

TWELFTH STATION:

Jesus Dies on the Cross

As Jesus hung on the cross, the hours creep by. It becomes harder for him to breathe. The crowd makes fun of him. Jesus cries out, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. Father, into your hands, I commend my spirit." After he said this, he died because he loves us.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to forgive those who hurt me.

THIRTEENTH STATION:

Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

The world went dark. Thunder rolled; the earth shook. The world had changed. A man named Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus down from the cross. Mary cradles her son's body, because she loves him.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to face life, even when it involves death.

FOURTEENTH STATION:

Jesus is Put into the Tomb

Joseph wraps Jesus' body in burial clothes. He then places it in a tomb in which no one else had been buried. A stone is rolled across the opening. Night falls with a heavy silence.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to follow you.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Jesus, we thank you for what you went through for us. In the Bible, you told us that "there is no greater love than to lay down your life for your friends."

Help us to follow your example and be more concerned about others, performing more acts of love. We ask this in your name. Amen.

ACTS OF LOVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

INSTRUCTIONS *Before every station say this prayer:*

"We adore you O Christ and we praise you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world."

FIRST STATION:

Jesus is Condemned to Death

Jesus is arrested and taken to the judge Pontius Pilate. Jesus knows that he will suffer. He could lie about himself and escape. When asked if he is the Son of God, Jesus says "I am" because he loves us.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to tell the truth, even when I might suffer for it.

SECOND STATION:

Jesus Receives the Cross

The soldiers led Jesus away, put a crown of thorns on his head, beat him up, and made fun of him. A large heavy cross is laid on shoulders even though his body hurt. He bore the cross because he loves us.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to do the things I don't want to do, especially when they are hard.

THIRD STATION:

Jesus Falls the First Time

The streets of Jerusalem are narrow and winding. Carrying the heavy cross alone, Jesus stumbles and falls. Already hurt, the pain was bad. But because he loves us he rose to his feet and continued.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to keep going even when I want to quit.

FOURTH STATION:
Jesus Meets His Mother

Mary was following Jesus. While slowly trudging up the path, Jesus met his mother. Mary's heart broke as she watched her only child suffering. All she could do was be near him because she loved him.

Prayer

Jesus, help us to honor our parents.

FIFTH STATION:
Simon of Cyrene Carries the Cross

The walk is long; Jesus wears out. The guards pull a man named Simon out of the crowd and put the cross on his shoulders. Not because they love Jesus but because they have a job to do.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to be there for my friends especially in bad times.

SIXTH STATION:
Veronica Wipes Jesus' Face

As Jesus continued, a woman named Veronica courageously stepped out of the crowd and wiped Jesus' blood soaked face. Jesus gazes gratefully at her before moving again. Veronica holds the precious veil, now imprinted with the image of His face, close to herself because she loves him.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to do what is right, even in the face of risk or ridicule.

SEVENTH STATION:
Jesus Falls the Second Time

The way becomes more difficult, the road more rough and steep. Jesus falls a second time. Despite the exhaustion and pain, Jesus forces himself to his feet, because he loves us.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to move forward, even when things are at their hardest.

EIGHTH STATION:
Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Jesus comes upon a group of women. They weep and cry out in mourning. Jesus does the only thing possible: he reaches out and offers what little comfort he can, because he loves them.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to be there for others, even when I myself am hurting or alone.

NINTH STATION:
Jesus Falls the Third Time

Jesus stumbles forward, but cannot bear the cross for much longer before he falls again. This time, a soldier cruelly hauls him to his feet. Jesus forces himself to stay upright, because he loves us.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to have the perseverance you did.

TENTH STATION:
Jesus is Stripped of his Clothes

After finally reaching the place of crucifixion, Jesus cannot resist anything; the soldiers ripped off his clothing. Jesus stood there stripped, humiliated, waiting to be nailed to the cross, because he loves us.

Prayer

Jesus, help me remember that there are more important things than stuff, like forgiveness and love.

ELEVENTH STATION:
Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Jesus lies down upon the cross. Above it was a sign with letters that mean "This is Jesus the Nazorean, King of the Jews". The nails are driven through his hands and feet because he loves us.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to try to love as much as you love.