



Our Saviour's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Interactive Stations of the Cross Devotional Guide

Stations 1 & 2

Sorrow & Betrayal

Read Matthew 26:36-41 - Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Additional Readings - Mark 14:43 - 46 (Betrayal)

Children's Readings - *Lord's Prayer* by Anne Wilson / *There's No Wrong Way to Pray* by Rebecca Ninke

Questions with Kids - Was there a time you cried because you were very sad about something?

Who can you ask for comfort when you feel sad?

Adults - When have you faced a crisis and needed to turn to others for support or prayer?

How did it make you feel to have to rely on them?

Activity - Jesus went with his disciples to the garden to pray, take a moment and write a prayer to God on one of the available leaves, and tape it to the tree.

Stations 3 & 4

Condemnation & Denial

Read Matthew 26: 69 - 75 - Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.” When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.” After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.” Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

Additional Readings - Luke 22:66 - 71 (Condemnation)

Children’s Readings - *I am with you Always* by Marie Sundet / *Runaway Bunny* by Margaret Wise Brown

Activity - Take a rock as you ponder these questions and leave it in the font as you depart as a symbol of the ways we have denied Jesus.

Questions with Kids - Have you ever told someone you weren’t a Christian because you were embarrassed?

Do you think there is anything you could do to make Jesus stop loving you?

Adults - Has there ever been a time you have denied your faith, or your belief in Jesus, in order to fit in? Was it worth it?

Have you ever experienced God’s forgiveness after thinking you had done something unforgivable?

Stations 5 & 6

Judgement & Crowning

Read Mark 15:1 - 5 - As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Additional Readings - John 19: 1 - 3 (Crowning)

Children's Readings - *Fly Away Home* by Eve Bunting / *Who is My Neighbor* by Amy-Jill Levine & Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

Questions with Kids - Have you ever thought less of someone because they didn't have nice clothes or a beautiful house? How do you think it would feel to be in that situation?

Adults - How might you focus more on loving others rather than judging them?

What concrete actions could you take to love someone whom

Activity - Take 2 sticks and fasten them together with yarn. Use the provided markers to write ways that you judge yourself or you judge others directly onto the cross.

Stations 7 & 8

Helping & Bearing

Activity - Use the yarn provided to make a God's Eye or cover the cross in yarn. (To make a God's Eye wrap the yarn around each stick in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction, just be consistent)

Take time to do this while reading the text and pondering the questions below.

Read John 19:6, 15-17 When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

Mark 15:21 - They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

Children's Readings - *I Can Help* by Frolic / *Understanding Care* by Cheri J Meiners

Questions with Kids - When have you been asked to do something for someone else that you thought was really difficult? What gave you the strength to do it?

Adults - What does this text make you think about? How does Jesus' decision to carry the cross inspire you to engage in acts of selfless love for others?

Stations 9 & 10

Blessing & Crucifixion

Read Luke 23:32-34 Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

Additional Reading: Luke 23:27-31 (Blessing)

Children's Readings - *Tell Me the Story of Jesus* (pg. 96-99) / *Maybe God is Like That* by Jennifer Grant

Activity - Lay the cross you've been carrying at the foot of the larger cross.

If you would like, take a couple swings at a nail on the cross.

Questions for Everyone to ponder - What does it mean &/or feel like to lay our burdens at the foot of the cross?

How did it feel to drive a nail into the cross?

What do you think of when you see a cross? Is it different if there is a symbol of Jesus on the cross?

Stations 11 & 12

Promise & Care

Read Luke 23: 39 - 43 - One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Additional Readings - John 19:25-27 (Care)

Children's Readings - *When God Made Light* by Matthew Paul Turner / *God's Dream* by Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Questions with Kids - What do you imagine the love of God to look like? Smell like? Taste like? Feel like? Sound like?

Adults - Jesus promised the criminal that today he would be with him in paradise. What does the Kingdom of Heaven look like to you? Is it present here and now?

Activity - Listen and reflect, or sing along with the song "Jesus, Remember Me" the lyrics are found below

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom. Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Stations 13 & 14

Darkness & Burial

Read Luke 23: 44 - 46 - One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Additional Readings - Matthew 27:57-60

Children's Readings - *Stay Through the Storm* by Joanna Rowland / *God Finds Us* by Frolic / *Where is God* by Etan Boritzer

Questions with Kids - Can you think of a time you might have been afraid of the dark?

What did you do to help overcome that fear?

Adults - Where are some places in the world where you see people "sitting in the shadow of death"?

Does literal or figurative darkness make you uncomfortable?

How can we dwell in the reality of Christ's death, before celebrating the resurrection?

Activity - Write your prayers for our community and the world as we dwell in the darkness of Christ's death on the paper bag.

After you've finished, place the candle (the light of Christ) into the bag and seal it, trusting in the promise of the resurrection.