



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

INTRODUCTION

The Stations of the Cross is a journey with Jesus from his trial to his crucifixion. Each “station” represents one of the events that happened during those twelve hours that changed the world. We are going to take this journey by using scripture, reflection and prayer.

The Stations of the Cross dates back to the 2nd century and has endured because people have found it to be a powerful way to connect with Jesus and experience His love. Traditionally, there are fourteen stations, but for this devotional journey some of the stations have been combined to reduce the number to eight. We will be sending out one station each day for the eight days leading up to Easter.

It is our prayer that through these devotional stations you will gain a deeper appreciation for and truly experience God's incredible love for you shown on the cross.

PREPARATION and INSTRUCTIONS

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PREPARATION and INSTRUCTIONS

This will be a time of meditation, reflection and prayer. Try to find a quiet place and time for doing each day's devotional.

Each devotional may take you 5 minutes or 45 minutes. Don't put a time limit on it. This is your opportunity to spend time with God, speaking to him and allowing him to speak into your life. Make the most of this opportunity.

You will need a notebook or journal for writing. Some stations will suggest optional additional items that can be useful in helping you experience and reflect on what is happening in that step of the

As you begin offer a prayer like this one:

Dear Lord Jesus Christ,

I dedicate this time to you. I pray that you will meet me during this time. Open my spirit to hearing from you. My desire is to receive all that you have for me as I follow you to the cross. Amen.





STATION ONE

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

Traditional Prayer

“I praise you Lord Jesus Christ because in your suffering and death you have redeemed the world.” Lord, speak to me through this step in your journey. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 27:12-26

When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge--to the great amazement of the governor.

Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"

...But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.

Barabbas," they answered.

"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "Crucify him!"

"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

REFLECTION: Reflect on the people in this scene.

Pilate:

He's perplexed, not understanding who and what Jesus is all about. He's uncertain as to what the right thing to do is. He washes his hands of the whole affair. Can you relate to Pilate? His confusion? His uncertainty? Have you wanted to wash your hands of your own shame and guilt or take a pass on making a decision about Jesus?

The crowd:

There's anger in their voices. "Crucify him!" Jesus threatens their carefully constructed life. How do you feel about this? Would you yell "Crucify him?"

They ask for Barabbas to be released. When faced with a choice of following the path of Jesus or choosing a different path, do you choose Barabbas?

Jesus:

When you, some day, stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ you need not face an angry, condemning scene like this because Jesus has done it for you. Jesus is taking this journey for you because of your choices and your sins.

PRAYER:

In prayer, express to Jesus the thoughts and feelings that have come to your mind. Then, write down your thoughts in a journal.