

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

For Families at Home



April 2, 2021

Good Friday is the day we remember the death of Jesus on the cross. But since that seems to be such a terrible event why do we call this Friday 'good'? The most accepted reason is that many centuries ago 'good' meant 'holy'. This is very much a holy day. And also a good day. Because without Good Friday we could not experience the pure joy of Easter Sunday.

It is a tradition on Good Friday to walk with Jesus through the various encounters he had on his way to the cross.

Since we are unable to gather together in person this year to walk around the church to the various 'stations', we have crafted this at-home liturgy to serve as a reminder that we can walk with Jesus wherever we are. It is suggested that you set up 'stations' throughout your home in order to preserve the idea of movement.

The liturgy assumes that 2 or more persons are present, but if you are alone simply adapt it to reflect that reality.

What You Will Need

- Crayons, pencil crayons, to colour in the pictures
- Something with which to make a cross - popsicle sticks and glue, pipe cleaner, playdough, toothpicks, a palm branch . . .
- Band-Aids
- Salt water
- Tea lights/candles, matches/lighter
- Olive oil/scented oil
- Something to represent Jesus; a picture, icon, small figure
- Spices
- White serviette
- A tomb; a place where you will put the representation of Jesus. It could be a box, a drawer, or you might want to make your own tomb; something simple, or something like [this](#).

Additional Materials

- Seeds, flowerpot with soil or gardenbed, trowel, and water

OPENING RESPONSES

Family member 1: We have come together to remember Jesus.

All: **We have come together to remember Jesus.**

Family member 2: Two thousand years ago God sent Jesus into the world. The world was as sad and troubled as it is today and God wanted to love it better. Jesus is the sign of God's love.

All: **Jesus is the sign of God's love.**

Family member 1: Jesus was kind and loving. He cured people who were sick. He forgave people who had done bad things. Jesus is the sign of God's forgiveness.

All: **Jesus is the sign of God's forgiveness.**

Family member 2: But some people were afraid of Jesus. His love was too strong. He did not take any notice of how rich or powerful people were. He was on the side of people who were weak and hurt. He stood up to those who were cruel. Jesus is the sign of God's power.

All: **Jesus is the sign of God's power.**

Family member 1: The powerful people thought that if they killed Jesus, they could have things their own way. They chose a horrible way for him to die—so that everyone would be ashamed of him. And some of his best friends did run away. But Jesus was strong and loving even when he was suffering. Jesus is the sign of God's strength and love.

All: **Jesus is the sign of God's strength and love.**

Family member 2: Some people, who had learned about God's love and strength through Jesus did not run away. Even with the soldiers and crowds all around them, they did not give in to their fear. They loved Jesus and wanted to do all they could to help him—even if it did

not seem to be very much. They were a sign of God's love for Jesus.

All: They were a sign of God's love for Jesus.

PEOPLE WHO HELPED JESUS

Family Member 1: After Jesus died, all his friends wondered what it had all been about. They were very sad. Remembering that Jesus died can make us sad too. But we remember that God's love is stronger than death.

Family member 2: There were people who helped Jesus on that first Good Friday. We're going to remember them today, and learn how we can be like them. We can also learn from these things that Jesus said:

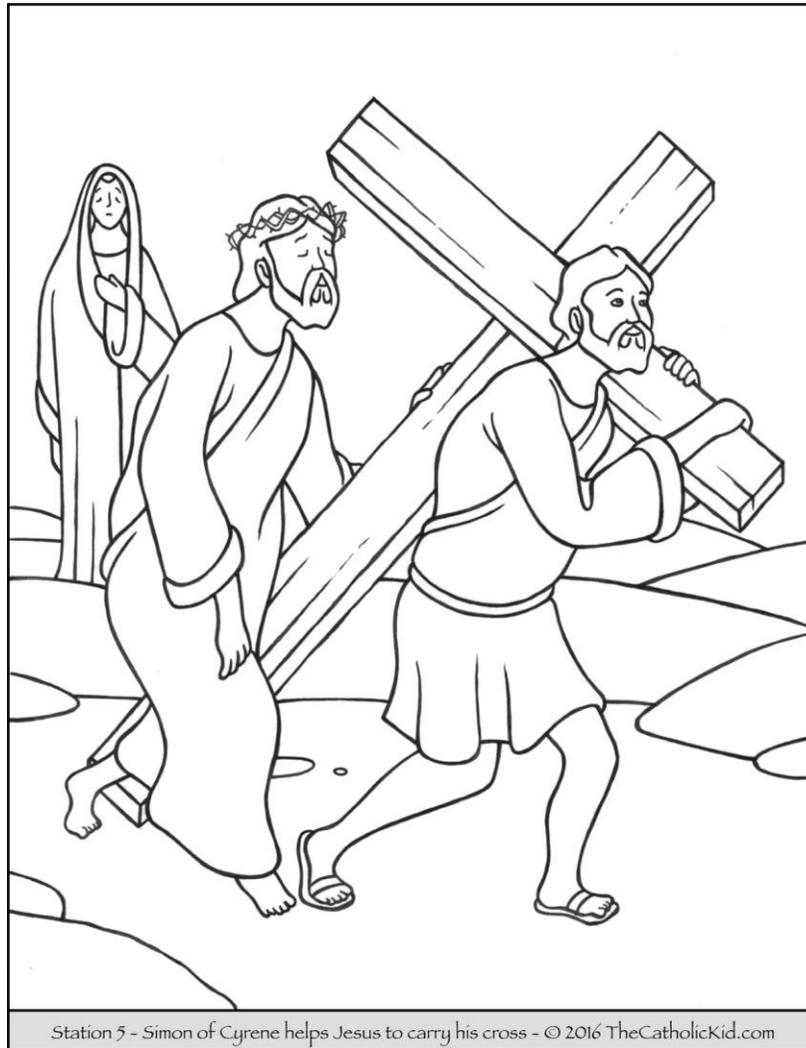
"You are not my servants - you are my friends and I have chosen you to carry on my work of loving the world better."

"Love one another as I have loved you."

"If you do this, everyone will know that you are my friends. They will know that I am alive in you and you are alive in me."

We travel to the stations around our home. At each station we hear a story, and do an activity.

STATION 1: SIMON OF CYRENE



All: **We want to be a friend like Simon.**

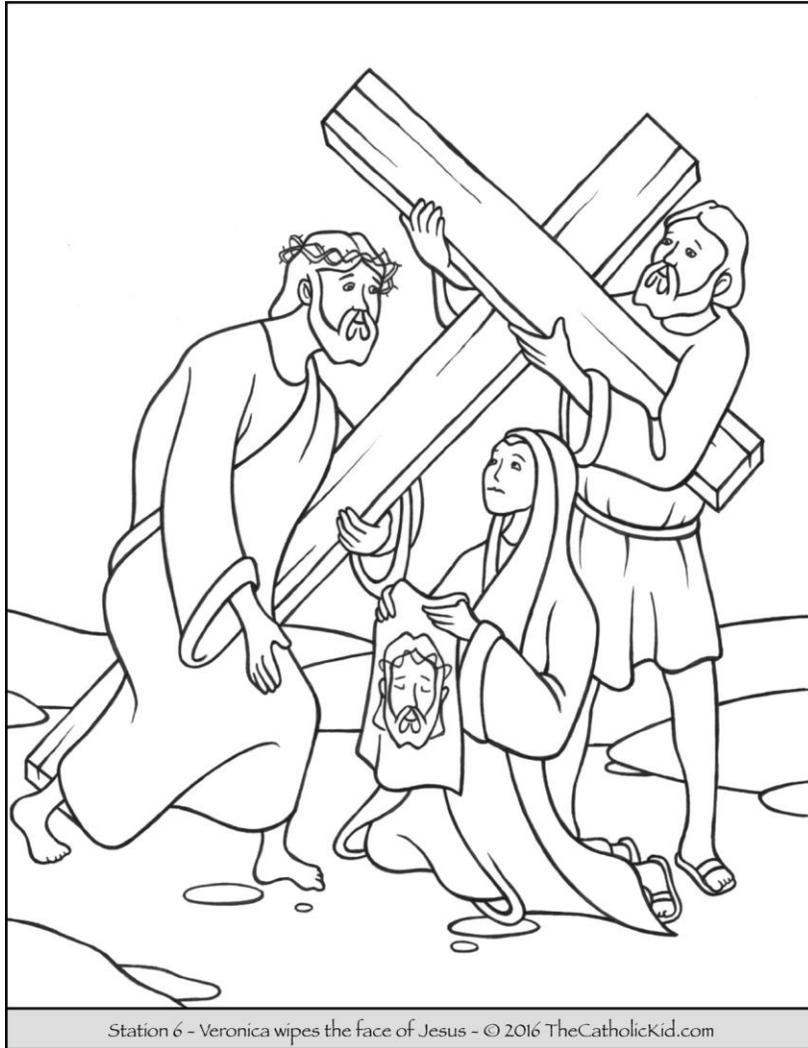
A family member tells the story of Simon.

Simon of Cyrene: The cross is very heavy. Jesus couldn't carry it all alone. A man named Simon from Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross. At first he doesn't want to. He doesn't volunteer - he's pushed from the crowd. Jesus is humble enough to accept help from Simon and Simon is humble enough to help him.

All: **When we see someone struggling with something that is too big or too heavy - we will help them to carry it - like Simon helping Jesus.**

Activity | Make a cross.

STATION 2: VERONICA



All: We want to be a friend like Veronica.

A family member tells the story of Veronica.

Veronica: A woman named Veronica sees Jesus and thinks he must be a criminal because he is going to be crucified. He is so hot, dirty and bloody. Yet Veronica sees beyond that to his pain. The pain she sees on his face moves her. She sees pain, and yet a deep love as well. Surrounded by a screaming mob that could easily hurt her, she steps out of the crowd to help him. She stretches out her hands and wipes his face.

All: When we see someone who is hurt or ill - we will look after them - like Veronica helping Jesus.

Activity | Place a Band-Aid on a family member.

STATION 3: WOMEN OF JERUSALEM



All: We want to be friends like the women of Jerusalem.

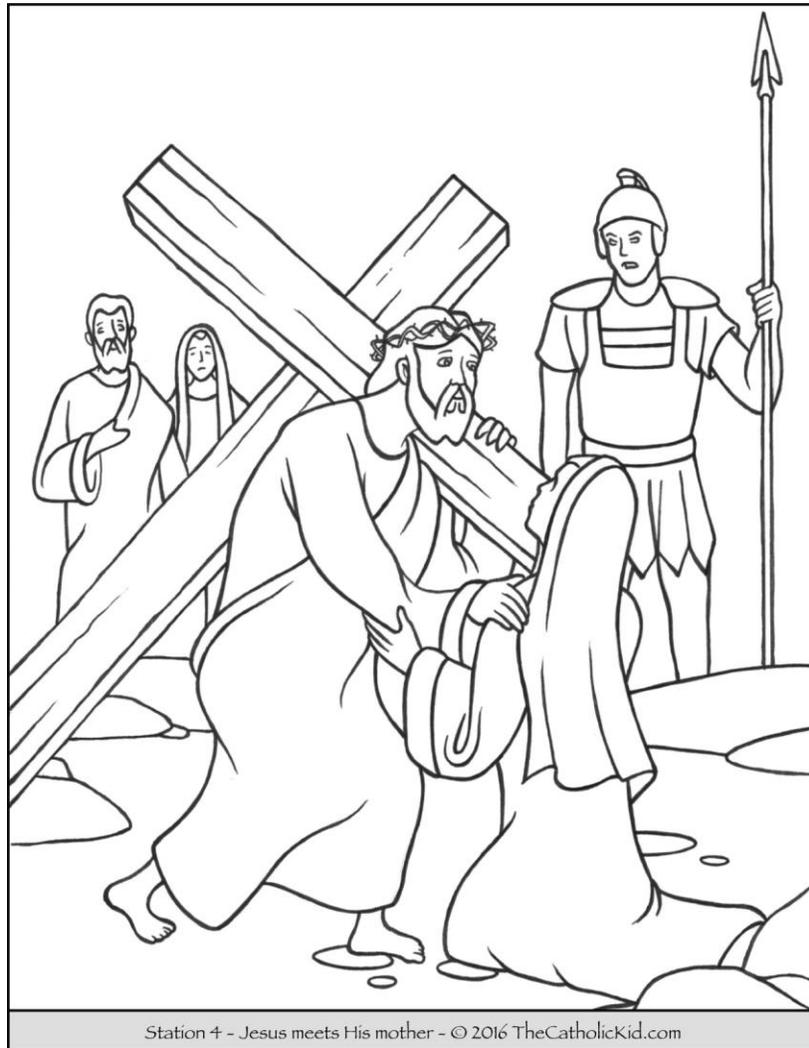
A family member tells the story of the women of Jerusalem

Women: Jesus is kind to the people who have followed him, especially the women who were brought to tears as he passed them, carrying his cross. He stops to speak. Maybe he offers a prayer for them. He also says: Do not cry for me; take care of your children.

All: When we see someone who is being treated unfairly - we will care about them - like the women of Jerusalem who cared about Jesus.

Activity | Make some tears (salt water).

STATION 4: MARY, JESUS' MOTHER



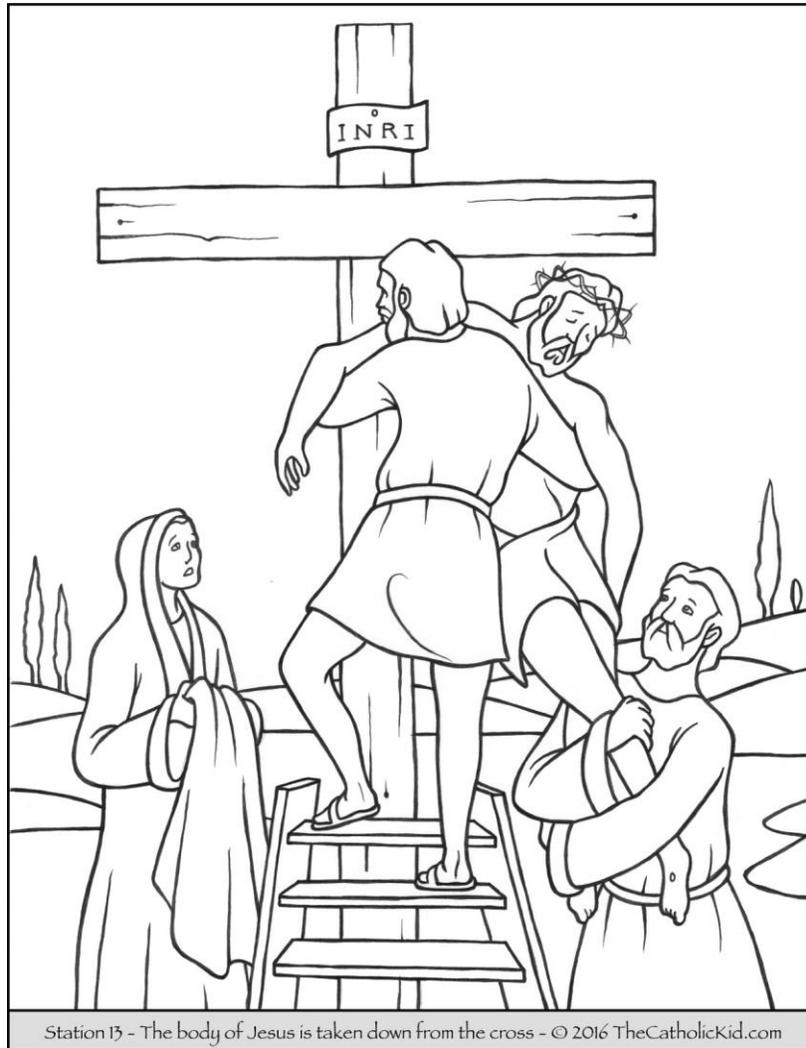
A family member tells the story of Mary.

Mary: Jesus sees his mother worrying about him. He can't help but see the pain in her eyes. He stops to talk to her. I am sure he tells her how much he loves her. He knows she wants only what is best for him.

All: **When people that love us worry about us - we will remember they do it because they love us - like Jesus' mother loved him.**

Activity | Tell your family someone who worries about you and light a candle for them.

STATION 5: MARY MAGDALENE AND JOHN



All: **We want to be friends like Mary Magdalene and John.**

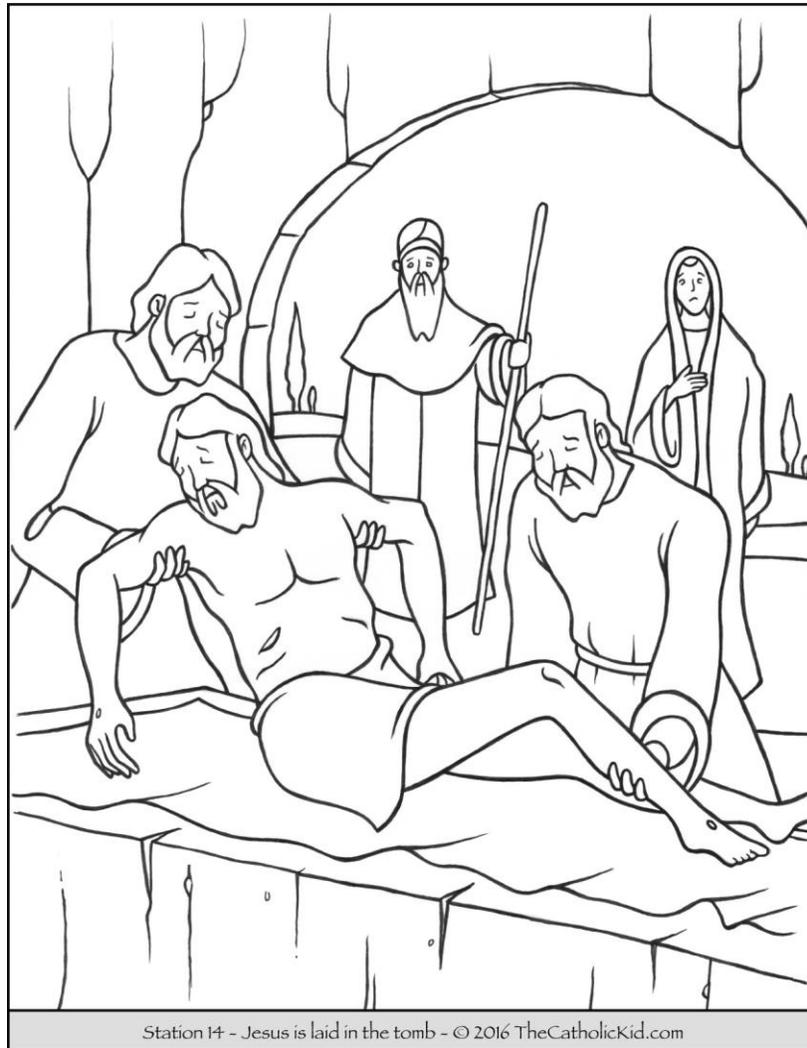
A family member tells the story of Mary and John.

Mary and John: Not many of Jesus' friends stayed with him. Many of them left before he died. It was so awful. But John and Mary Magdalene were loyal to the end. They were there to take his body down from the cross. They showed respect for the life it once held.

All: **When we see someone who is sad or hurt and there isn't much we can do - we will stay with them and care for them - like Mary Magdalene and John cared for Jesus.**

Activity | Sit together and put drops of oil on each other's hands.

STATION 6: JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA



All: We want to be friends like Joseph of Arimathea.

A family member tells the story of Joseph of Arimathea.

Joseph: Jesus was dead and the day felt very dark and scary. Most people stayed far away from the body. A man named Joseph from Arimathea asked for Jesus' body and wrapped it in fine linens. He brought Jesus' body to a tomb cut out of rock, and the women of Jerusalem watched him do it. Then everyone went home to get ready for the Sabbath and what was going to happen next.

All: When there are ways we can help when sad things happen - we will do whatever good we can - like Joseph of Arimathea took care of Jesus' body.

Activity | Put some spices on or around the symbol/figure you are using for Jesus. Wrap the symbol figure in the white cloth and place it in the "tomb".

PLANTING OF THE SEEDS

Jesus once said that unless a seed falls into the ground and dies, it cannot spring up to new life. Just as Jesus was raised to new life at Easter, we plant and nurture our seeds and in time they too will burst forth into life. If you have a garden, go outside, and plant your seeds. If not use an indoor flowerpot.

Family member 1: Doing something good is like sowing seeds. We may think that it has been forgotten or that nothing has happened. But, sooner or later, the seed begins to grow, and the goodness gets bigger and stronger. Our helping may not seem to be very big or very strong - but God can do great things with it. We may not always see it ourselves - but God sees how our love and friendship spreads love and friendship in the world.

We are going to plant some seeds as a sign of the promise of new life. God's sunlight and rain, and our looking after them, will help them grow into beautiful flowers.

Family member 2: Go out into the world and plant some seeds - signs of God's love for life. We ask God to bless us - and our flowers - to make them grow strong and remind us about friendship and helping. We thank God for new life.

All: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Plant your seeds.