

The Way of the Cross



MAIN TEACHING AND LEARNING POINTS

- On Good Friday, the faith community the Church, reflects on The Way of the Cross.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

On Good Friday, the faith community the Church, recalls the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross. Christians believe that Jesus accepted his Father's will and freely gave his life for us on the cross because of his love for us. Jesus gave his life for us so that we could have eternal life.

One of the devotions practised on Good Friday is the Stations of the Cross, also known as The Way of the Cross. It consists of prayers and meditations that recall the suffering and death of Jesus as he journeyed to Calvary where he was crucified. The Stations of the Cross used in this lesson are based on those celebrated by St Pope John Paul II. They are a way of reflecting more deeply on the Gospels' account of Jesus', suffering and death.

GOD'S WORD

Begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Parent and child alternate reading the following Stations of the Cross.

Station One: Matthew 26:36-41 | *Jesus Prays in Gethsemane*

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee. Grief and anguish came over him, and he said to them, 'The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me. Stay here and keep watch with me.' He went a little farther on, threw himself face downwards on the ground, and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me! Yet not what I want, but what you want.'

Then he returned to the three disciples and found them asleep; and he said to Peter, 'How is it that you three were not able to keep watch with me even for one hour? Keep watch and pray that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.' [GNT]

Station Two: Mark 14:43-46 | *The Arrest of Jesus*

Jesus was still speaking when Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, and sent by the chief priests, the teachers of the Law, and the elders. The traitor had given the crowd a signal: 'The man I kiss is the one you want. Arrest him and take him away under guard.'

As soon as Judas arrived, he went up to Jesus and said, 'Teacher!' and kissed him. So they arrested Jesus and held him tight. [GNT]

Station Three: Luke 22:66-71 | *Jesus is Brought Before the Council*

When day came, the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law met together, and Jesus was brought before the Council. 'Tell us,' they said, 'are you the Messiah?' He answered, 'If I tell you, you will not believe me; and if I ask you a question, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated on the right of Almighty God.' They all said, 'Are you, then, the Son of God?' He answered them, 'You say that I am.' And they said, 'We don't need any witnesses! We ourselves have heard what he said!' [GNT]

Station Four: Matthew 26:69-75 | *Peter Denies Jesus*

Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard when one of the High Priest's servant women came to him and said, 'You, too, were with Jesus of Galilee.' But he denied it in front of them all. 'I don't know what you are talking about,' he answered, and went on out to the entrance of the courtyard. Another servant woman saw him and said to the men there, 'He was with Jesus of Nazareth.' Again Peter denied it and answered, 'I swear that I don't know that man!' After a little while the men standing there came to Peter. 'Of course you are one of them,' they said. 'After all, the way you speak gives you away!' Then Peter said, 'I swear that I am telling the truth! May God punish me if I am not! I do not know that man!'

Just then a cock crowed, and Peter remembered what Jesus had told him: 'Before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you do not know me.' He went out and wept bitterly. [GNT]

Station Five: Mark 15:1-5, 15 | *Jesus is Brought Before Pilate and is Sentenced to Death*

Early in the morning the chief priests met hurriedly with the elders, the teachers of the Law, and the whole Council, and made their plans. They put Jesus in chains, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, 'Are you the king of Jesus answered, 'So you say.' The chief priests were accusing Jesus of many things,

so Pilate questioned him again, 'Aren't you going to answer? Listen to all their accusations!' Again Jesus refused to say a word, and Pilate was amazed. Pilate wanted to please the crowd, so he set Barabbas free for them. [GNT]

Station Six: John 19:1-3 | *Jesus is Whipped and Crowned with Thorns*

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped. The soldiers made a crown out of thorny branches and put it on his head; then they put a purple robe on him and came to him and said, 'Long live the King of the Jews!' And they went up and slapped him. [GNT]

Station Seven: John 19:6, 15-17 | *Jesus Carries the Cross*

When the chief priests and the temple guards saw him, they shouted, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' Pilate said to them, 'You take him, then, and crucify him. I find no reason to condemn him.' They shouted back, 'Kill him! Kill him! Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Do you want me to crucify your king?' The chief priests answered, 'The only king we have is the Emperor!' Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. So they took charge of Jesus. He went out, carrying his cross, and came to 'The Place of the Skull', as it is called. (In Hebrew it is called 'Golgotha'.) [GNT]

Station Eight: Mark 15:21 | *Jesus is Helped by Simon of Cyrene*

On the way they met a man named Simon, who was coming into the city from the country, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. [GNT]

Station Nine: Luke 23:27-31 | *Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem*

A large crowd of people followed him; among them were some women who were weeping and wailing for him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Women of Jerusalem! Don't cry for me, but for yourselves and your children. For the days are coming when people will say, 'How lucky are the women who never had children, who never bore babies, who never nursed them!' That will be the time when people will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Hide us!' For if such things as these are done when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" [GNT]

Station Ten: Luke 23:33-34 | *Jesus is Crucified*

When they came to the place called 'The Skull', they crucified Jesus there, and the two criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, 'Forgive them, Father! They don't know what they are doing.' They divided his clothes among themselves by throwing dice. [GNT]

Station Eleven: Luke 23:39-43 | *Jesus Promises his Kingdom to the Good Thief*

One of the criminals hanging there hurled insults at him: 'Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' The other one, however, rebuked him, saying, 'Don't you fear God? You received the same sentence he did. Ours, however, is only right, because we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong.' And he said to Jesus, 'Remember me, Jesus, when you come as King!' Jesus said to him, 'I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me.' [GNT]

Station Twelve: John 19:25-27 | *Jesus Speaks to his Mother and the Disciple*

Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, 'He is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'She is your mother.' From that time the disciple took her to live in his home. [GNT]

Station Thirteen: Luke 23:44-46 | *The Death of Jesus*

It was about twelve o'clock when the sun stopped shining and darkness covered the whole country until three o'clock; and the curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Father! In your hands I place my spirit!' He said this and died. [GNT]

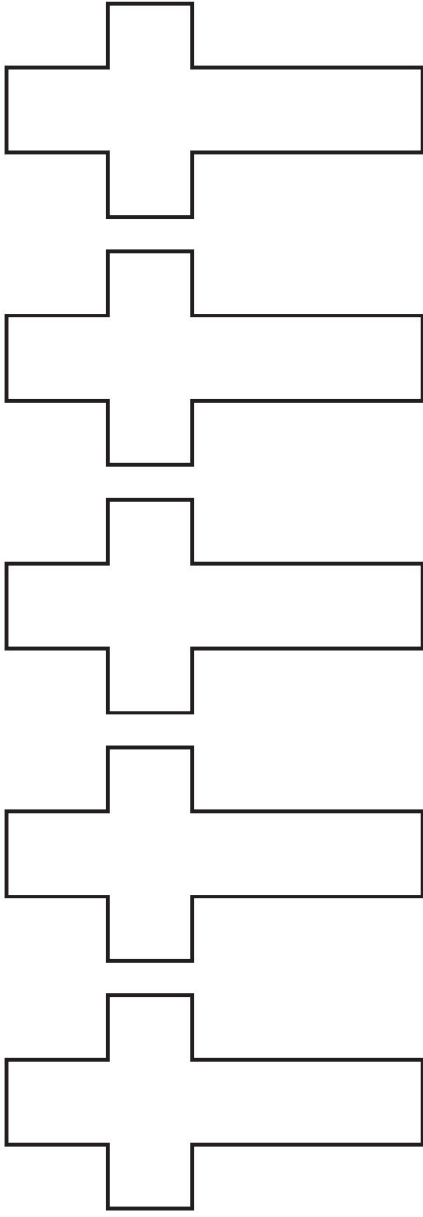
Station Fourteen: Matthew 27:57-60 | *The Burial of Jesus*

When it was evening, a rich man from Arimathea arrived; his name was Joseph, and he also was a disciple of Jesus. He went into the presence of Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate gave orders for the body to be given to Joseph. So Joseph took it, wrapped it in a new linen sheet, and placed it in his own tomb, which he had just recently dug out of solid rock. Then he rolled a large stone across the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there, facing the tomb. [GNT]



The Way of the Cross Emotions Map

Listen to The Way of the Cross, and reflect upon how Jesus may have felt at each station. Write adjectives (describing words) inside the crosses that explain how you think Jesus felt at each station.



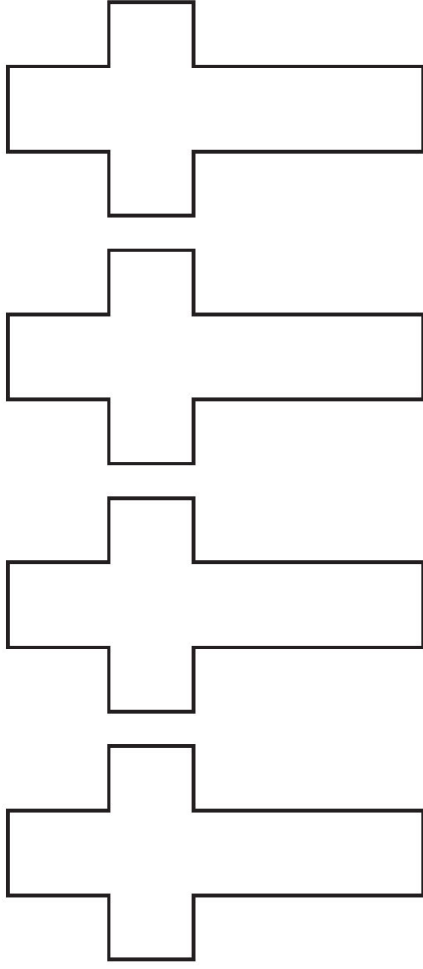
One

Two

Three

Four

Five

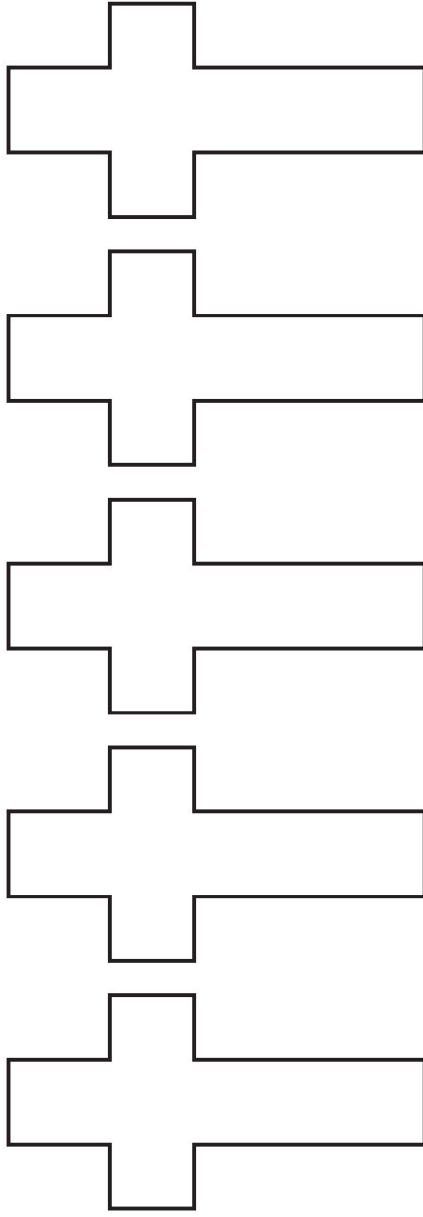


Six

Seven

Eight

Nine



Ten

Eleven

Twelve

Thirteen

Fourteen