 | John 19:17-30)

Saturday 4/8: The Tomb (Matthew 27:57-61 | Mark 15:42-47 | Luke 23:50-56 | John 19:31-42)

Brightest Day

Resurrection Sunday 4/9: The Stone is Rolled Away (Matthew 28:1-8, 11-15 | Mark 16:1-8 | Mark 24:1-12 | John 20:1)

Monday 4/10: Jesus Is Risen! (Luke 24:12 | John 20:2-18)

Tuesday 4/11: The Road (Mark 16:12-14 | Luke 24:13-43 | John 20:19-23)

Wednesday 4/12: The Doubter (John 14:5-7; 20:19-29)

Thursday 4/13: The Catch (John 21)

Friday 4/14: The Ascension (Matthew 28:16-20 | Mark 16:15-18 | Luke 24:50-53 | 1 Corinthians 15:6 | Acts 1:9-11)

Saturday 4/15: Pentecost (Mark 16:19 | Luke 24:44-53 | Acts 1:1-2:41)