

Experience Easter with **young people**

Journey with Jesus



Compiled by Steve Jarvis

How to use this pack

'Journey with Jesus' is a series of prayers stations, from compiled and adapted material, based around the Passion narrative given in Mark's Gospel. The nine stations take young people on a journey through the Passion story and extends an invitation to interact with the different elements of Jesus' journey to the Cross.

Each station is themed as follows:

Prayer Station 1:	Jesus is Tested	Mark 14:32-26
Prayer Station 2:	Jesus is Betrayed	Mark 14:43-46
Prayer Station 3:	Jesus is Accused	Mark 14: 53,55-56, 61-64
Prayer Station 4:	Jesus is Denied	Mark 14:66-72
Prayer Station 5:	Jesus is Condemned	Mark 15:6-15
Prayer Station 6:	Jesus is Mocked	Mark 15:16-20
Prayer Station 7:	Jesus is Crucified	Mark 15:22-32
Prayer Station 8:	Jesus is Abandoned	Mark 15: 33-37
Prayer Station 9:	Jesus is Buried	Mark 15:42-46

How it works

These prayer stations have been designed to promote identification with the feelings associated with the aspects of the Passion account in Mark. They are about creating opportunities for a young person's individual story to identify with that of Jesus.

Each prayer station comes with a copy of the Bible reading and an instruction card. There is also information explaining how the prayer station works, a list of resources needed for each prayer station and a suggested set up.

The accompanying photos of each prayer station are based on the suggested set-up. However, these are not a hard and fast prescription – there is plenty of scope to further adapt the ideas given, or to theme each prayer station area further with a given colour through use of fabrics or matting to define the prayer space.

Prayer Station I

Jesus is Tested

Mark 14: 32-36

They went to the place called Gethsemane and Jesus said, "Sit here while I go and pray." He took Peter, James, and John with him and he became deeply troubled and distressed. He told them, "My heart is crushed with so much grief, I feel like I'm dying. Stay here and keep watch with me."

He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the suffering that was awaiting him might pass him by. "Abba, Father," he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

About this Prayer Station:

We all get scared and fearful. Jesus models to us that 'doing the right thing' can be a testing time, including the acceptance of unavoidable consequences. This prayer station invites young people to share in Jesus' own prayer in the Garden at Gethsemane.

Here participants are invited to 'offload' what troubles them; identifying with Jesus' prayer to God the Father. This is done through writing their prayer, worries or fears on the paper hearts, or through simply holding a paper heart whilst they think and/or pray.

As a symbolic act, participants are invited to crush the paper heart, and place it in the basket or bowl.

Resources:

- Cut-out paper hearts, or use heart shaped post-it notes
- A basket or large bowl (or a suitable container)
- Small table
- Green fabric/table cloth
- Pens/Pencils
- Copy of the instruction card/Gospel reading



Suggested Set Up:

In your allocated space for Prayer Station I:

- Set up the table, and drape over the fabric/cloth
- Place the basket or large bowl on the table
- In front of the table, place the copy of the Bible reading and next to it a copy of the instruction card
- In front of the Bible reading and instruction card, place the paper hearts and a selection of pens and pencils.

Optional Extras:

- As back ground music for this prayer station, play the Taize chant 'Stay with me' set on repeat.

Prayer Station I

Jesus is Tested

Mark 14: 32-36

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He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the suffering that was awaiting him might pass him by. "Abba, Father," he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Jesus had a nasty feeling of what was coming next...

Deep down inside he knew that this journey would lead to his own death; a slow, painful death on a cross.

He was anxious. He was frightened.

*He didn't want to have to die...
and if there was any chance of things being different,
he would be the first to take it!*

*He struggled to cope with the fear on his own, and so he prays...
he prays to his Father for help;
someone 'bigger' to turn to at this desperate time.*

Think About:

Sometimes, it all gets too much... we all need someone to lean on.

1. Take time to think and pray about the things that worry you, and the situations that make you fear about what will happen next in your life.
2. Write your worries or fears on the paper hearts, or simply hold a paper heart in your hand as you think and pray.
3. As Jesus' heart was 'crushed' with grief, crush up the paper heart, and place it in the basket or bowl.

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Prayer Station 2

Jesus is Betrayed

Mark 14: 43-46

Jesus was still speaking when Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests, the teachers of religious law and the elders. The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: "You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss. Then you can take him away under guard."

As soon as they arrived, Judas walked up to Jesus. "Teacher!" he exclaimed and gave him the kiss. Then the others grabbed Jesus, and arrested him.

About this Prayer Station:

We have all been there in some way, shape or form. Let down and disappointed by the ones we trusted the most; betrayed by the one's closest to us. However, can we honestly say we have never been the betrayer?

At this prayer station, young people are invited to simply take hold of a coin/token and reflect on their own relationships: be it with family or friends. Considering their own loyalty and trustworthiness towards others, they are invited to reflect on when were they betrayed? When were they the betrayer?

Resources:

- A large bowl or dish
- A pedestal or small table
- Fabric/table cloth
- Silver coin (either silver foreign coins or silver car park tokens)
- Copy of the instruction card/Gospel reading



Suggested Set Up:

In your allocated space for Prayer Station 2:

- Set up your pedestal or table in such a way as people can gather/sit around it
- Dress the pedestal or table with the fabric/table cloth (you may wish to use a 'cold' colour to symbolise the coldness of betrayal)
- Place a bowl or dish on top of the table to hold the coins/tokens
- Place together a copy of the reading and instruction cards at intervals around the pedestal/table.

Prayer Station 2

Jesus is Betrayed

Mark 14: 43-46

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As soon as they arrived, Judas walked up to Jesus. "Teacher!" he exclaimed and gave him the kiss. Then the others grabbed Jesus, and arrested him.

Jesus is betrayed by a friend, one of his own followers.

*Judas had been with Jesus as one of the twelve for three years;
twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.*

How could he do it?

How could he betray his own teacher!

*Judas was paid 30 silver coins for his lack of loyalty
in handing Jesus over to the authorities.*

Think About:

Judas put his own frustrations, greed and selfishness before his friendships.

1. Take a silver coin/token and hold it in your hand.
2. As you hold the coin/token, think about your own relationships with family and friends. Are you loyal? Are you the trustworthy type? Or are you easily frustrated by people, just like Judas?
3. Lift up to God those times when you have been anything other than a friend. In a short prayer, ask for forgiveness for any times that you have let people down, or betrayed their trust and friendship.
4. Take time to think about the people who have betrayed you... ask God for the strength to forgive them.
5. When you have finished reflecting and praying, return the silver coin/token to the table.

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Prayer Station 3

Jesus is Accused

Mark 14: 53-56, 61-64

They took Jesus to the high priest's home where the leading priests, the elders and the teachers of religious law had gathered. Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find evidence against Jesus, so they could have the excuse to put him to death. But they couldn't find any evidence. Instead, many witnesses told lies against him, but their stories did not agree with each other.

Jesus stayed silent and made no effort to interrupt. The high priest then asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus said, "I Am. And you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven."

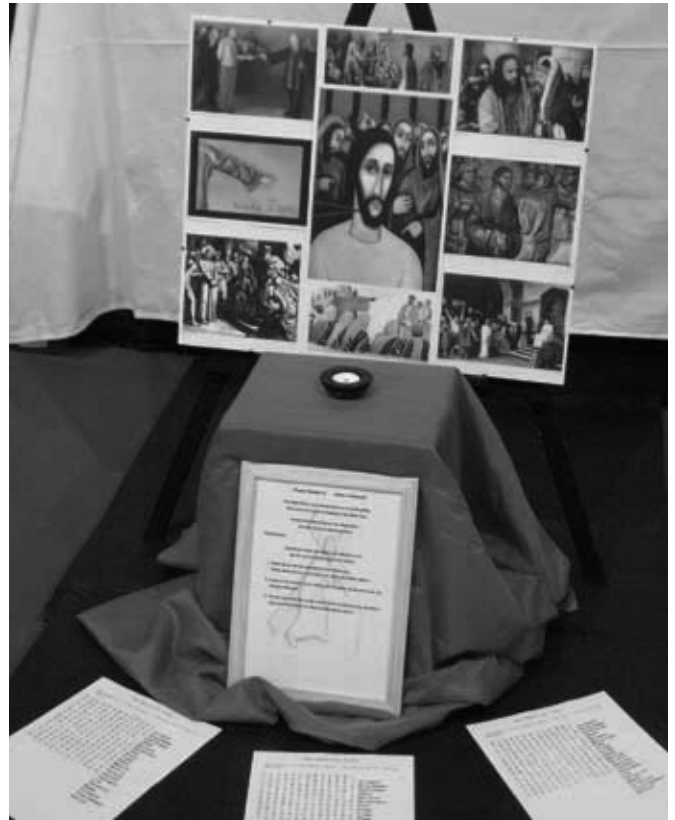
Then the high priest tore his own clothing in horror and said, "We don't need any other witnesses? You have all heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

"Guilty!" they all shouted. "He deserves to die!"

About this Prayer Station:

Some days it is easy to feel that everybody has it in for you. Whatever you say or do, you know that you just can't win!

At this prayer station, young people are invited to reflect on the accusations made, the lies told about Jesus by others and the truth which Jesus gives that ultimately seals his fate. We often hear the saying that 'we cannot see the wood for the trees'. In the prayer station activity, participants are invited to search for the word 'Messiah' amongst the lies and accusations. Seeking the truth can be a bit like doing a word search.



Resources:

- A back-drop made up of picture of Jesus' trial by the Sanhedrin (we suggest typing in 'Jesus' trial by the Sanhedrin' into Google Images)
- Copy of the instruction card/Gospel reading
- Laminated copies of the word search

Suggested Set Up:

In your allocated space for Prayer Station 3:

- Print off pictures of Jesus' trial by the Sanhedrin. Use the pictures as a backdrop, either in a frame, on a wall, or mounted on a display board
- In front and below the picture, place a copy of the reading, and a copy of the instruction card
- Spread out, either on chairs or on the floor, laminated copies of the word search (alternatively, you can print out un-laminated copies for each participant to keep and take away with them).

Prayer Station 3

Jesus is Accused

Mark 14: 53-56, 61-64

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"Guilty!" they all shouted. "He deserves to die!"

*The High Priests were determined to prove Jesus guilty.
They even went as far as making up lies about him.*

*People had many things to say about Jesus –
but they were not always positive!*

Think About:

Sometimes, those who doubt can influence us all.

But the truth is always there to be found...

1. Think about the lies and doubts told about you...

Think about the lies and doubts you have told about others...

2. Look at the word search – among the negative words see if you can find the 'Messiah'.

3. As you search for the truth, ask for God's forgiveness for the times when you have been less than truthful about others.

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Prayer Station 3

Jesus is Accused

The Search for Truth

Look amongst all the negative words... and see if you can find the 'Messiah'.

U	S	U	R	P	E	R	R	S	E	M	N	I
T	R	O	U	B	L	E	M	A	K	E	R	T
S	O	F	T	O	A	M	H	A	V	S	S	R
I	T	R	H	T	N	E	G	R	U	S	N	I
R	S	E	Y	N	O	H	P	R	A	I	L	C
O	O	V	E	S	I	P	I	O	E	A	S	K
R	P	I	M	E	S	S	C	G	U	H	H	S
R	M	E	L	T	U	A	F	A	K	E	E	T
E	I	C	H	A	L	L	E	N	G	E	R	E
T	A	E	H	C	E	B	E	T	A	U	E	R
H	O	D	U	P	D	U	A	R	F	G	T	S
I	N	S	O	L	E	N	T	E	E	O	I	H
F	R	E	A	K	U	L	O	I	T	R	C	A

Arrogant

Blasphemer

Challenger

Cheat

Deceiver

Delusional

Fake

Fraud

Freak

Phony

Messiah

Heretic

Impostor

Insolent

Insurgent

Liar

Terrorist

Rogue

Trickster

Troublemaker

Usurper

Prayer Station 4

Jesus is Denied

Mark 14: 66-72

Meanwhile, Peter was in the courtyard below. One of the servant girls who worked for the high priest came by and saw Peter warming himself at the fire. She looked at him closely and said, "You were with Jesus of Nazareth."

But Peter denied it. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said, as he went out into the courtyard entrance. Just then, a rooster crowed.

When the servant girl saw him standing there, she began telling the others, "This man is definitely one of them!" But Peter denied it again. Moments later, some of the other bystanders confronted Peter and said, "You're a Galilean. You must be one of them." Then Peter began to shout, curse and swear, "I'm telling you, I don't know this man you're talking about!" Straight away the rooster crowed the second time.

Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me." Realising what he had done, he broke down and wept.

About this Prayer Station:

At this prayer station, young people are invited to identify with Peter and the way in which he denied knowing Jesus. Peter's denial takes place publically in the courtyard; participants are encouraged to think about their claims to know Jesus. What would they have done in Peter's situation?

Resources:

- Metal or Ceramic Cockerel
- Cardboard in three equal sections or display board
- A selection of pictures of 'Peter denying Jesus' (type into Google Images search 'Peter's Denial of Jesus' or 'Peter Denies Jesus')
- Printed copies of Peter's words of denial
- Candle and matches
- Copy of the instruction card/Gospel reading



Suggested Set Up:

In your allocated space for Prayer Station 4:

- Either out of cardboard or display boards, make a backdrop 'triptych', with the picture of 'Peter denying Jesus' at the centre and the words Peter spoke to deny Jesus either side
- Place the cockerel and the candle sensibly spaced in front of the backdrop
- Place copy of reading and instructions at intervals around the station

Optional Extra's:

- Create a MP3 loop or CD backing track of crowing cockerel and a male voice speaking Peter's words
- If able to use outdoor space, include a small-lit fire pit, brazier or chimera instead of the candle for added effect.

Prayer Station 4

Jesus is Denied

Mark 14: 66-72

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Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me." Realising what he had done, he broke down and wept.

Peter sat there... and denied Jesus.

*Behind Jesus' back, Peter showed himself to be a fair-weather friend,
letting down his closest friend just when he needed him the most.*

*But why did he feel the need to do it?
Did he begin to doubt who Jesus was?*

*Or was he just scared and fearful of what would happen to him if they
had found out that he really did know Jesus?*

Think About:

Sometimes our friends know us better than we think...

for Peter, it was the sound of the cockerel crowing that reminded him of what Jesus had predicted

1. Read again the account of Peter denying Jesus.
2. Look at the conversation happening in the reading. If you were Peter, what would you have done?
3. How often do you claim to know Jesus?
4. Think about how often you deny knowing Jesus. Is it amongst your friends, your family, or both?

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Prayer Station 5

Jesus is Condemned

Mark 15: 6-15

During Passover, Pilate always freed one prisoner chosen by the people and at that time there was a prisoner named Barabbas. He and some others had been arrested for murder during a riot. The crowd now came and asked Pilate to set a prisoner free, just as he usually did.

Pilate asked them, "Do you want me to free the king of the Jews?" Pilate knew that the chief priests had brought Jesus to him because they were jealous. But the chief priests told the crowd to ask Pilate to free Barabbas.

Then Pilate asked the crowd, "What do you want me to do with this man you say is the king of the Jews?"

They yelled, "Nail him to a cross!"

Pilate asked, "But what crime has he done?"

"Nail him to a cross!" they yelled even louder.

Now Pilate wanted to please the crowd and keep them on side, so he set Barabbas free. Then he ordered his soldiers to beat Jesus with a whip and nail him to a cross.

About this Prayer Station:

At this prayer station, young people are invited to read about real people who are currently experiencing rejection, humiliation, or condemnation through all sorts of prejudice. Participants are then encouraged to reflect and consider their attitude towards them.

Resources:

- A large cardboard box
- Fabric/table cloth
- A collection of local or familiar stories/reports about people who are 'condemned' or treated unjustly in today's society
- Copy of the instruction card/Gospel reading



Suggested Set Up:

In your allocated space for Prayer Station 5:

- Decorate the side of the cardboard box with images and words depicting people who are unjustly 'condemned', or treated unjustly in today's society. You could also include historic images of such groups of people from the past
- Place the decorated box in the centre of the fabric/table cloth and arrange around the edge of the fabric specific stories of people who have been condemned, or treated unjustly locally or nationally
- Around the fabric area, ensure copies of the reading and instructions can be clearly seen.

Prayer Station 5

Jesus is Condemned

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They yelled, "Nail him to a cross!"

Pilate asked, "But what crime has he done?"

"Nail him to a cross!" they yelled even louder.

Now Pilate wanted to please the crowd and keep them on side, so he set Barabbas free. Then he ordered his soldiers to beat Jesus with a whip and nail him to a cross.

Pilate wasn't happy with their decision and wanted no part of it. However, he knew that the political thing to do was to keep people on his side and on the side of Rome.

The hostile crowd, led by the Chief Priests, were so determined to condemn Jesus to die, that they yelled and screamed for him to be crucified.

Think About:

It is still so easy to be influenced by the 'crowd'...

Even today, we follow the headlines and the media in 'crucifying' people; gossiping about them, condemning them and writing them off.

1. Have a look at the pictures, headlines and stories of people condemned and writing off in our society.
2. Think and reflect about your attitude towards them... Who influences your thinking? The media, or your faith?
3. As you reflect, ask God to show you the times where you have been a judgemental voice in the hostile crowd pointing the finger at others and falsely condemning them.
4. Is there anything you need to change? Ask God for forgiveness for those times when you have mistakenly just followed the crowd in condemning and crucifying others. Invite God to give you a heart of compassion and to reveal the image of God in others.

Prayer Station 6

Jesus is Mocked

Mark 15: 16-20

The soldiers led Jesus into the courtyard of the governor's headquarters and called out the rest of the troops.

They dressed him in a purple robe and they put a crown they had made out of thorn branches on his head. Then they saluted him and taunted, "Hail! King of the Jews!" and they struck him on the head with a stick, spat on him and dropped to their knees pretending to worship him.

When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him off to be nailed to a cross.

About this Prayer Station:

This prayer station attempts to mimic the sense of mockery, which the Roman soldiers put Jesus through. Closely linked to the previous prayer station, young people are invited to pray for those who are mocked and for the ways in which others mock them. Symbolically, through holding rose petals, participants are encouraged to pray for those whose true beauty is cruelly denied and distorted through mockery.

Resources:

- A large piece of purple fabric or tablecloth
- A large vase
- Water
- Red dye or food colouring
- A crown of thorns (to make a crown of thorns, see: www.ehow.com/how_5614673_make-crown-thorns-easter-play.html)
- Red rose petals (synthetic, real, or petal shapes out of red tissue paper will do)
- Copy of the instruction card/Gospel reading



Suggested Set Up:

In your allocated space for Prayer Station 6:

- Layout the fabric or table cloth on the floor or a low coffee table
- Place the vase on the middle of the cloth
- Fill the vase halfway with the water and mix in the red colouring
- Scatter the rose petals around the base of the vase
- Place the crown of thorns over the top of the vase
- Clearly place copies of the reading and instruction card around the prayer station.

Optional Extra:

- For further visual effect, add some fake blood or red paint to the rose thorns.

Prayer Station 6

Jesus is Mocked

Mark 15: 16-20

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When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him off to be nailed to a cross.

*The soldiers took great delight in mocking Jesus.
They stripped him of his clothes, dressed him in a purple robe
and placed a crown of thorns on his head.*

*Then they verbally abused him... spat in his face...
physically assaulted him.*

This was how they treated the 'Son of God'

Think About:

We have all been guilty of saying things that we later regret: the unkind word, a hurtful comment, an insensitive remark... trying to make ourselves look big, at another person's expense.

1. Look at the thorns on the crown – these represent moments of hurt and mockery... small, prickly, and painful! Think about the deliberate things you have said that have hurt others.
2. Look at the rose petals – they represent the real beauty and dignity of each person we may have hurt. Hold a petal in your hand and pray for anyone you have hurt through your words and actions.
3. As you hold a petal, pray also for those who have hurt and caused you pain with their words. Ask God to bring you to a place where you can forgive those who mock you.

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Prayer Station 7

Jesus is Crucified

Mark 15: 22-32

The soldiers brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha (which means "Place of the Skull"). They offered him wine mixed with a drug to ease the pain, but he refused it.

Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross and gambled with a dice to decide who would get each piece of his clothes. It was about nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. A sign was fastened to the cross, announcing the charge against him. It read, "The King of the Jews." They also crucified two criminals with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. "Look at you now!" they yelled at him. "You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Let's see you save yourself and come down from the cross!"

The chief priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus. "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself! If he is the Messiah, let this King of Israel come down from the cross so we can see it and believe him!"

Even the men who were crucified with Jesus said cruel things about him.

About this Prayer Station:

At this prayer station, young people are invited to consider the harshness and bitterness of Jesus execution. Using wine vinegar encourages participants to think deeply about crucifixion - the sharpness of its taste drawing an instant reaction.

Participants are then invited to hammer a nail into the wooden cross. As they do so, they are encouraged to pray for those who are dying; those who are persecuted for what they believe and to consider their own feelings of brokenness and failure which they would like 'crucified' with Jesus.

Resources:

- A glass bowl and a bottle of wine vinegar
- 6 inch nails
- 4 hammers
- A large wooden cross (this may need to be especially made for this activity, and thick enough to have nails hammered into it without damaging the floor underneath!), and protective padding to go under the cross
- Copy of the instruction card/Gospel reading



Suggested Set Up:

In your allocated space for Prayer Station 7:

- Find a suitable space to lay down the wooden cross (using some padding underneath the cross to protect the floor from nails going through)
- Scatter the nails and the hammers equally around the cross
- Place the bowl of wine vinegar at the foot of the cross along with copies of the reading and instructions.

Optional Extra:

- If horrified by the thought of fingers being dipped in the vinegar, cut up slices of bread into small cubes, which can be used to dip into the vinegar instead.

Prayer Station 7

Jesus is Crucified

Mark 15: 22-32

The soldiers brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha (which means "Place of the Skull"). They offered him wine mixed with a drug to ease the pain, but he refused it.

Then they nailed him to the cross and gambled with a game of dice to decide who would get each piece of his clothes. It was about nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. A sign was fastened to the cross, announcing the charge against him. It read, "The King of the Jews." They also crucified two criminals with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. "Look at you now!" they yelled at him. "You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Let's see you save yourself and come down from the cross!"

The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus. "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself! If he is the Messiah, let this King of Israel come down from the cross so we can see it and believe him!"

Even the men who were crucified with Jesus said cruel things about him.

*As Jesus is nailed to the cross,
His suffering continues and the pain is intense.*

*He is treated as a nobody – his clothing a prize in a game of dice;
the crowds continue to shout insults at him
and the soldiers offer him nothing but vinegar to drink.*

Think About:

Crucifixion was a most agonising death... slow, painful, and suffocating

1. Dip your finger in and taste the vinegar – as you do, notice how bitter and sharp it is.
2. As you taste the vinegar, take a moment to pray for those who are dying... and especially for those people in the world who have died for what they believe. Ask God to be close to them.
3. Take some nails and hold them in your hand. As you hold the nails think about the situations, memories, guilty feelings, failure and brokenness that you would like nailed to the cross with Jesus.
4. Carefully, hammer the nails into the cross, giving thanks to God for the way God took away our guilt and shame when Jesus died on the cross... and opened the way for us to receive forgiveness.

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Prayer Station 8

Jesus is Abandoned

Mark 15: 33-37

At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. "Wait!" he said. "Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!"

Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last.

About this Prayer Station:

At this prayer station, we read of Jesus' actual point of death. Young people are invited to reflect and think about the impact of the Cross and to consider what the symbol of the Cross means to them personally.

Using the act of physically holding the wooden crosses in their hands, or simply using the visual images as a focus for reflection, participants are encouraged to think about the way the Cross has impacted upon them. There is also the opportunity to reflect on the ways in which they have felt abandoned and an invitation to leave what troubles them to 'die' with Jesus on the Cross.

After this simple act of reflection, participants are invited to record their comments, thoughts and feelings about what the Cross means to them, on to the large paper cross.

Resources:

- An image of Jesus on the cross
(type 'Jesus on the Cross' into Google Images and then cut and paste your preferred images), or simply use a Taize Cross (suggest minimum size of A3) to be found at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/bbcworldservice/5639915301>

- A selection of wooden hand-held "holding crosses" (purchase from www.amazon.co.uk, type in "Holding Cross", or contact your Diocesan Resource Centre)
- A large cross-shape drawn on to paper (suggest joining 6 pieces of flip-chart paper together: 2 sheets wide, 3 sheets long)
- A selection of felt tips/coloured marker pens
- Copy of the instruction card/Gospel reading



Suggested Set Up:

In your allocated space for Prayer Station 8:

- Create a backdrop using images of Jesus on the Cross or the Taize Cross
- In front of the backdrop lay out the large cross shape drawn on to the paper
- Scatter a selection of felt-tips and colour marker pens
- Place copies of the reading and instruction card around the prayer station and the wooden holding crosses next to the instruction cards.

Prayer Station 8

Jesus is Abandoned

Mark 15: 33-37

At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. "Wait!" he said. "Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!"

Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last.

*Whilst the darkness still covered the whole country,
Jesus cried aloud for the last time and died on the Cross.*

It was an agonising end – brutal, cruel and violent.

*The Cross is a powerful symbol.
It represents the pain of sacrifice and of being abandoned.*

*But through Jesus, the Cross also brings us
God's forgiveness, restoration, transformation and hope...*

Think About:

Once an image to be feared, the Cross became a symbol of hope...

1. Looking at one of the images of the Cross, or while holding a small wooden cross in your hand, think about Jesus' death on the Cross – what does the Cross mean to you?
2. Reflect on the times when you have felt abandoned. In your prayer, leave what troubles you to 'die with Jesus'.
3. Write your ideas, thoughts and feelings about what the Cross means for you on the large cross drawn on the paper. This is your opportunity to respond to the journey you have shared with Jesus.

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Prayer Station 9

Jesus is Buried

Mark 15: 42-46

This all happened on Friday - the day of preparation, the day before the Sabbath. As evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea took a risk and went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

Pilate couldn't believe that Jesus was already dead, so he called for the Roman officer and asked if was true. The officer confirmed that Jesus was dead, so Pilate told Joseph he could have the body.

Joseph bought a long sheet of linen cloth. Then he took Jesus' body down from the cross, wrapped it in the cloth and laid it in a tomb that had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone in front of the entrance.

About this Prayer Station:

At this final prayer station, young people are simply invited to reflect on the journey they have just taken through the prayers stations. The station itself is kept deliberately simple to aid their reflection. Participants are given the opportunity to cut and take with them a piece of the linen cloth, echoing that which Jesus' body was wrapped in, as a symbol of their prayer and 'Journey with Jesus' to the cross.

Resources:

- A large freestanding cross
- A long length of natural coloured linen/calico material
- A few pairs of scissors
- Copy of the instruction card/Gospel reading



Suggested Set Up:

In your allocated space for Prayer Station 9:

- Set up the cross in the allocated space and drape the cloth over and around the cross, ensuring that a long length of the cloth is available for participants to cut pieces off
- Place copies of the reading and instructions around the base of the prayer station.

Optional Extra:

- As an alternative to people cutting pieces of the cloth themselves, have squares of the cloth already cut, which participants can simply pick up and take with them.

Prayer Station 9

Jesus is Buried

Mark 15: 42-46

This all happened on Friday - the day of preparation, the day before the Sabbath.

As evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea took a risk and went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

Pilate couldn't believe that Jesus was already dead, so he called for the Roman officer and asked if was true. The officer confirmed that Jesus was dead, so Pilate told Joseph he could have the body.

Joseph bought a long sheet of linen cloth. Then he took Jesus' body down from the cross, wrapped it in the cloth and laid it in a tomb that had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone in front of the entrance.

Jesus' journey to the Cross ends here... for now!

*Joseph carefully wraps Jesus' body in a white linen cloth
and places it in the cold, dark tomb.*

*Emptiness, sadness and stillness come together as the
whole of the cosmos reflects on what has happened,
and yet waits...*

Think About:

As our journey with Jesus arrives at the tomb where he was buried, we leave this place with the expectant hope of his resurrection...

1. Take a piece of the linen cloth, and keep it somewhere safe. Keep it as a reminder of the time you made this journey with Jesus to the Cross.
2. Pray that you will be close to Jesus this Lent and Easter.

Adapted from the Contemporary English Version (CEV)

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*Thank you for sharing this journey with us
through the Passion of Jesus.*

As you leave this place...

*May God the Creator,
who is not put off by our brokenness,
give you a heart that is prepared to accept responsibility and say 'sorry'.*

*May Christ the Redeemer,
who took with him to the Cross all our mistakes, wrong-doing, guilt and shame,
heal you by his wounds.*

*May the sustaining Spirit,
who leads us into all truth,
speak to you words of forgiveness and peace.*

Amen

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