

Stations of the Cross Family Time

In 1992, Pope John II created New Stations of the Cross. Take time to really think about Jesus' death with this activity that explains these Stations of the Cross and what happened on Good Friday.

Gather a Bible and the following materials:

Gavel or hammer	Cross	Jar of olives	Paper heart
Weight	Washcloth	Candy kiss	Nails
Black paper or a blanket	Rope	Feather	Blindfold
Empty plastic egg or box	Gold or yellow paper crown	White napkin or cloth	

Take each item, look up and read the Bible verse, and chat about what happened.

1. Jesus prays in the Garden of Olives *Matthew 25:36-41*

Chat about how the disciples fell asleep and did not pray with Jesus. Chat about how Jesus went to a fruitful garden where olives grew and prayed. What did he ask God the Father? Why was Jesus willing to die? (Read John 3:16)

2. Judas betrayed Jesus. *Mark 14: 43-46*

Look at the sweet candy kiss. Why was the kiss from Judas not sweet? Chat about times someone seemed kind but hurt you.

3. Jesus is condemned to death by the Sanhedrin *Luke 22: 66-71*

Tie someone's hands and blindfold them. This is how Jesus stood before the Jewish leaders. Chat about how when we don't ask for help from God we tie his hands.

4. Peter denied Jesus three times. *Matthew 26: 69-75*

Look at the feather. God used the sound of a rooster to remind Peter he denied knowing him. Are you ever afraid to tell people about Jesus and how much he loves us? Who can you plan to tell this week?

5. Pilate condemns Jesus to die. Mark 15:1-5, 15

Strike the gavel. Talk about how a judge uses the gavel when he passes a sentence.

6. Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns, *John 19: 1-3*

This means soldiers whipped Jesus. Touch the prickly thorn and chat about how it caused Jesus to bleed.

7. Soldiers forced Jesus to carry the cross. *John 19: 6, 15-17*

Talk about how heavy that must have been. Try lifting a heavy piece of furniture and imagine carrying it a long way. Jesus carried the cross at least one-third of a mile and that's 1720 feet.

8. Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene, *Mark 15: 21*

Pass the weight around. Is it heavy? Is it easier to carry something heavy with help? Try helping someone lift the same piece of furniture you tried to lift earlier.

9. Jesus encounters the women of Jerusalem, *Luke 23: 27-31*

The women cried. Look at the washcloth and think about times you cried and had to wash tears from your face. Jesus told them not to cry for him. He knew he would rise. Who did he tell them to cry for and why?

10. Jesus is crucified *Luke 23: 33-34*

Look at the nails. Talk about how they had to be hammered into Jesus hands or wrists and into the wood.

11. Jesus promises to share his reign with the good thief, *Luke 23: 39-43*

Place the crown on someone's head and talk about heaven and how Jesus wants to forgive people and rejoice in heaven with them.

12. Jesus is on the cross, with his mother and disciples nearby, *John 19: 25-27*

Look at the paper heart. Write on it names of people who stayed by Jesus as he died. Think of people who stick with you in hard times.

13. Jesus dies on the cross, *Luke 23: 44-46*

Pass around the black paper or use a big blanket to cover everyone in darkness. When Jesus died, the earth shook and the sky darkened like night. Talk about how God the Father must have felt at this time. If someone you loved died talk about that.

14. Jesus is placed in the tomb, *Matthew 27: 57-60*

Look at the napkin or white cloth. Soldiers had pulled off Jesus' clothes. Now his friends washed him, rubbed spices on him, and wrapped him in a white, linen cloth. They laid his body in the tomb. Talk about how people are buried and our hope to see them again, in heaven.

End by showing the empty container and talking about the surprise when the women found the tomb empty. Read Luke 24:1-6. Remember to tell others that Jesus Christ is risen!