

Stations of the Cross

For Kids

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Illustrated by Chris Lewis



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Cover design by Chris Lewis

Illustrations by Chris Lewis

ISBN: 978-1-5051-1857-5

Kindle ISBN: 978-1-5051-1858-2

ePub ISBN: 978-1-5051-1859-9

Published in the United States by

TAN Books

PO Box 269

Gastonia, NC 28053

www.TANBooks.com

Printed in the United States of America

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*"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and
take up his cross daily and follow me."
Luke 9:23*

Let us follow our dear Lord Jesus as he travels the Way of the Cross. He is asking us to follow him.

Are you afraid?

Jesus himself was afraid to walk this painful journey, but out of love for us, he did so. So for love of him, we will follow.

How do we pick up our cross and follow him? By putting up with the suffering, little or big, in our own lives: not being able to do what we want, people not understanding us, sickness, hardship, pain, or even boredom. When we do this patiently and cheerfully, we are following him. And we can remember his way of the Cross, which was so hard and so painful.

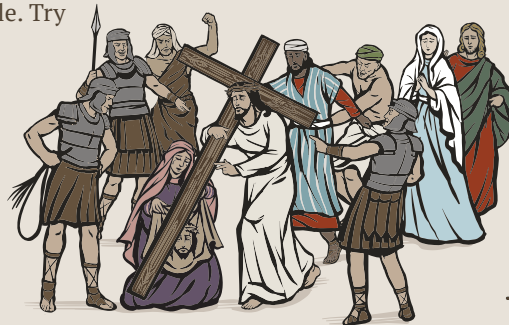
As he walked to suffer and die for us, so many people were unaware of what he was doing. Or perhaps they knew but decided not to watch. All these went on their way, playing, stealing, working, complaining, ignoring. Only a few people were brave enough to go with him: his mother Mary, his apostle John, and Mary Magdalene, and some others we will meet.

Let us go with them now, and with Jesus. It is the little we can do to show our love for him.



Within each station, you will find the following:

Each station has a street scene with many people. Try to follow Christ and his Mother on their way to Golgotha. Notice what the other people are doing. Who is helping Jesus? Who is hurting him? Who is not paying attention? What sorts of things are they doing? How are the things they are doing related to what is happening to Jesus? See the boy and girl in the top corner stealing apples from their neighbor's tree. How is their story part of Jesus's story?



Opening Responsorial

This prayer, probably created by St. Francis of Assisi, is prayed after each station is announced. It is also a good prayer to pray whenever you pass a Catholic church where the Eucharist is housed.

Priest (or leader): We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

Response: Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Prayer of Love to Jesus

This prayer was composed by St. Alphonsus Liguori for his well-loved Stations of the Cross and can be prayed after each meditation.

I love you, O Jesus my love, with all my heart.

I repent for ever having offended you.

Never let me offend you again.

Grant only that I may love you always,
and then do with me as you will.

Look for the Flowers

These little flowers remind you to pray an
Our Father, Hail Mary, and Gloria after each Station.



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name! Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace! The Lord is with thee! Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Stabat Mater

This thirteenth-century Latin hymn to Our Lady describes how the mother of Jesus stood beside the cross (Jn 19:26) and suffered with her Son. The first of its twenty verses is traditionally sung after the opening prayer and then the next verses while walking from one station to the next, with the final verses sung at the end of the journey. You will find the verses in English and Latin at the top and bottom of the left-hand pages.

**At the cross, her station keeping,
stood the mournful Mother weeping,
close to Jesus to the last.**

Stabat Mater dolorosa iuxta crucem lacrimosa dum pendebat Filius.

Learning More

On each station, this sidebar will have more details about aspects of Christ's passion.

Where did the Stations of the Cross come from?

In Jerusalem, pilgrims still walk the route that Jesus is said to have walked, stopping at houses and chapels along the way to think about the suffering Christ endured for us. Those of us who cannot travel to Jerusalem often do the Stations of the Cross in our parish church, or even in our own homes. Walking, standing, and kneeling are important positions when praying the Stations, reminding us of Jesus's slow and painful journey up the hill to die on the Cross. Use your imagination as you think of what Jesus saw and what he suffered on the way to Calvary.



The First Station

Jesus is condemned to death



We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

*"Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas;
and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified."*

Mark 15:15

Pilate, the governor of Judea, was afraid. He did not want Jesus to die, and he could have saved him. Pilate knew that Jesus had done nothing wrong. But he was too afraid of what might happen if he set this prisoner free: riots, threats, and the loss of his job, or worse, his life. So he washed his hands to show he would stand aside as an innocent man died.

Lord, give me the courage never to betray you! Give me the strength to follow you always!

I love you, O Jesus my love, with all my heart.

I repent for ever having offended you.

Never let me offend you again.

Grant only that I may love you always,
and then do with me as you will.



**Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,
all his bitter anguish bearing,
now at length the sword had passed.**

Cuius animam gementem contristatam et dolentem pertransivit gladius.

Gabbatha: The Stone Pavement

"When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha" (In 19:13). Where was Gabbatha, the place where Pilate condemned Jesus? For many years, it was thought that Pontius Pilate, must have questioned Jesus at the Antonian fortress. This was a tower close to the Temple, which was built by Herod the Great in honor of his patron, Marc Antony. But early historians wrote that the governor stayed in Herod's palace on the western hill whenever he was in Jerusalem and used the pavement outside for judging criminals. Recent archeology has uncovered a pavement outside of Herod's palace which fits their description of the praetorium used by Pilate.

