

Family Good Friday Service, 2017
Stations of Holy Week

Gather together in a circle. Offer a gathering prayer and ask for volunteers to share readings as you go through the evenings service. (Have readings listed below printed to hand out.) Then begin:

Turning over tables

*Ask children: Have you ever been mad? We have a story in the Bible about a time that Jesus got mad.

When they arrived in Jerusalem, Jesus went to the Temple and began to drive out all those who were buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the stools of those who sold pigeons, and he would not let anyone carry anything through the Temple courtyards. He then taught the people:

It is written in the Scriptures that God said,

My Temple will be called a house of prayer for the people of all nations. But you have turned it into a hideout for thieves! (Mark 11:15-17)

--Why do you think Jesus was upset?

--Go to an area where there are “tables” set up for the children to knock over: maybe cardboard boxes or pillows stacked—something that will not hurt people!

--Find another spot to spread out a blanket and invite people to sit for the next story.

Woman anoints Jesus

When Jesus was at a friend's house eating, a woman came in with an alabaster jar full of a very expensive perfume. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on Jesus' head. Some of the people there became angry and said to one another,

What was the use of wasting the perfume? It was very expensive! Shame on you, woman. You shouldn't have done that.

But Jesus said,

Leave her alone! Why are you bothering her? She has done a fine and beautiful thing for me. She did what she could; she poured perfume on my body to prepare it ahead of time for burial. Wherever the gospel is preached all over the world, what she has done will be told in memory of her. (Mark 14:3-9)

--Pass around a jar of anointing oil for everyone to smell. Then place a bit of oil on each person's hand.

--Give someone the jar of oil or another small jar to carry with them.

--Continue on with the next story.

Last Supper

Then Jesus sent two of his disciples to get ready for the special Passover meal. Everything happened like Jesus said it would.

They went into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water met them. They followed him to the house he entered and said to the owner of the house: The Teacher says, Where is the room where my disciples and I will eat the Passover meal?

[walk kids to an area with a table] Then he showed them a large upstairs room, fixed up and furnished, where they got everything ready for the meal.

[have kids set table w/ napkins and cups]

When it was evening, Jesus came with the twelve disciples. While they were at the table eating, Jesus said,

I tell you that one of you will betray me--one who is eating with me. The disciples were upset and began to ask him, one after the other,

Surely you don't mean me, do you?

Jesus answered,

It will be one of you twelve, one who dips his bread in the dish with me. I will die as the Scriptures say I will; but how terrible for that man who will betray me!

While they were eating, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples. He said,

Take it, this is my body. [give kids crackers]

Then he took a cup, gave thanks to God, and handed it to them; and they all drank from it. Jesus said,

This is my blood which is poured out for many, my blood which seals God's covenant. I tell you, I will never again drink this wine until the day I drink the new wine in the Kingdom of God. [pour juice]

--Invite children to each and drink. Then continue with the story:

Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives. (Mark 14: 12-26)

--Give someone a chalice to carry with them.

--Sing "Jesus Loves Me" or another familiar hymn as you walk to the "Mount of Olives"—an open area.]

Jesus in the Garden

They came to a garden, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."

He took Peter, James, and John with him. Distress and anguish came over him, and he said to them, "The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me. Stay here and keep watch."

He went a little farther on, threw himself on the ground, and prayed:

Father, my Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet not what I want, but what you want should be done.

Then he returned and found the three disciples asleep. He said,

Are you asleep? Weren't you able to stay awake for even one hour? Keep watch, and pray that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

He went away once more and prayed, saying the same words. Then he came back to the disciples and found them asleep; they could not keep their eyes open. And they did not know what to say to him.

When he came back the third time, he said to them,

Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come! Look, the Son of Man is now being handed over to the power of sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, here is the man who is betraying me!

--Give someone pillow to carry with them.

Jesus is Arrested

Jesus was still speaking when Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs and sent by the chief priests, the teachers of the Law, and the elders. The traitor had given the crowd a signal:

The man I kiss is the one you want. Arrest him and take him away under guard.

As soon as Judas arrived, he went up to Jesus and said,

Teacher! and kissed him.

So they arrested Jesus and held him tight. But one of those standing there drew his sword and struck at the High Priest's slave. Then Jesus spoke up and said to them,

Did you have to come with swords and clubs to capture me, as though I were an outlaw? Day after day I was with you teaching in the Temple, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must come true.

Then all the disciples left him and ran away. (Mark 14: 32-50)

--Give someone a (plastic or paper) sword to carry with them.

Jesus' trials

Then Jesus was taken to the High Priest's house, where all the chief priests, the elders, and the teachers of the Law were gathering.

**Go back to the location of your first circle.*

The chief priests and the whole Council tried to find some evidence against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they could not find any. Many witnesses told lies against Jesus, but their stories did not agree.

Jesus kept quiet and would not say a word. Again the High Priest questioned him,
Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed God?

Jesus answered, I am, and you will all see the Son of Man seated at the right side of the Almighty and coming with the clouds of heaven!

The High Priest tore his robes and said,

We don't need any more witnesses! You heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?

They all voted against him: he was guilty and should be put to death. (Mark 14:53-65)

Early in the morning they put Jesus in chains, led him away.

They handed him over to Pilate who asked Jesus,
Are you the king of the Jews?

Jesus answered,
So you say.

Pilate asked the crowd,

What do you want me to do with the one you call the king of the Jews?

They shouted back,
Crucify him!

So he had Jesus whipped and handed him over to be crucified--which means they planned to kill him by putting him on a cross. (Mark 15:1-15)

--Give someone a chain to carry with them.

Crucifixion

The soldiers made fun of Jesus and were very mean to him.

They took Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means The Place of the Skull. Then they crucified him. The notice of the accusation against him said: The King of the Jews. Many people made fun of Jesus and insulted him while he hung on the cross.

About three hours later, the whole country was covered with darkness, which

lasted for three hours. Then Jesus cried out with a loud shout,
My God, my God, why did you abandon me?
And then Jesus died.

--Give someone a cross to carry with them.

Go to the front table/altar in your worship space.

Remember the Story

--As you cover the table, remember the story of Jesus turning over tables in the temple. Then briefly go through the stories again as each person carrying an item places it on the table.

--Continue with the story:

Burial

Some women were there, looking on from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of the younger James and of Joseph, and Salome. They had followed Jesus while he was in Galilee and had helped him. Many other women who had come to Jerusalem with him were there also.

That evening, one of Jesus' friends named Joseph took down Jesus' body, wrapped it in a sheet, and put it in a tomb. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph were watching and saw where the body of Jesus was placed. (Mark 15:16-47)

--Cover the items on the table with a black cloth.

--Encourage children to come to worship on Easter Sunday to hear the rest of the story.

Close with prayer