

Stations of the Cross

4 Kids

9 Jesus is nailed to the cross

The soldiers nail Jesus to the cross. His hands and feet hurt where the nails go right through, his back hurts where the whip has cut his skin and his head hurts where the thorns press against his skull. Jesus prays to his father in heaven: "Father, forgive them."

Jesus, you forgive me even when I don't deserve it. Help me to forgive too.

All: Jesus has given his life for us.
(extinguish one candle)



10 Mary is sorrowful

Mary stays with Jesus throughout his torture and crucifixion. Her heart is breaking with sorrow to see her son suffer.

Jesus, may we be more like Mary, joining others in their suffering.

All: Jesus has given his life for us.
(extinguish a candle)

11 Jesus dies

After three hours on the cross, Jesus dies. He calls out "My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?" When a soldier pierces his side, blood and water come out showing that he is dead.

Jesus, when I feel all alone, you are here with me.

All: Jesus has given his life for us.
(extinguish one candle)

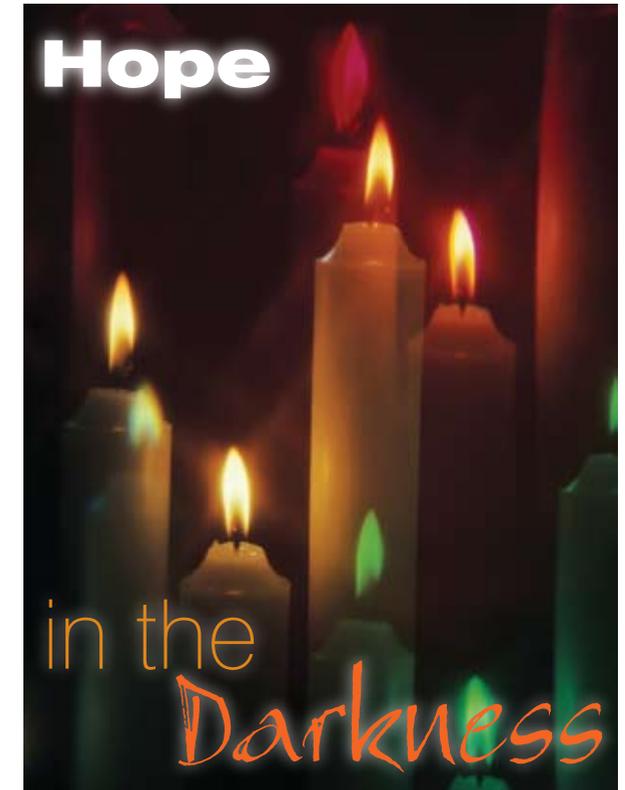
12 Jesus is laid in the tomb

Jesus' body is taken down from the cross. His body is washed and wrapped in a clean sheet. Then he is buried in a tomb. A large stone blocks the opening of the tomb and a soldier is told to stand guard.

Jesus, you rest in the darkness of the tomb waiting to rise to life. Give me patience to wait with you.

All: Jesus has given his life for us.
(extinguish last candle)

Pause for a few moments in the darkness.
Then say the Hail Mary, or sing an appropriate Taize song.



Children love candles. Use this simple prayer format to engage the family in the Passion of Jesus. Beginning with 12 lit candles, read each station and extinguish a candle until all is dark.

1 Jesus eats the Passover with his disciples

The disciples gather with Jesus in the upper room to celebrate the Passover. Jesus says, "One of you will betray me." The disciples do not know what he means and ask him, "Is it I Lord?" When Judas asks the question, Jesus replies, "Do quickly what you must do" and Judas leaves.

Jesus, you know each of us better than we know ourselves. Even with all our faults, you love us enough to die for us.

All: Jesus has given his life for us.
(extinguish first candle)



2 Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Jesus and his disciples go to Gethsemane to pray. Jesus says to them, "Stay awake and pray that you shall not be put to the test," and he goes alone to pray. He is deeply troubled and while he prays, droplets of blood sweat from his skin. He prays, "Father, let this cup pass me by, but let your will, not mine be done." When he returns to the disciples, they have fallen asleep.

Jesus, even in the face of torture and death, you did your Father's will. Help us to surrender to the Father's love also.

All: Jesus has given his life for us.
(extinguish one candle)

3 Jesus is Arrested

Judas arrives with soldiers to arrest Jesus. Judas kisses him and Jesus says, "Judas, you would betray me with a kiss." The soldiers take hold of Jesus and take him away. The disciples flee in terror.

Jesus, you were betrayed by someone who you loved and then abandoned by those who swore to follow you. Forgive us for the times we have turned away from you.

All: Jesus has given his life for us.
(extinguish one candle)

4 Jesus is condemned to death

Jesus is brought before the authorities. They accuse him of things he hasn't done. He is then taken to Pontius Pilate who tells Jesus he will be crucified even though he is innocent. Jesus is given over to be whipped.

Jesus, you died even though you had done nothing wrong, because you loved us.

All: Jesus has given his life for us.
(extinguish one candle)

5 Jesus is crowned with thorns

The soldiers taunt Jesus and tease him. They blindfold him and hit him, saying "Who hit you then? If you are God, tell us." They put a crown of thorns on his head and mock him: "This is the King of the Jews."

Jesus, you were ridiculed and rejected. When we tease or bully other people, help us to remember you and what you suffered for us.

All: Jesus has given his life for us.
(extinguish one candle)

6 Jesus takes up his cross

The soldiers give Jesus a wooden cross to carry through the streets to Golgotha. The cross is heavy and Jesus falls under its weight. The soldiers hit him and taunt him when he staggers and do not allow him to rest.

Jesus, when I have burdens and worries, you are carrying me, helping me.

All: Jesus has given his life for us.
(extinguish one candle)



7 Jesus meets Veronica

People come to watch Jesus. Some insult him and taunt him. His mother Mary and the Holy Women cry for him. A woman named Veronica wipes Jesus' face, and his image is left on the cloth.

Jesus, help me to see your face in other people and to always be kind to them, as Veronica was kind to you.

All: Jesus has given his life for us.
(extinguish one candle)

8 Jesus is stripped

Jesus, the soldiers and the people come to Golgotha. The soldiers strip Jesus of his clothes. He is to die naked and humiliated.

Jesus, before you I stand naked. You know me and love me.

All: Jesus has given his life for us.
(extinguish a candle)