

good friday



Thank you for joining us on this special journey through the stations of the cross. We're excited to share this interactive experience with you, designed to deepen your understanding and connection to the significant events of Jesus' sacrifice.

Throughout this presentation, you'll encounter video teachings for each station, providing brief insights into the significance of each moment. We've also crafted this experience to be interactive and engaging. After each segment, you'll have the opportunity to read the scriptures at your own pace. Feel free to take your time, allowing the words to sink in and resonate with you.

We encourage you to share this experience with others. If you're watching with friends or family, consider taking turns reading the passages aloud.

Some stations feature activities for you to participate in. These activities are designed to deepen your engagement with the themes of each station, providing a hands-on way to connect with the story of Jesus's journey.

We hope and pray that this experience will be a meaningful reflection on His sacrifice and a profound connection with Jesus as you walk alongside Him on His path to the cross. Thank you for being a part of this journey.

Items to gather:

Communion: bread/crackers & juice/wine

Rock

Paper and pen

1 - A Lavish Act of Worship

Mark 14:3-9 NIV

"While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on His head.

Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.

"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

Interaction:

The woman who poured her perfume out was a friend of Jesus named Mary, who is also known for sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening while her sister Martha worked feverishly preparing their home to host. God was then, and is now, far more concerned with the condition of your heart than your busyness, even for His sake.

Are you able to put distractions or the feverish pace of your week behind? Are you able to respond to the one who demonstrated His love for you on a cross? Are you able to "pour out" the best of what you have – *all* your heart – and slow down to be present with Him in this moment?

Before moving on to the next station, we encourage you to let the words of this worship song sink into your spirit. As you listen, through prayer or singing, offer yourself as a living offering to Jesus.

2 - His Last Meal

Mark 14:22-26 NIV

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

Then He took a cup, and when he had given thanks, He gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," He said to them.

"Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."

Interaction:

Communion

Without food and drink, we perish.

Without Jesus, we perish. This meal and what it represents is vital.

Take bread (a representation of Jesus' broken body) and dip it in juice (representing His blood).

Hear the voice of Jesus: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

His sacrifice was made for YOU. YOU have been forgiven. We take time to remember because we so easily forget.

Take, eat, drink and *remember*.

3 – His Will Be Done

Mark 14:32-36 NIV

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

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

Interaction:

Surrounded by ancient olive trees, Gethsemane means "olive press." It was a place where olives from the neighborhood were crushed for their oil.

So, too, the Son of God would be crushed here.

Jesus knew what the Father's will was; yet He still endured the agony of becoming a sacrifice for sins.

He wasn't an unknowing sacrificial animal, nor was He a victim of circumstances. He resolved willingly to lay down His life.

Did you hear Jesus' prayer? "Father, you can do anything. Can you please take this suffering from me?"

Is your soul deeply distressed and trouble? Are you overwhelmed?

Jesus understands that feeling well.

What is burdening you that you would like Him to take?

4 - A Broken Man

Mark 14:70-72 NIV

"After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, 'Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.' He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, 'I don't know this man you're talking about.' Immediately, the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: 'Before the rooster crows twice, you will disown me three times.' And he broke down and wept."

Interaction:

In the garden, Peter had promised to defend Jesus. His own words must have been ringing in his ears, "I will never disown you."

A short time later, he was now watching Jesus' trial from a distance. He was afraid. His courage had vanished. And he denied his Lord.

You may not relate to Peter's situation, but we have all denied Jesus with our actions, thoughts and words. All have sinned.

Consider this quote from Brennan Manning.

"The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians: who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable."

Pick up a rock.

Let it represent the times or places where you have denied Jesus. Let it represent your sin: pride, greed, unforgiveness, hatred, bitterness, lust, dishonesty, selfishness, jealousy.

Where have you denied Him? Feel the weight of that rock in your hand.

Now imagine a rock for every wrong doing in your life. This is an unimaginable weight and burden that we cannot bear. We cannot handle the load and we have no place to put it so it often spills out in our life and on to others. Jesus wants to help us with our weight.

Acknowledge your sin, carry it, and remember how Peter felt the moment he recognized his denial. Talk to God.

5 - A Crucified King

Mark 15:33-37 NIV

"At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, He's calling Elijah." Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said. With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last."

Interaction:

*Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.
1Peter 3:18*

*Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering... But he was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.
Isaiah 53:4-5*

Jesus' sacrifice paid the penalty for your sin.
No additional price can be paid. It is finished.

Take the rock in your hand and any other burdens you may be carrying. This rock represents one of our sins. Take a moment and write out the sins in your life, not to share with others but to confess them before God.

Once you are done writing, say a prayer to God, ask his forgiveness, and give Him your burdens. When you are finished, consider throwing the paper in the fire or tearing it up. Get rid of those items, knowing that Jesus has forgiven us of our sins.

The Cross is the one place where you can bring your sin and let it go.

The eternal consequence of that sin has been nailed to the Cross - not in part, but in whole - and you bear it no more. You are FREE.

Your sin is forgiven! How will you respond?

6 - Son Of God

Matthew 27:50-54 NIV

"And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He gave up His spirit.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split ⁵² and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

Interaction:

Before Jesus, the closest you could get to the presence of God was the Western Wall outside the temple mount in Jerusalem. The temple mount was and is only approachable by priests on certain holidays, making the Western Wall the closest any non-religious leader could get to God. Jesus came and died to bridge the gap between us and God the Father. The tearing of the temple veil signified that we now have free access to God the Father through the death of His son.

The centurion had seen many others crucified before, yet there was something so remarkable about Jesus that he said something he could not say about anyone else, "Surely this man was the Son of God."

"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:16

Worship with us for this last song.

If you have any prayer requests, we would love to hear them. Simply text your prayer request to 844-921-0220, and individuals will be praying over each one.

Thanks for joining us.