



# COVID-Friendly Tip Sheet

## Way to go!

By downloading this tip sheet, you're *already* thinking outside the box on ways to connect with kids and families this Easter. These tips are for adapting Journey To the Cross to accommodate physical distancing in an indoor setting. However, if your church is in a climate that would allow for the event to be outside, here are some options to explore:

- Transform a grassy area into "event stations" with E-Z UP tents, tables and traffic cones.
- Utilize your church parking lot for the event stations with E-Z UP tents and tables. Allow 2-3 "empty" parking spaces between each station for social distancing.
- Create the unique atmosphere by hanging fabric or black plastic along two of the sides to create a tunnel so it's a surprise when families enter. Zipties work great!

**Can't gather?** Consider hosting a Journey To The Cross at-home family experience. Create a family bag with all the supplies and have families drive-thru to pick them up. Make the pick-up area festive with music and have several volunteers ready to greet cars and hand off bags. You can find details on how to pivot this at-church experience for at-home, in the Digital Download Center. Look for your access code in the Media Pack found in your Journey to the Cross kit.

## Special COVID-19 permissions

- Includes online streaming permission good through April 30, 2021
- Music videos may be embedded into/played during a pre-recorded or online streaming service/event
- Any video recording posted online must be removed by April 30, 2021
- Music video files may not be uploaded individually to publicly accessible websites.

## General Tips

- Provide hand sanitizer and have participants use it before beginning event stations.
- Direct families on how to move through the event following the one-way arrows. Print arrows from page 6.
- Purchase the Journey to the Cross Collector Card Packs for each family in attendance. One package is enough for 50 families.
- Create standing areas 6-foot apart by printing out the "Journey to the Cross" logo found on the "Graphics and Other Goodies" CD in the Media Pack or page 5.

## Pre-Registration

- Run your Journey to the Cross event with staggered start times to prevent large gatherings of people and allow for social distancing as families travel through the stations.
- Have families sign-up for a "start times." Limit the number of families in each group, based on the amount of space you have for each station.
- If you don't have an online registration system, such as VBS Pro, you can easily accomplish this by creating a Google Doc and posting that link on your website.



# Journey to the Cross Event Stations

## The Journey Begins

This is where families are welcomed and receive instructions on how to begin Journey to the Cross.

- If you had participants preregister for the event, you won't need to collect information here.
- Pre-print name badges based on your registration info, or have a volunteer write out the names to avoid having to sanitize pens.
- Remind participants to use hand sanitizer before beginning event stations.
- Direct families on how to move through the event following the one-way arrows. Print arrows from page 6.
- Create standing areas 6-foot apart by printing out the "Journey to the Cross" logo found on the "Graphics and Other Goodies" CD in the Media Pack or page 5.

## Journey Snapshots

Here you'll take a photo of each incoming family or group.

- Consider setting up two photo stations so families don't have to wait in a line or gather not socially distanced. You can send families their photos in the *Journey to the Cross Foto Frames\** after the event!
- Create standing areas 6-foot apart by printing out the "Journey to the Cross" logo found on the "Graphics and Other Goodies" CD in the Media Pack or page 5.

## Jesus Is Coming!

Families join the crowd of people who've gathered excitedly to catch a glimpse of Jesus as he enters Jerusalem. They'll discover how Jesus came for each of us and take a moment to consider how they might have felt during this joyous time.

- Make sure that your street is "one-way" by using the arrows to direct people into this area.
- Hand each family a *Jesus is Coming! Collector Card\** as they enter.
- Create areas 6 ft. apart from each other so 2-3 families can be in the station at once.

## Jesus Loves Me!

Families reflect on why Jesus came to be with us, help us, and love us. Jesus left heaven to be with us. They'll enter into darkness and contemplate the effect our sins have in our lives.

- Make sure that your street is "one-way" by using the arrows to direct people into this area.
- Hand each family a *Jesus Loves Me! Collector Card\** and a sanitized *UV Handheld Light\** as they enter.
- Create areas 6 ft. apart from each other so 2-3 families can be in the station at once.
- Place pebbles in each 6 ft. area so families don't have to wander to far to find their pebbles.
- Have families place their UV Light in a basket as they exit and sanitize them in between groups.

\* Available from Group.com

## Jesus Shows Us What God Is Like.

Families experience the power of Jesus' words and discover who our Savior is as Jesus tells who he is and why he has come. They'll experience how Jesus brings light into the world.

- Make sure that your street is "one-way" by using the arrows to direct people into this area.
- Hand each family a *Jesus Shows Us What God is Like Collector Card\** as they enter.
- Provide sanitary gloves for families to wear as they dig through the dirt bins to find the Mini Glow Sticks\*.
- Set up areas where families can sit 6 ft apart, all facing the same direction towards Jesus sitting on the rock. Place the bins of dirt and *Mini Glow Sticks\** at each sitting area so families can stay where they are.
- Provide a trash bag so families can dispose of their gloves as they exit the station.

## Jesus Suffered for Us.

Families experience the power of the eternal gift Jesus gave to us, a sacrifice that only he could make. Jesus paid the price for all our sins. They'll discover how Jesus washed away our sins.

- Make sure that your street is "one-way" by using the arrows to direct people into this area.
- Hand each family a *Jesus Suffered For Us Collector Card\** as they enter.
- Set the water jars 6 ft. apart, allowing room for families to sit and remove their pebbles.

## Jesus Is Alive.

Families experience the joy of grace, forgiveness, and eternal life—thanks to Jesus.

- Make sure that your street is "one-way" by using the arrows to direct people into this area.
- Hand each family a Jesus is Alive Collector Card and a tray that has a metal bowl with charcoal, a small section of white cloth shroud, hand wipes, and salt water cups as they enter. Have enough trays to be able to sanitize between groups.
- After families have wiped their charcoal hands on the white cloth shroud they can take it and place it on the tomb.
- As families exit, have a table where they can place their trays and hand each person a *Jesus is Alive! Wristband\**.

## The Journey Café

At the Journey Café, families will be able to pause, snack, and chat with volunteers who intentionally strike up conversations. It's a great place to build friendships and share information about your church family.

- Set up tables 6 ft apart where families can sit together and discuss what they've experienced and sanitize between use.
- Provide pre-packaged snacks and beverages.
- Place church information on each table.

\* Available from Group.com



# Journey to the Cross Preschool Passage

## Preschool Passage

In Preschool Passage, little ones will experience four interactive and fun activities that help them learn more about Jesus, his love for us, and what happened at Easter while their families travel through the stations of Journey to the Cross.

- Have a leader help kids with sanitizing their hands before entering the Preschool Passage area
- If kids are rotating through, sanitize the tables and supplies between each rotation, or have a second set of supplies that you can switch out between groups.

## Jesus' Great Big Day

Preschoolers explore the celebration of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem by making palm leaves to wave.

- Give each preschooler a sheet of paper and their own scissors.
- Space the seats approx. 6 ft apart if possible.

## Jesus' Great Big Love

Preschoolers get to give away their love—and see how big Jesus' love for us is.

- Give each preschooler 5 index cards and their own bag of crayons.
- Space the seats approx. 6 ft apart if possible.

## Jesus' Great Big Gift

Preschoolers learn how Jesus' gift to us washes away our sins.

- Leaders can wear sanitary gloves as they help each child color one thumb with a red, washable marker.
- Give each preschooler their own white cotton fabric square, and their own bowl of warm, soapy water.
- Space the seats approx. 6 ft apart if possible.

## Jesus' Great Big Story

Preschoolers learn how Jesus' gift to us washes away our sins.

- Place pool noodles or colorful towels around a circle as an easy, fun way to have kids sit 6 ft. apart
- Fill the plastic eggs with pre-packaged candy (no loose jelly beans!)



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