



PREP PARENT NEWS

March 2021

Buildup to Easter

(excerpted from the SundaySchoolZone.com)

Beginning with February 14, there are eight Sundays until we're celebrating the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021.

First Sunday - The story of **Adam** and **Eve** and the account of their sin found in Genesis 3. Why start here? Because understanding how sin impacted our world, and the people in it, will help us understand why Jesus had to come and die the death of crucifixion.

Second Sunday - The story of Cain and Abel reveals that evil is growing and having an impact that goes beyond Adam and Eve both in its reach and also in its intensity. The sin committed by Adam and Eve in the garden may seem small, but evil is now growing and it's growing rapidly.

Third Sunday - Zacchaeus was a good example of the kind of person who had pursued wealth and self-gratification at the expense of his fellow Jews. He was a good example of the "**one sinner who repents.**" Luke then drove the point home with Jesus' own words "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost." People like Zacchaeus were the reason Jesus had come!

Fourth Sunday - The story of Mary anointing the feet of Jesus. This moving event took place just days before Jesus' crucifixion. Mary is a good example of someone who didn't fully understand what was happening around her in the life and ministry of Jesus, but what she lacked in theological understanding, she made up for in simple devotion. This is the same Mary who sat listening intently at the feet of Jesus while her sister Martha prepared to serve a meal (Luke 10:38-42). There and here Mary demonstrated a simple devotion to Jesus that took priority over other responsibilities.

Fifth Sunday - The beautiful story of Jesus washing His disciples feet. Why this story? Because it demonstrates, perhaps more than any other, the spirit that would carry Jesus to the cross less than 24 hours later. Here, the night before He would submit Himself to the humility of the cross, Jesus would first submit Himself to the humility of service to those He came to save. We live in a day when service is not fashionable, even among Christians. Sadly, this has always been true.

Resurrection Sunday (Easter) is just three Sundays away. How will Jesus' death and resurrection make a difference in your life this Easter season?

Sixth Sunday - The crucifixion of Jesus. By giving His life on the cross, Jesus carried the consequence of sin that we each deserve. The self-denying act of Jesus overcame the self-indulgent act of Adam and Eve. Self-indulgence resulted in death, while self-denial resulted in life.

Seventh Sunday - The story of Palm Sunday. This is the day we celebrate Jesus' amazing entrance into Jerusalem. Jesus' time of sacrifice is approaching. He knows He will be crucified on Passover just days away.

Eighth Sunday - He is risen! Resurrection Sunday (Easter) is the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead after being crucified on the prior Friday (Good Friday). The resurrection is cause for celebration, but it's also cause for reflection as we consider what God desires for us to do.

