



Introduction Signs



**Welcome to
Journey to the Cross**



What is it?

Twelve prayer stations that provide
you with an interactive opportunity to reflect
on the last week in the life of Jesus and a
time of quiet in the midst of your busy life.



What do I do?

Just read the signs and follow the directions.

Take a bag with you to collect things as you journey. Take these “tokens” home as reminders of your journey and your time with God.



Anything else?

Feel free to stay as long as you like.

Allow God to speak to you as you go from station to station.

There is an art station in the center where you can create your prayers and responses to God. Use the supplies to write, draw, create, and reflect on your experience as you journey.



Take time to be still...



Listen, wait, pray...



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Station 1 Signs



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

What did Jesus do during
his last week on earth?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

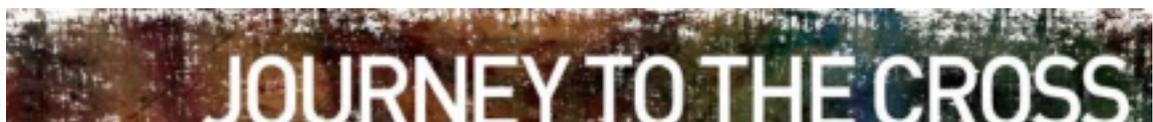
What was important to him?
How did Jesus behave?
What changed? What didn't?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Jesus knew his mission and believed
in the will of his father...

He obeyed God's plan for him.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

What does God

have planned for you?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Talk to God about...

Your focus

Your time

Your dreams

Allow God to direct your path...



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

If you knew it was
your last week on earth,
what would you do?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

How would you
spend your time?
Who would you
spend time with?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Where would you stay...or go?

What would you change?

If you only had one more week to live...



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Write a postcard...

“It’s my last week on planet earth, I...”



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;

6 in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Jeremiah 29:11-13

11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares
the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm
you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then
you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I

will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me
when you seek me with all your heart.”



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Station 2 Signs



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Triumphal entry...

Honored by some

Rejected by others

Where would you be?

Cheering or jeering?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Before entering Jerusalem...

Jesus knew his mission, his purpose

He knew and would follow God's plan

Jesus knew he would face opposition, hatred, unbelief...

Jesus knew that beatings and torture and the cross lay ahead...

Jesus knew he was going to die
Yet Jesus chose to ride into Jerusalem
Jesus rode into Jerusalem as a king—on a donkey

Not a conquering king on a large white horse...
But a peaceful king, full of love and compassion,
reaching out to his people



Take some time and picture the scene...

Large crowd...

Many disciples walking to Jerusalem to
celebrate the Passover Feast

Many followed Jesus and told of all the wonders
and miracles he had done...

Many proclaimed how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead!
They were excited!
They were expectant!
They were hopeful....

Could this be the Messiah for whom they'd waited so many years?

They made a carpet of their coats for him to ride over...
They cut down palm branches and waved them in the air!
They shouted "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord!"

They fulfilled prophecy without even knowing it!

And they disobeyed the Roman authorities by saluting
Jesus with their palm branches.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Many celebrated while the
religious leaders scoffed...

Then the religious leaders got nervous...

They were jealous of Jesus and his power,
his popularity, his authority.

“We’ve lost,” they said. “The whole
world has gone after him.”



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

“Blessed is the king who comes
in the name of the Lord!”

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

The Pharisees said, “Teacher, rebuke your
followers for saying such things.”

**Jesus replied, “If they kept quiet, the stones
along the road would cry out!”**



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Where would you be along the path?

How would you respond to Jesus?

Take some time and tell Jesus about this...



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Write your praises on a Palm Branch
and leave it on the Path...

**Take home a stone to remind you to
praise Jesus every day**



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Station 2 (alternate sign text)

Rolling Out the Red Carpet

Think about how excited you get when your favorite team wins.
Think about your favorite celebrity...actor, musician, athlete.

What if you'd heard that person was coming to your town,
and you could be there to greet him or her?

How would you feel?
How would you behave?
Would you get to the front of the line?
Would you push, shove, scream, or yell?
Would you try to touch this celebrity?
Try to get an autograph or take a photo?

Imagine the scene in your mind...

The red carpet
The photographers
The fans screaming
Here comes the entourage
Here comes the limo



**This is how it may have been when Jesus
rode into Jerusalem**

He was a celebrity
He had healed people
He had raised Lazarus from the dead

They wanted a deliverer
They wanted to see him
To touch him
They hoped he would free them from the Romans
They cheered
They sang

They laid their coats down to pave the road
They cut down palm branches to wave in honor



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

But the Pharisees...
The rulers of the Temple...
Didn't like Competition!

They were jealous

They were afraid

They felt they were
losing control and losing power.

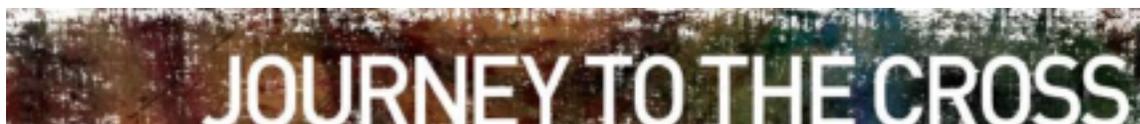


JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Where are you in the crowd?

What are you feeling?

What do you want to say to Jesus?



Zechariah 9

Zion's Coming King

Rejoice greatly, O people of Zion!
Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem!
Look, your king is coming to you.
He is righteous and victorious,
yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—
even on a donkey's colt.



ACTION

Write what you feel for Jesus on a Palm Branch
Tell him about your love for him.

Or

Tell him about your fears about him or about your worries.
Tell him about where you are.

Be honest. Be real. Jesus wants to hear you,
and he is listening.

He's not afraid of your doubts or fears.

He loves you just as you are.

Take a stone to remind you to praise Jesus every day!



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Mark 11:1-19

1 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 3 If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”

4 They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, 5 some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. 7 When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. 9 Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

10 “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

11 Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

12 The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. 13 Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. 14 Then he said to the tree, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard him say it.

15 On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, 16 and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. 17 And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

18 The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

19 When evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Luke 19:28-40

28 After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

29 As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 30 “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

32 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

34 They replied, “The Lord needs it.”

35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. 36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

38 “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”
“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

40 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

**John 12:12-19**

12 The next day the great crowd that had come for the Festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

15 “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;
see, your king is coming,
seated on a donkey’s colt.”

16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

17 Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. 18 Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. 19 So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”



Matthew 21:1-11

1 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

5 “Say to Daughter Zion,
‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’“

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,
“Hosanna to the Son of David!”
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

11 The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”



Psalm 118:25-26

25 LORD, save us! LORD, grant us success!

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the LORD. From the house of the
LORD we bless you.



Zephaniah 3:15

The LORD has taken away your punishment,
he has turned back your enemy.
The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;
never again will you fear any harm.



Station 3 Signs



Clearing the Temple

Do you ever picture Jesus angry?

Do ever imagine him frustrated?

Sad? Mad? Explosive? A revolutionary?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

The courts of the gentiles had been
turned into a mini-mall

There were moneychangers looking to
make sales off weary pilgrims.

They'd exchange your money for the temple tax (and take a fee and raise the price on the exchange).

There were stalls with animals and birds
for the required temple sacrifices.

The one you brought from home wasn't good enough.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

There was a captive audience
and money was to be made!



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Sadly people were being cheated
and the gentiles were displaced...



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Well...Jesus got mad!

He knew that people were being
left out of the kingdom

Not allowed to worship because of the trade
Not allowed to pray because of the noise...

Money and power had become more important
than prayer and worship!
Money had become more important than the people!



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Luke 19:45-48

Jesus Clears the Temple

Then Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out
the merchants from their stalls. He told them, “The
Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be a place of prayer,’
but you have turned it into a den of thieves.” After
that, he taught daily in the Temple, but the leading priests,
the teachers of religious law, and the other leaders

of the people began planning how to kill him. But they
could think of nothing, because all the people
hung on every word he said.



What things keep you from prayer?

What things keep you from worship?

TV?

Computers?

Busyness?

Sports?

Fear?

Worry?

Lack of trust?

Prejudice?

Other things?

What things/stuff clutters the temples of our hearts
and prevents us from worshipping God?



ACTION

Pick up a coin...hold it in your hand...

Do material things get in the way of your
worship or your prayer life?

Ask God to show you...

Ask Jesus to clear these away...

Who do we keep out of the temple? Out of our churches?

Pick up another coin...hold it in your hand...

Who are we keeping out of our churches?

Ask God to show you.

Ask God to help you be more open ...

Ask Jesus to forgive you for leaving people out of the kingdom...

Take home a coin to remind you to pray for those
we have left out and to make room, to clear
the temple of your heart—to make room for Jesus!



Romans 8:35-39

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love?

Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or are hungry or cold or in danger or threatened with death? (Even the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away. Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Matthew 21:12-17

12 Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 13 “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”

14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.

16 “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him. “Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read, ‘From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise’ ?”

17 And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Station 4 Signs



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Honoring Jesus: Jesus Anointed at Bethany

Are you willing to give up your most valuable thing,

Your most precious thing, in order to honor Jesus?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Think about your most valuable possession...

It might be a material thing.

It might be a gift or a talent that you have...

It might be your life.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Are you willing to give this to Jesus to honor him?

This woman gave her most expensive possession...

The thing with the most value, she gave to Jesus.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

This woman gave out of love

She gave out of her gratitude.

She gave out of her desire to honor Jesus....



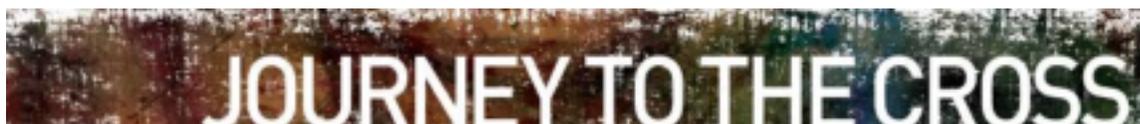
JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Are you willing to give this to
Jesus to honor him?

Are you willing to “waste” your time,
your talents, your treasures for Jesus?

To honor him?

Are you willing to give, to “waste”
your life for him?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

ACTION

Take the bottle of perfume and smell it...

Pour some out in the bowl...

Feel the aroma fill the room...

Picture the woman pouring it over Jesus...

Now picture yourself pouring this lavish,
extravagant gift over Jesus...

What do you want to tell him?

Tell him...

What do you want to give him?

Tell him...

Dip a piece of cloth into the perfume and take it as a
reminder of your time with Jesus and
your desire to give him your best.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

(Additional Sign)

Judas and some others thought this gift was
a waste They saw only the money “wasted”...
they didn’t see Jesus!

They thought it should be given to the poor...but
Judas really wanted it for himself.

He was after his own way...not the way of Jesus.
He didn’t see Jesus for who he really is!



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

John 12:1-11

1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5 “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” 6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

7 “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “[It was intended] that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. 8 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

9 Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well,

11 for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in him.



Station 5 (four parts)



Part A Signs

Dinner in the Upper Room



First Read the Scriptures

Then read the signs around the table....



John 13:1-17

1 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his

power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."
Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

10 Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.



Look around at the elements (or look at the painting)

Picture yourself in the room with Jesus.

Where are you?

Who are you sitting with?

What are you thinking this night as Jesus serves you?

What are you thinking as Jesus washes your feet?

Do you want him to do it?

Are you embarrassed?

Do you wish he would hurry up or slow down?

Do you feel clean or do you feel dirty?



Sit down in the chair

Touch the water in the bowl and
reflect on Jesus washing your feet.

Wash your hands in the bowl of water
and reflect on Jesus washing you, cleansing
you. Making you whole.



Luke 22:7-30

The Last Supper

7 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. 8 Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.”

9 “Where do you want us to prepare for it?” they asked.

10 He replied, “As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that

he enters, 11 and say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ 12 He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there.”

13 They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

14 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. 15 And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”

17 After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. 18 For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which

is poured out for you. 21 But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. 22 The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!” 23 They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

24 A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. 25 Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. 26 But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. 27 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. 28 You are those who have stood by me in my trials. 29 And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, 30 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.



Part B Signs

Passover



Jesus was celebrating Passover with his disciples...

It was a meal remembering God’s deliverance of the children of Israel from their bondage in Egypt.

It remembered the night that the angel of death passed over the homes of the children of Israel, the homes with blood smeared on their doorposts...blood from a spotless lamb.

So they ate roasted lamb and baked unleavened bread...



Passover Definition:

\Pass"o'ver\, n.

(a) A feast of the Jews, instituted to commemorate the sparing of the Hebrews in Egypt, when God, smiting the firstborn of the Egyptians, passed over the houses of the Israelites which were marked with the blood of a lamb.

(b) The sacrifice offered at the feast of the passover; the paschal lamb.



Exodus 12:17-30

17 “Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. 18 In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. 19 For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And anyone, whether foreigner or native-born, who eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel. 20 Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread.”

21 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. 22 Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. 23 When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

24 “Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. 25 When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. 26 And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ 27 then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’” Then the people bowed down and worshiped. 28 The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron.

29 At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. 30 Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.



Part C Signs

Thanksgiving



Definition of *Eucharist*:

\Eu'cha*rist\, n.

1. The act of giving thanks; thanksgiving.
2. (Eccl.) The sacrament of the Lord's Supper; the solemn act of ceremony of commemorating the death of Christ, in the use of bread and wine, as the appointed emblems; the communion.



Jesus celebrated Passover with his friends...

He wanted to eat with them one last time

before his death...

Jesus wanted to give them a lasting reminder of the great gift he was about to give them...

The great gift he was going to give to the world...

His life...

His body and blood as payment for sin.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Each time we take communion together
(also called the Eucharist, which
means THANKSGIVING...)
we remember and are thankful for his
sacrifice, the spotless lamb slain for us.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Jesus gave himself for you...
He paid the ransom for your sins...
So that you can be right with God again.
He paid the debt with his life, and then he conquered death...
How does this make you feel?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

ACTION

Write your thanksgiving on the table cloth...
Tell God how thankful you are for the gift of
his son and his sacrifice for you...

Write about your experience at the table with Jesus...
Write on the table cloth your thoughts and prayers...



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Part D Signs

Optional



Taste the Bread as a reminder of Jesus'
sacrifice for you...

Take, eat—this is my body, broken for you....

Take this cup.... Drink it; it is my blood.



Matthew 26:27-30

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

27 Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." 30 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.



Luke 22:14-21

14 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. 15 And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." 17 After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. 18 For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. 21 But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table.



Station 6 Signs



Luke 22:39-46

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

39 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. 40 On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” 41 He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, 42 “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” 43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. 44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

45 When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. 46 “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”



Mark 14:32-42

Gethsemane

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” 33 He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. 34 “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.”

35 Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. 36 “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

37 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? 38 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

39 Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. 40 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

41 Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”



Matthew 25:34-40

34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

40 “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’



Jesus was willing to suffer for us...

Jesus was willing to die...to give himself up...

Even to death on a cross!

He chose to drink the cup of suffering because

it was the will of the Father.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Are you willing to suffer with others?

Are you willing to do God's will
even when it's painful?

Are you willing to watch and pray—for those
who suffer around you and around the world?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

ACTION

Look at the photos...

Pray for those who suffer around the world...

Pray for those in your own home or in your
own neighborhood who are suffering today.

Drink from the cup.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Station 7 Signs



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Have you ever
felt betrayed?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Has a friend, whom you
trusted, broken your trust?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Has a friend or another person ever
broken a promise, told a secret, taken
something special that belongs to you?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

How did that feel?

How did you feel about your friend
or this betraying person?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Judas was Jesus' friend.

He ate with Jesus
Traveled with Jesus
Did ministry with Jesus
And saw Jesus do miracles

Judas followed Jesus for three years.



Why did Judas sell out his friend?

What caused him to betray Jesus?

Do you think Judas had a choice?



Perhaps when Jesus didn't fulfill all
of Judas' expectations, like becoming
King or getting rid of the Romans,
Judas tried to force Jesus' hand...
so Judas sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.



Have you ever betrayed someone?

Have you ever betrayed a friend?

Ever broken a promise?

Ever broken someone's trust?



Ask Jesus to forgive you and
heal this broken place.

Picture that person or people and
ask God to heal this situation.



Have you ever betrayed Jesus?

Ever denied him in front of your friends?

Ever spoken poorly about Jesus or made fun of
people who love him? Just to fit in?

Or have you ever forgotten to be thankful?

Forgotten to give Jesus the credit for something
great he's done for you?

Have you ever failed to follow him because of your
own will, your desire to go your own way?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Like Peter, sometimes we say we don't
know Jesus or act like we don't know
Jesus, just to blend in...to fit in...

We believe we can do it our way,
and forget Jesus... Or act like we
don't have a clue who he is...



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

ACTION

Write your name on a KISS and put it on Jesus...

We all have betrayed him in one way or another...

Ask Jesus to forgive you. Tell him how you feel.

He forgives you!



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Luke 22:1-6

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

1 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, 2 and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. 3 Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. 4 And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. 5 They were delighted

and agreed to give him money. 6 He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.



Luke 22:47-62

Jesus Is Betrayed and Arrested; Peter Denies Jesus

47 But even as he said this, a mob approached, led by Judas, one of his twelve disciples. Judas walked over to Jesus and greeted him with a kiss. 48 But Jesus said, “Judas, how can you betray me, the Son of Man, with a kiss?”

49 When the other disciples saw what was about to happen, they exclaimed, “Lord, should we fight? We brought the swords!” 50 And one of them slashed at the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear.

51 But Jesus said, “Don’t resist anymore.” And he touched the place where the man’s ear had been and healed him. 52 Then Jesus spoke to the leading priests and captains of the Temple guard and the other leaders who headed the mob. “Am I some dangerous criminal,” he asked, “that you have come armed with swords and clubs to arrest me? 53 Why didn’t you arrest me in the Temple? I was there every day. But this is your moment, the time when the power of darkness reigns.”

54 So they arrested him and led him to the high priest’s residence, and Peter was following far behind. 55 The guards lit a fire in the courtyard and sat around it, and Peter joined them there. 56 A servant girl noticed him in the firelight and began staring at him. Finally she said, “This man was one of Jesus’ followers!”

57 Peter denied it. “Woman,” he said, “I don’t even know the man!”

58 After a while someone else looked at him and said, “You must be one of them!” “No, man, I’m not!” Peter replied.

59 About an hour later someone else insisted, “This must be one of Jesus’ disciples because he is a Galilean, too.”

60 But Peter said, “Man, I don’t know what you are talking about.” And as soon as he said these words, the rooster crowed. 61 At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered that the Lord had said, “Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny me three times.” 62 And Peter left the courtyard, crying bitterly.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Station 8 Signs



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Everyone is looking for something.

Everyone is seeking the Truth,

Seeking the Light

Seeking to understand and to be understood.

But often we miss the Truth

Often we are blind to the Light

standing before us.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

The Pharisees failed to recognize Jesus.

They were expecting a different kind of Messiah.

Do you recognize Jesus when you see him?

Do you see Jesus for who he really is?

Or are you missing Jesus like the Pharisees
Because He doesn't look like, sound like, or act
like you believe a savior should look like,
sound like, or act like?

Are you in the dark like they were?



The Pharisees thought they knew the Truth

They thought they knew everything about the
Light of God Yet they missed the Light shining
right in their eyes.

They loved the darkness of their own pride
and power more.

What about you?



Pilate was intrigued by Jesus.

He wanted to know the truth
He didn't want to kill Jesus.
But Pilate cared more about what
the crowd wanted than what he
knew to be true.

He cared more about
His own power and position
than he did about Jesus.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Pilate listened to the crowd,
not his own wife and not his own heart,

Not his own conscience.

He didn't recognize the Truth
standing before him.

He didn't see the Light of the World
right before his eyes.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

What about you?

Are you willing to risk the
rejection of the crowd in order to see
the Light of the World?

Are you willing to give up power and
position in order to follow him?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Are you willing to believe?

To see Jesus in others even

when they don't look like, sound like,
or act like you think they should?



ACTION

Light a candle and be reminded of
Jesus the Light of the World

Light a candle and ask Jesus to
help you see him for who he is.

Light a candle and ask Jesus to help you recognize
him and his work in your life each day.

Ask Jesus to help you see his light in everyone you
meet and to love them as he loves them.

Ask Jesus to help you follow your heart not
the will of the crowd.



Matthew 25:39-41

39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

41 Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Matthew 27:11-26

11 Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “You have said so,” Jesus replied.

12 When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. 13 Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” 14 But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

15 Now it was the governor’s custom at the Festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. 16 At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. 17 So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” 18 For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

19 While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.”

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

21 “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor. “Barabbas,” they answered.

22 “What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” Pilate asked. They all answered, “Crucify him!”

23 “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

24 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!”

25 All the people answered, “His blood is on us and on our children!”

26 Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

A horizontal banner with a background of autumn trees in shades of brown, orange, and green. The words "JOURNEY TO THE CROSS" are written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the center.

John 9:4-6

4 “As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

6 Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes.

A horizontal banner with a background of autumn trees in shades of brown, orange, and green. The words "JOURNEY TO THE CROSS" are written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the center.

John 14:5-7

5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

A horizontal banner with a background of autumn trees in shades of brown, orange, and green. The words "JOURNEY TO THE CROSS" are written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the center.

Station 9 Signs

A horizontal banner with a background of autumn trees in shades of brown, orange, and green. The words "JOURNEY TO THE CROSS" are written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the center.

Read the poem "God on a Stick"
and meditate on the cross...



Make a cross out of
the two Popsicle sticks



Jesus died in our place.

He died to forgive us for everything we've done and everything we've left undone, for the wrongs we've committed to ourselves and to others.

Allow Jesus to love you today.

Allow Jesus to pay your debt and set you free.

Allow Jesus to forgive you

To forgive you even when you have
trouble forgiving yourself.



ACTION

Write your name on your cross as
a symbol of receiving Jesus' love
and forgiveness today.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Whom do you need to set free?

Whom do you need to forgive today?



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

ACTION

Write that person's name on your cross (or make another), and place this at the foot of the cross.

Allow Jesus to help you forgive this person
(these people) today.

Jesus takes others' blame, too. Allow Jesus to heal you and help you forgive them and even yourself.

Take home the text of the poem.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

1 John 1:8-9

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves
and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is
faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify
us from all unrighteousness.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Crucifixion Meditation / God on a Stick

They spit on His face and then they crucify Him.
Jesus our Lord.

He dies as a sinner,
He dies as a blasphemer, as an idolator, as one who denies God,
as one who betrays Him.

**I stand before the cross and wonder.
He is not guilty of these things, but takes our place.**

He dies as one who boasts, who gossips,
as one who dishonours his parents,
as a cheat, as a liar, as a thief.
He dies as a fraud and an embezzler.

**I stand before the cross and fear.
He is not guilty of these things, but takes our place.**

He dies as a sinner,
He dies as one with evil thoughts,
as a slave to lust, as a fornicator,
as an adulterer, as an abuser of children.

**I kneel before the cross and weep.
He is not guilty of these things, but takes our place.**

He dies as one full of jealousy,
as one who is selfish, unkind, and rude,
as one who destructively manipulates others,
as one who envies and hates,
He dies as a sadist,
as one who destroys and murders.

**I pray before the cross and rejoice.
He is not guilty of these things, but takes our place.
He is not to blame, but dies to take the blame for us.**

He is dying to forgive us.

Stand, stand.....
And watch Jesus die
Alone, with nothing.....
God on a stick.



Station 10 Signs



The Words from the Cross

Read what Jesus said from the cross...

What touches you?

What do you need to hear from Jesus today?



**“Father, forgive them; for
they know not what they do.”**

Luke 23:34



**“Truly, I say to you, today you
will be with me in Paradise.”**

Luke 23:43



“Woman, behold, your son!”...

“Behold, your mother!”

John 19:26-27



“Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”

Mark 15:34

(And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice,
“Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which means,
“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”)



**After this Jesus, knowing that all
was now finished, said to fulfill
the scripture, “I thirst.”**

John 19:28



"It is finished"

John 19:30



**Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice,
said, "Father, into thy hands I commit
my spirit!" And having said this
he breathed his last.**

Luke 23:46



Station 11 Signs



The Curtain Is Open!



ACTION

Read the Scripture.

Take some cloth and rip it...



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

The curtain between you and God is now open...

torn open by Jesus' death on the cross...

You are invited into the Holy of Holies
to BE with GOD!



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

You are no longer separated from God.

The barriers are gone.

You are free to be with him.

Talk to God about this.

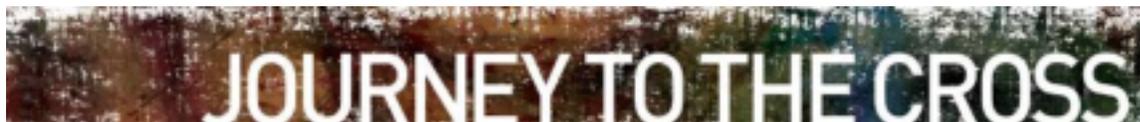
Thank Jesus for his sacrifice.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Matthew 27:50-52

50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. 52 The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Luke 23:44-46

Jesus' Death

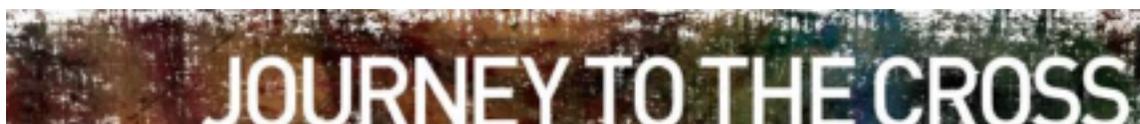
44 It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, 45 for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Mark 15:37-39

37 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. 38 The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. 39 And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Station 12 Signs



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

ACTION

Plant a seed in the ground...
As a reminder that Jesus died
but that his death brings new life...
His death brings life to each of us!

Ask Jesus for new life in Him...
Ask him to plant new life in your heart...
To come in and grow something new in you
As you wait for his resurrection...

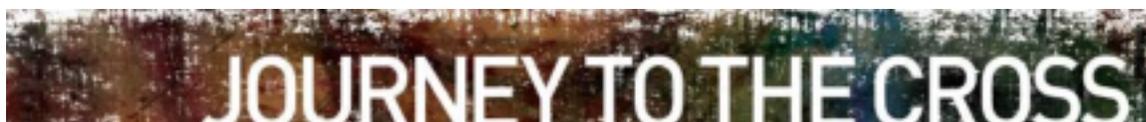
Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life;
those who believe in me will live even though
they die, and whoever lives and believes in
me will never die."



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

John 12:23-25

23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the
Son of Man to be glorified. 24 I tell you the truth,
unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies,
it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it
produces many seeds. 25 The man who loves his
life will lose it, while the man who hates his life
in this world will keep it for eternal life.



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Matthew 20:18-19

18 “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the
Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him
to death 19 and will hand him over to the Gentiles
to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the
third day he will be raised to life!”