

Making Room at Home for Jesus

a Lent 2026 resource
for families

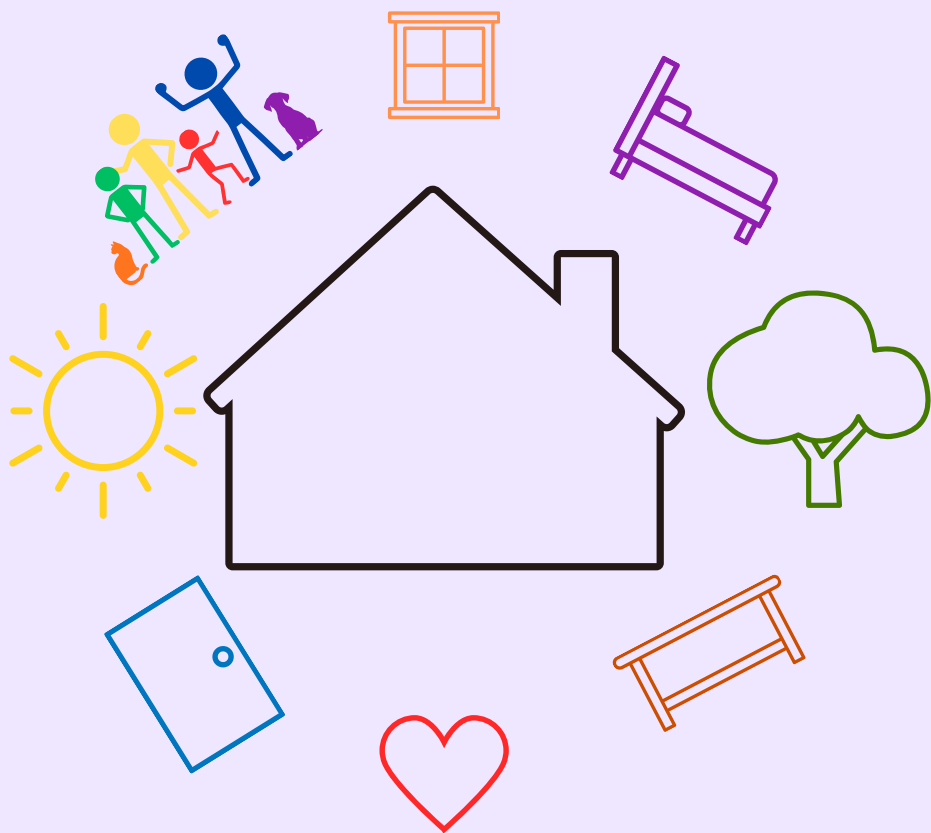


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Introduction

Lent is a season of slowing down, paying attention, and making space for what matters most. In the weeks leading up to Easter, we remember that Jesus meets us not only in church, but in our everyday lives- around our tables, in our rest, in our worries, and in our hope.

This resource is an invitation for your family to practice making room at home for Jesus. Each week during Lent, you'll explore a simple theme that helps you notice how Jesus shows up in ordinary moments: when we gather, when we rest, when we shine light, when we are afraid, and when we celebrate new life. These moments don't require perfection or extra busyness- just a little intention and openness.

As you journey through Lent together, you'll slowly create a home on paper. This home is a symbol of our lives and hearts. At first, it may feel bare or unfinished- and that's exactly the point. Lent invites us to notice where there is space, where there is longing, and where Jesus is gently knocking. By Easter, that home will be filled with light, joy, and resurrection hope.

Whether you use this resource every week or simply when you can, trust that God meets your family with grace. There is no "right" way to do this- only a willingness to make room.

*Blessings to you as you make room for Jesus this Lent,
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How to Use This Resource

Each week of Lent, set aside a few minutes to gather as a family. Begin by **reading the short devotion** together. Then respond to the wondering questions in a way that fits your family- through conversation, silence, drawing, or curiosity.

Next, **add one household item to your paper house** that connects to the week's theme. You may draw the item directly onto the house or cut and attach a printed icon. Over time, your house will slowly take shape.

We've also provided **three wondering questions** for your family to use to talk about the scripture and devotion. While you can use all three questions, the first is designed for younger children, the second for older children, and the third is more conversational.

Close with the prayer provided, or use it as a starting point for your own words.

Supplies you'll need:

- This devotion booklet
- A copy of the house outline (there is an 8.5x11 size at the back of the devotion booklet, or you can print out an 11x17 version)
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- If using printable icons: scissors and glue or tape

As Lent continues, feel free to decorate your house and make it your own. By Easter morning, may it tell the story of a home- and a heart- made ready for Jesus.

Ash Wednesday: Family

Theme: Making Room for Those We Love: We begin Lent by remembering who we are and who belongs with us.

Scripture: Genesis 2:7 (adapted)

God formed people from the dust of the ground and breathed into them the breath of life.

Devotion

Tonight is Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the day Lent begins. Lent is a season when we slow down and get ready for Easter. On Ash Wednesday, we remember something very important: We are made from dust, and we are deeply loved. Dust sounds small and ordinary. But dust is where God begins. God takes ordinary things and fills them with breath, love, and life.

During Lent, we will build a home together. This home is not about being perfect.

It is a place where love can live. It is a place for rest, kindness, and light. As we build this home, we will talk about how we can make room for Jesus in our lives.

But before we add anything new, we stop and remember who is already here.

We do not start Lent alone. We do not have to earn our place. We belong to God, and we belong to one another. Love already lives among us.

Activity: Who Lives in This House?

Draw figures to represent the people who are part of your family.

Families can look different. Your family might include caregivers, siblings, grandparents, chosen family, or pets. Everyone who belongs is welcome.

As you place each figure in or near the house, say: “_____, you belong here and you are loved.”

Wonder Questions

I wonder who makes you feel safe and loved?

I wonder how it feels to know you belong before you do anything at all?

I wonder what might change if we remember that love already lives here?

Prayer

Loving God,

We are made from dust,
and filled with your breath.

Thank you for the people who share our lives.

Help us make room for love
in this house and in our hearts.

Amen.



Week 1: A Door

Theme: Making Room For Jesus: Jesus always welcomes us. How can we welcome him?

Scripture: Revelation 3:20

Here I am. I stand at the door and knock.

Devotion:

Jesus spent his life helping people know that they mattered. He went to places where people were hurting. He stopped to listen. He shared meals. He helped people feel seen and loved. Jesus did these things because love is what matters most.

In the Bible, Jesus says, “Here I am. I stand at the door and knock.” Jesus isn’t forcing the door open. Jesus is waiting; patiently and kindly. Opening the door to Jesus doesn’t mean opening a real door. It means making space for love in our lives.

We open the door when we: take time to pray or wonder, help someone who needs care, listen instead of rushing, ask questions, gather with others at church, and talk about love and kindness at home. What are some other ways that you can think of? What can our family do this week to open the door and welcome Jesus?

Every time we choose love, we are opening the door. And Jesus is glad to be welcomed.

Activity: Welcoming Jesus

Draw a door. As you draw, say together:

“Jesus, you are welcome here.”

Wonder Questions:

I wonder what it feels like when someone opens the door to you?

I wonder what makes it hard or easy to make room for Jesus in our busy lives?

I wonder what might change if we left the door open a little wider this week for Jesus?

Prayer

Loving Jesus,

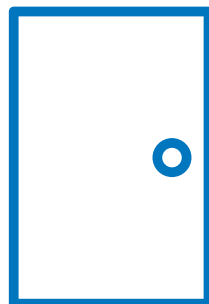
Thank you for knocking.

Thank you for waiting.

Help us make room for love

in our homes and in our hearts.

Amen.



Week 2: A Table

Theme: Making Room Through Kindness and Hospitality

Scripture: Luke 5:29

Jesus sat at the table with many people.

Devotion

Jesus spent a lot of time with people. He listened to them. He helped them. And he shared meals with them. We call this showing hospitality.

One day, Jesus met a man named Levi. Levi collected money for the government.

Many people didn't like Levi or trust him. They thought he made unfair choices. But Jesus saw Levi and invited him to follow him. Levi was so excited that he threw a big dinner at his house. Lots of people came to eat together. Some of them were people others didn't usually invite.

Some religious leaders were upset. They didn't think Jesus should eat with those people. But Jesus knew something important: Everyone needs love. Everyone needs kindness. Everyone belongs at the table. Jesus' table was a place where people felt welcomed and valued. There was always room for one more.

Jesus invites us to do the same.

We make room when we are kind.

We make room when we include others.

We make room when we choose welcome instead of turning away.

Activity: Welcoming Others

Add a **table** inside your house.

As you place it, imagine who might sit there with you. Think about someone new, someone who might feel left out, or someone you want to show kindness to. Share these as a family. Optional: Add these names to your table as a reminder of who you would like to welcome.

Wonder Questions

I wonder who you like to sit with at a table?

I wonder how it feels to be invited when you think you might not belong?

I wonder what our world would be like if every table had room for one more?

Prayer

Loving Jesus,

Thank you for welcoming everyone.

Thank you for tables where love is shared.

Help us notice who needs kindness.

Give us brave hearts to invite and include.

May there always be room at our table.

Amen.



Week 3: A Bed/Resting Place

Theme: Making Room for Rest: Jesus meets us when we are tired or overwhelmed

Scripture: Matthew 11:28

Come to me, all who are weary, and I will give you rest.

Devotion:

Sometimes our days feel very full. We wake up early, go to school, try our best to listen and learn, hurry to activities, and do homework. By the end of the day, our bodies might feel tired- and our hearts can feel tired too. Maybe you feel worried, grumpy, or overwhelmed.

Jesus knows what it feels like to be tired. He had to deal with hard things and he may have gotten frustrated with people. He might have gotten grumpy when he had a lot to do or when he didn't get enough rest. He did a lot when he was alive!

But he also knew that it was important for us to rest, like he says in Matthew 11:28. Jesus doesn't tell us to work harder or push through. Instead, Jesus invites us to come close and rest.

Making room for rest means slowing down and letting Jesus be with us when we're worn out. We can make room for Jesus by taking deep breaths, saying a short prayer, or sitting quietly for a moment. We can tell Jesus how we're feeling- even if we don't have the right words. Jesus knows what our hearts are feeling.

When we rest with Jesus, we remember that we are loved just as we are. Jesus meets us right where we are and helps our hearts and bodies feel calm again.

Activity: Find rest in Jesus:

Draw a bed or a sleeping mat to your house. You can add pillows or a blanket or a stuffie- anything that would help you rest. As you add to your house, say: “Jesus, help us find rest in you.

Wondering Questions

I wonder how your body feels when you are really tired?

I wonder what makes you feel overwhelmed or worn out?

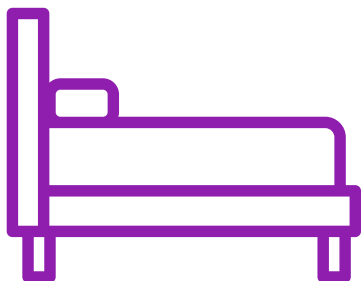
I wonder how we can “make room for rest” in our family this week?

Prayer

This week we will practice a breath prayer. This prayer can be used any time you are feeling tired or overwhelmed. All you need is your breath to guide you!

(breathe in) Jesus, I’m feeling tired.

(breathe out) Help me find rest in you.



Week 4: A Window

Theme: Making Room to Shine Light: Seeing the world the way Jesus sees it

Scripture: Matthew 5:16

Let your light shine.

Devotion:

One day, Jesus was teaching a very large crowd. So he went up a mountain and sat down. People gathered close to listen. Jesus taught them many important things about how to live. He helped them see the world the way he saw it; with love, kindness, and care for everyone.

Jesus told his friends, “You are the light of the world.” Jesus didn’t mean that light shines out of us like a flashlight. He meant that when we share love, kindness, and care, we help the world feel brighter.

In Jesus’ time, there were no streetlights. There were no bright buildings or glowing screens. At night, even one small lamp in a window could be seen from very far away. That’s how love works too. A small act of kindness can travel a long way.

When we make room for love in our lives, it’s like putting a light in the window of our house. Others can see it. Others can feel welcomed. Jesus invites us to let love shine so the world can see God’s love through us.

Activity: Let the Light Shine

Add a window to your house. As you add it, imagine light shining out.

This window reminds us to look at others with kindness and to let love shine for everyone to see. Talk with your family about some ways that you can share love this week and shine your light.

Wonder Questions

I wonder how you like to show kindness?

I wonder how a small act of kindness can make a big difference for someone else?

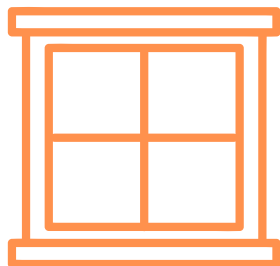
I wonder who might notice love shining from us this week?

Prayer

Loving Jesus,

Thank you for showing us how to see with love.

Help us notice others and care for them. Let kindness shine through our words and actions. May our lives be like a light in a window, welcoming all who pass by. Amen.



Week 5: A Heart

Theme: Making Room to Remember that Love Stays, Even When Things Are Hard

Scripture: Isaiah 41:10 (adapted)

Don't be afraid, because I am with you. I will strengthen you and help you.

Devotion

All through Lent, we have been building a house together. We added a door, a table, a bed, and a window. Each part helped us remember how love is welcomed, shared, and seen. But sometimes, even in a loving home, life feels hard.

We might feel sad. We might feel scared. We might feel lonely or unsure.

The Bible tells us that God knows about those feelings. A long time ago, God spoke to people who were having a very hard time and said: "I am with you. You are not alone."

Jesus knows this too. When Jesus lived on earth, there were days that were joyful and days that were scary and sad. Jesus understands how it feels when things are hard.

That's why today we add something special to our house. The heart reminds us that even on our hardest days, God's love is with us.

When things feel shaky, even when we don't have answers, love covers us. We can talk to trusted adults when things feel heavy or we are struggling. We can take deep breaths. And we can remember this promise:

We are held. We are not alone. Love is still here

Activity: A Heart on the Roof

Add a heart to the roof of your house. The heart reminds us that love stays. After placing the heart, invite each person to name something that feels hard. (They may say it out loud or quietly.)

Then say together: "Jesus is with us always."

Wonder Questions

I wonder who helps you feel safe when you are sad or scared?

I wonder how remembering that love stays can help us when things feel hard?

I wonder what it looks like to be gentle with ourselves and others during hard times?

Prayer

Loving God,

Sometimes life feels hard. Sometimes we feel sad or afraid.

Thank you for staying close to us. Help us remember that love covers us, holds us, and never lets us go. Amen.



Palm Sunday: A Tree

Theme: Making Room for Praise

Scripture: John 12:13

They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”

Devotion

Today is Palm Sunday. On this day, people made room for Jesus in a different way! They made room with praise. Jesus was on his way into the city of Jerusalem. When people saw him coming, they were excited. They shouted “Hosanna!” They waved palm branches. Some people even laid their coats on the road.

They were welcoming Jesus with joy. They had been waiting for a savior for a long time. They believed he brought hope and love, and they wanted him to know it.

Palm Sunday was loud and joyful. Praise filled the streets. When we praise, we are making room too. We make room when we say “thank you.” We make room when we notice goodness. We make room when we celebrate love.

This week holds many feelings of joy, sadness, and hope. But today, we begin by opening our hearts wide and letting praise grow.

Activity: A Tree of Praise

Add a tree outside your house in the yard.

In the branches, write words, draw pictures, or make symbols of things you want to praise or thank Jesus for; love, family, friends, kindness, courage, hope, or anything else.

This tree reminds us that praise can grow right alongside everything else we have been building.

Wonder Questions

I wonder what it feels like to shout “hosanna” and celebrate?

I wonder why it’s important to say thank you and offer praise?

I wonder how we can hold joy and sadness together this week?

Prayer

Loving Jesus,

We praise you with joyful hearts.

We thank you for love and hope.

Help us notice what is good
and hold every part of the story.

Stay close to us this week
as we walk with you.

Amen.



Good Friday: Room to Pause

Theme: Making Room to Remember

Scripture Recap:

Holy Week begins with celebration, but it also includes some hard days. Some leaders did not like Jesus or what he taught. Later in the week, Jesus was arrested. He was hurt, and he died. His friends were very sad.

This is an important part of the story, even though it is difficult. Thankfully, we know that Easter is coming and this was not the end of the story! This gives us hope and reminds us that something amazing is about to happen.

Parents and guardians of older elementary children may wish to read the Thursday and Friday Holy Week scriptures together at home. Many children's Bibles share these stories in developmentally appropriate and thoughtful ways. We have provided some of our favorite children's bible suggestion on the next page.

Activity:

Today, we will not add anything to our home. Instead, we pause to remember and give thanks for Jesus' love.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for loving us so much. Today we remember Jesus and how he cared for everyone. When the story feels sad, help us remember that you are with us and that Easter is coming. Amen.

CHILDREN'S STORY BIBLE RECS

Looking for a children's story bible? Here is a list that has been researched and vetted by our group. We've tried to list which ages they would be appropriate for so you can choose one that best fits for the children in your family.

Best for Preschoolers/Younger Children (Ages 2-5)

- I Wonder: Exploring God's Grand Story by Glenys Nellist
- Celebrate Wonder Storybook Bible (Cokesbury/Abingdon Press)

Best for Early Elementary Children (Ages 5-8)

- Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible by Elizabeth Caldwell
- The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible (Shine/Herald Press)

Best for Older Elementary Children (Ages 8-11)

- The Book of Belonging by Mariko Clark
- God's Stories as told by God's Children
- The Just Love Story Bible by Dr. Jacqui Lewis and Shannon Daley-Harris
- Read, Wonder, Listen: Stories from the Bible for Young Readers by Laura Alary

Good for All Ages

- Children of God Storybook Bible by Desmond Tutu

Easter: A Sun

Theme: Making Room to Celebrate that Jesus is Alive!

Scripture: Luke 24:6

“He is not here. He is risen.”

Devotion

On Easter morning, something amazing happened. Some women went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. When they arrived, the stone had been rolled away. The tomb was empty. They wondered what had happened. They were surprised. They were also a little afraid.

Then they heard good news from an angel: “Jesus is not here. Jesus is alive!”

The women ran to tell Jesus’ friends. At first, it was hard to believe. But soon they learned the truth. Love was stronger than death. Hope was alive. Jesus was alive!

This is why we have been getting ready all season. It’s such a special day, we’ve had to take our time and make sure we have plenty of room for Jesus. Today, our house is no longer empty or waiting. Today, it is filled with light, joy, and celebration.

Easter changes everything.

There is always hope.

Love never ends.

And there is always room for joy.

Activity: A House Full of Life

Add sunshine, bright colors, flowers, and butterflies to your house and yard.

As you finish, say together: "Jesus is risen! Alleluia!"

Let your house look joyful and alive, just like the good news of Easter.

Wonder Questions

I wonder what makes you feel happy and excited today?

I wonder why the good news of Easter still matters to people today?

I wonder where we see new life and hope around us right now?

Prayer

Loving Jesus,

We celebrate today.

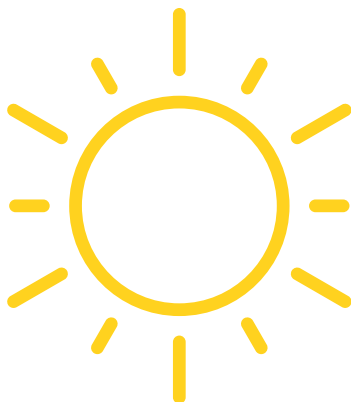
Thank you for new life and hope.

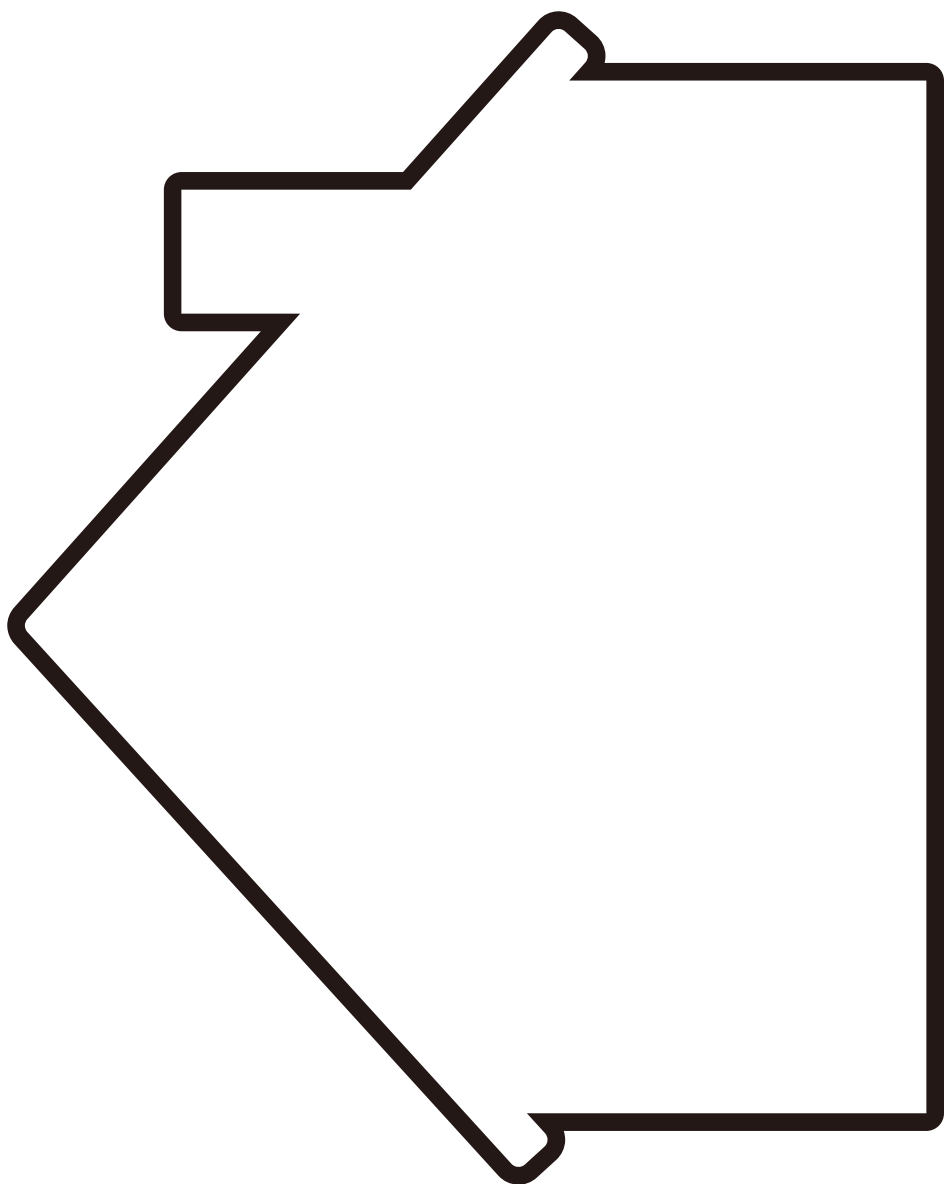
Fill our hearts and our home with joy.

Help us share love wherever we go.

Alleluia!

Amen.







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