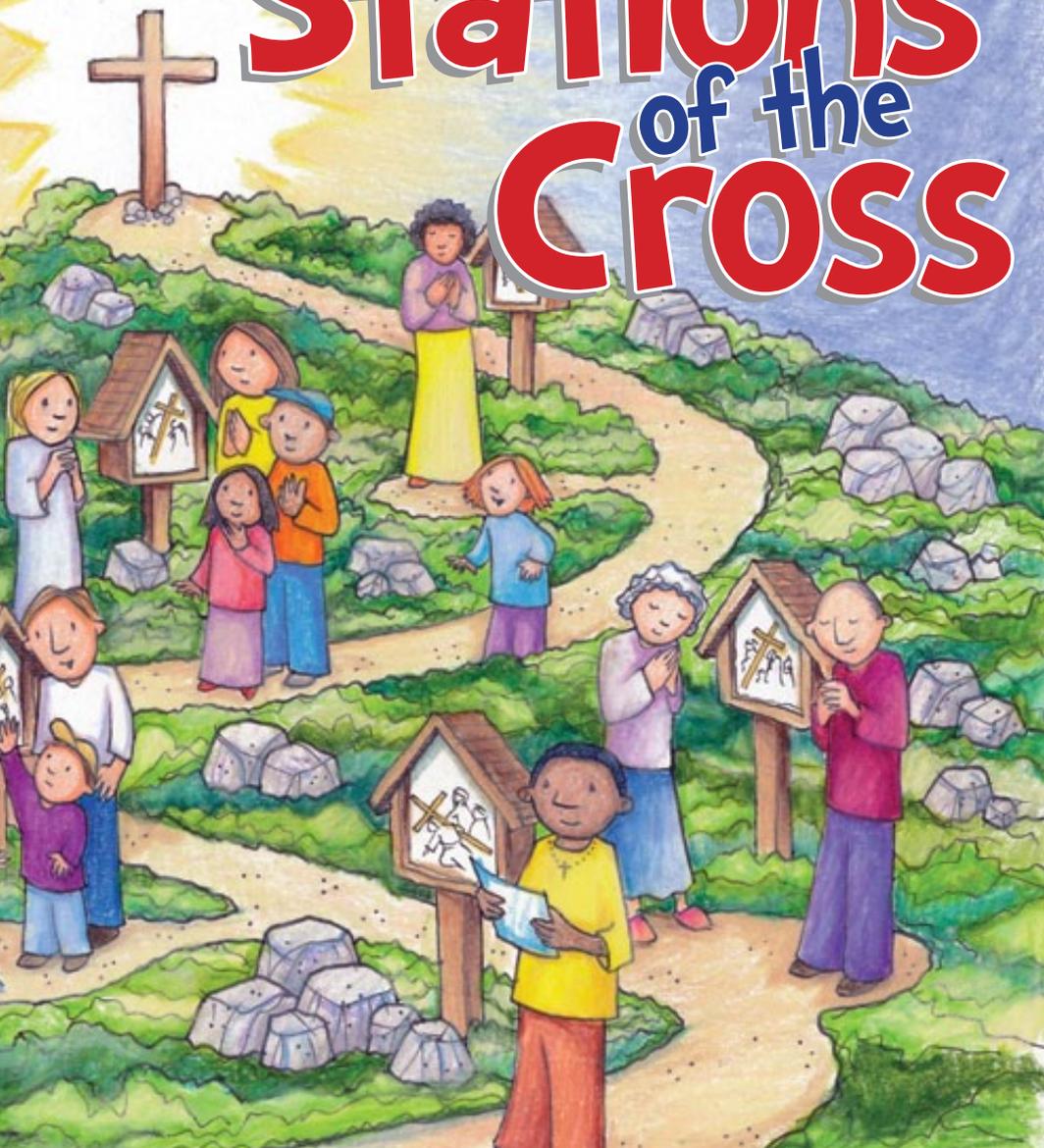


LIVING FAITH Kids

# the Praying Stations of the Cross





## First Station

# Jesus is Condemned to Death

**We adore you, O Christ,  
and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Why was the crowd so angry as they shouted out that Jesus must die? He had done nothing wrong, and he didn't deserve to die. Pilate, the one person who could have set Jesus free, did not stand up to the crowd and let him go home. He knew Jesus was innocent, but he condemned him anyway. It was so unfair!

***It's not fair!*** Jesus, sometimes I feel that way myself when I am accused of something I didn't do. And sometimes I don't stand up to defend someone I know has done nothing wrong. Sometimes I go along with the crowd when I know I shouldn't.

**Lord Jesus, give me the courage  
to do what is right even when I  
might have to stand alone against  
what other people are saying.**

## Second Station

# Jesus Carries His Cross



**We adore you, O Christ,  
and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Jesus had already been badly beaten when he had to pick up a heavy wooden cross. Imagine the weight of the cross that Jesus carried for our sake. The cross he was carrying was loaded with all the sins of the world. Imagine the weight of those sins: the bad things we have done and the good things we have left undone.

***It's too hard!*** Jesus, sometimes I complain about all the things I have to do: homework, chores around the house, cleaning my room. Sometimes when I'd rather play, I skip what I'm supposed to do—or I get crabby and complain loudly.

**Lord Jesus, I know that following you  
means taking up my cross each day.  
Help me to be faithful to my duties.**



## Jesus Falls the First Time

**We adore you, O Christ,  
and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross  
you have redeemed the world.**

Imagine how much it hurt to fall down on the hard pavement under the weight of the cross. With sweat in his eyes and carrying a heavy load, Jesus stumbled. It was very painful, but he pulled himself up to his feet and kept going.

***It hurts!*** Jesus, no one likes pain, but I really hate being sick or having a headache. I hate getting shots at the doctor or going to the dentist. But I know these things are small compared to your suffering and what other people go through.

**Lord, when I am in pain, help me  
offer it to you for the sake of those  
suffering from disease or violence.  
May my little aches and pains be a  
prayer to the suffering of the world.**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross you have  
redeemed the world.**

***For hundreds of years*** the followers of Jesus have followed the path he took to Calvary through the narrow streets of Jerusalem. We want to remember the sacrifice of Jesus because, through the mystery of God's grace, Jesus' death and resurrection brought about our redemption from sin and death. So Christian pilgrims walked along the way Jesus took to the cross and prayed in gratitude to the Lord.

## **the Praying Stations of the Cross**

Since not everyone can go all the way to Jerusalem, the Catholic tradition of the Stations of the Cross was born. The Stations, images shown on the walls or windows of Catholic churches everywhere, give us a way to remember Jesus' suffering and pray along with him on the road to Calvary.

This booklet of the Stations of the Cross includes a sticker for each station. As you learn about them and pray with Jesus, place a sticker on the page. Then keep this booklet and pray the Stations of the Cross in your own church or at home to draw closer to Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

**— Mark Neilsen, editor  
*Living Faith Kids***