

Stations of the Cross for Children

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, your Son, Jesus, showed his great love for us by making the long, slow journey to his death. Because of his suffering and death, we have been freed from our sins. Because of his suffering and death, we are promised a place with you in heaven. We unite ourselves to him now by following in his footsteps along the Way of the Cross. In doing this, may we learn to follow his way of love in all that we do. We ask this, Father, in the name of your Son, Jesus, who lived and died for us.

Amen.

The First Station: Jesus is condemned to die.

Jesus' trial is over. Pilate can find nothing bad in his actions. He asks the people, "Shall I crucify your king?" They reply, "We have no king but Caesar." In the end, Pilate hands Jesus over to be crucified.

"It isn't fair! We want to cry when Jesus is condemned to die. Jesus, make us strong like you when blamed for things we did not do.

The Second Station: Jesus takes up his Cross.

Just see what a heavy Cross Jesus is asked to carry. Think about the long way he has to go to reach the hill to Calvary. Oh how great is Jesus love to suffer so much just for us.

Worries, sicknesses, problems, cares are crosses we are asked to bear. Jesus help us everyday for by your cross you lead the way.

The Third Station: Jesus falls for the first time

Jesus has been badly beaten, and he is very weak. He falls to his knees under the weight of the Cross.

It makes us sad to have to see the Son of God down on his knees. Lord, help us to begin a new each time we fail to follow you.

The Fourth Station: Jesus meets his Mother

Can you imagine how sad Mary feels watching her beloved Son being treated so cruelly? Her heart is broken by his suffering just as your own mother's heart aches for you when you are sick or unhappy.

Dear Mary, it must make you cry to know your only child must die. We're sorry for all the times we are bad because it makes our parent's sad.

The Fifth Station: Simon helps Jesus carry his Cross.

The Soldiers force Simon of Cyrene to help Jesus carry his Cross. What would you do if you were Simon? Would you accept the cross of Jesus? Would you be strong enough to carry it?

If we were standing on that road we would have helped you with your load. We'll help you now by helping others: parents, classmates, sisters and brothers.

The Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

The face of our Lord is covered with sweat and dirt and blood. The holy woman Veronica uses her veil to wipe away the signs of suffering so the people can see his face again.

No one can ever wipe away the sadness of that awful day. But the world will be a better place if we greet our friends with a happy face.

The Seventh Station: Jesus falls for the second time.

Now the tiredness and the pain from his wounds are unbearable for Jesus. Think about how terrible he must have felt as he fell for the second time.

How heavy your cross, how long your way, when you fell the second time that day. When we are tired with too much to do we'll keep on trying, just like you.

The Eighth Station: Jesus meets the crying women.

By now the sight of Jesus is so sad that just looking at him makes the women burst into tears. Jesus tells them not to cry for him. Jesus tells them It is the sins of all God's children that Jesus carries along this Journey.

The women cried for you that day as you passed them on your way. Faithful to you we will remain by caring for others in their pain.

The Ninth Station: Jesus falls for the third time.

Again Jesus falls. His journey is almost over. He is so tired, he can hardly get up. What a great love this man has for all of us.

Just before the journey's end, Son of God, you fall again. Dear Jesus, help us when we pray for perseverance every day.

The Tenth Station: The soldiers take Jesus' clothes

Now roughly and without care, the soldiers strip the clothes from Jesus' back, but they can not take away his glory or his love. Jesus knows his Father will provide him with the strength he needs.

We hear your words from another day on another hill so far away: "Why do you worry about what to wear? My Father will keep you in his care."

The Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross

There is Jesus, lying on his Cross as the soldiers hammer in the nails. The cross is lifted and up in place, and we see our Lord's arms outstretched to embrace us in his love.

Hands and feet and heart and head, slashed by thorn and sword and nail. Now our hands and hearts instead must serve others without fail.

The Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

After three hours of suffering, Jesus dies on the cross. Picture that moment in your mind. The world becomes dark, the earth trembles, and someone cries out, "Clearly, this was the Son of God!"

Lord, you have given your life for us; in you alone we place our trust. Jesus, we have so little to give, but only for you will we now live.

The Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the Cross.

Mary waits below the cross to take her Son into her arms. She holds him close, just as she held him in the cold, dark stable of Bethlehem. What sorrow she must be feeling at this moment.

It is the last time for Mary to hold her Son, his life is gone now, his work is done. Dear Mother, make us as brave as you, when we must face sorrow and sadness too.

The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is buried in the Tomb

Now the friends of Jesus lay his body in the tomb. They are sad, remembering the teachings and good works of their Lord. "How will we manage without him?" they wonder. It is a sad time for all God's people.

What looks like the end is just the beginning, by dying for us, new life you are winning. Thank you, Jesus, for all you have done. Thank you, Father for giving your Son.

Let us Pray:

Heavenly Father, soon we will celebrate the joy that Jesus won for us by his suffering and death. Let us not leave this journey in tears but in rejoicing and thanksgiving. Let us not leave Jesus in the darkness of the tomb but remember the wonder that follows. May our lives reflect the same unselfish love that Jesus showed for us. We thank you for the terrible lesson of this journey and especially for giving us your only Son. May he live in our hearts and our lives forever.

Amen.