

Stations of the Cross

for young readers

Prepare your Space:

- *Set a space for your prayer time as a family.*
- *Light your St. Francis Candle from your family prayer box.*
- *Begin with a blessing using your family Holy Water.*
- *Have each person bless each other by crossing each other on the forehead and saying "peace be with you" with the holy water.*
- *Turn on your favorite family worship song. Sing along or just listen to the words. (examples: Lord I need You, Love Ran Red, Here I am to Worship, Lay it Down)*
- *Have each person choose one person to offer up this prayer time for. You can say ... "I pray these Stations of the Cross in honor of _____."*

Begin in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Pray an Our Father... Hail Mary... and Glory Be to the Father...

Station 1

Jesus is condemned to death.

Jesus was accused of many crimes he didn't commit. He didn't defend himself. He knew he needed to die for our sins.

Prayer: Jesus, help me to accept what God wants me to do each day.

Station 2

Jesus accepts the cross.

At the second station, Jesus takes up the cross to carry it to the place where he will be crucified. How heavy do you think the cross felt to Jesus?

Prayer: Jesus, give me strength to do the things that I don't like to do.

Station 3

Jesus falls the first time.

Jesus carried a heavy cross made of wood. He fell beneath its weight 3 times. Even though He was in a lot of pain and probably wanted to give up, He didn't.

Prayer: Jesus, please help me to keep trying to do my best for you.

Station 4

Jesus meets his mother.

Jesus knew that his mother was sad to see him hurting so much. But he was so happy she came to him. Mary loved Jesus very much.

Prayer: Jesus, help me be grateful for those who love me and take good care of me.

Station 5

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus.

Simon was ordered by the soldiers to help Jesus carry the cross, because Jesus was having such a hard time.

Prayer: Jesus, make me ready and willing to help my friends and neighbors when they are in need.

Station 6

Veronica wipes Jesus' face.

Veronica loved Jesus very much. When she stepped out to wipe his face, she risked getting in big trouble from the soldiers. Her love and kindness overcame her fear.

Prayer: Jesus, help me to be thoughtful in all that I do in your name.

Station 7

Jesus falls a second time.

Jesus fell again because he was so weak and tired from all his wounds. He still didn't give up. He got back up and continued on.

Prayer: Jesus, give me the strength to please you even when others are not doing what is right.

Station 8

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

A lot of people were against Jesus, but a lot of people followed him. They were his faithful friends.

Prayer: Jesus, help me to pay attention to the needs of others.

Station 9

Jesus falls a third time.

It's unbelievable that Jesus fell again and the soldiers didn't help him. They only yelled louder for him to get up and continue on. Jesus didn't get mad at them; he forgave them.

Prayer: Jesus, even when I make mistakes, give me the strength to try again and again.

Station 10

Jesus is stripped of his clothes.

The soldiers tried to embarrass Jesus. He was not concerned what others thought of him.

Prayer: Jesus, help me to not be afraid of what others think or say about me. Make me strong when others are weak.

Station 11

Jesus is crucified.

The soldiers drove nails through Jesus' hands and feet. They lifted up the cross and put it in place. Jesus was in a lot of pain.

Prayer: Jesus, help me to still know you love me, even when things don't go my way or are hard to put up with or hurt.

Station 12

Jesus dies on the cross.

When Jesus died, the sky got dark and the ground started to shake. This made some people very scared. They saw that Jesus was innocent and that they had made a big mistake.

Prayer: Jesus, help me to admit when I make mistakes. Help me to say I'm sorry. Thank you for always forgiving me. I love you, and I want to do the right thing.

Station 13

Jesus' body is taken down from the cross.

Joseph of Arimathea was brave enough to ask for Jesus' body. He gives us an example of what it means to be a brave Christian.

Prayer: Jesus, teach us to care for everyone around us, even when it is hard.

Station 14

Jesus is laid in the tomb.

Even when things look very difficult and sad, there is always hope that God can bring new life.

Prayer: Jesus, help us to learn how to share with other boys and girls.

Have each member of your family answer the following question:

What can we learn from Jesus after praying the Stations of the Cross?

End in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen!