

# **Station 1 - Crown of Thorns**

**Read John 19:1-7**

***John 19:1-7 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers also twisted together a crown of thorns, put it on his head, and clothed him in a purple robe. And they kept coming up to him and saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" and were slapping his face. Pilate went outside again and said to them, "Look, I'm bringing him out to you to let you know I find no grounds for charging him." Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" When the chief priests and the temple***

*servants saw him, they shouted,  
“Crucify! Crucify!”*

*Pilate responded, “Take him and  
crucify him yourselves, since I find  
no grounds for charging him.” “We  
have a law,” the Jews replied to  
him, “and according to that law he  
ought to die, because he made  
himself the Son of God.”*

**Hold the crown of thorns. Think  
about the pain that Jesus endured  
when a crown, similar to this, was  
placed on His head. This crown  
should have been worn by me, but  
my God loved me enough to wear it  
for me. Spend a few moments  
thanking God for sending Jesus to  
be our King that was willing to wear  
a crown of thorns.**



## **Station 2 - A Royal Crown**

**Read John 19:8-12**

***John 19:8-12 When Pilate heard this statement, he was more afraid than ever. He went back into the headquarters and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus did not give him an answer. So Pilate said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Don't you know that I have the authority to release you and the authority to crucify you?" "You would have no authority over me at all," Jesus answered him, "if it hadn't been given you from above. This is why the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin." From that moment Pilate kept trying to release him.***

*But the Jews shouted, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Anyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar!”*

**Now hold this crown. It can represent the one that Pilate might have worn. Pilate’s power, authority and politics meant more to him than his faith in Christ. What do you hold closer to your heart than Christ? Your job? Money? Politics? What might God be calling you to lay down for Him?**

# **Station 3 - Handwashing**

**Read John 19:13-15 and  
Matthew 27:24**

***John 19:13-15 When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside. He sat down on the judge's seat in a place called the Stone Pavement (but in Aramaic, Gabbatha). It was the preparation day for the Passover, and it was about noon. Then he told the Jews, "Here is your king!" They shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Should I crucify your king?" "We have no king but Caesar!" the chief priests answered.***

*Matthew 27:24 When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that a riot was starting instead, he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, “I am innocent of this man’s blood. See to it yourselves!”*

**Wash your hands in the water bowl. As you dry your hands on the towel, consider what Pilate was doing in these passages. Pilate was declaring himself innocent, forgiving his own sins. This is not possible. Read John 13:6-9.**

*John 13:6-9 He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus answered him, “What I’m doing you*

*don't realize now, but afterward you will understand." "You will never wash my feet," Peter said. Jesus replied, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."*

**Jesus is the only one who can wash us clean from our sins.**

# **Station 4 - The Cross**

**Read John 19:15-24**

***John 19:15-24 They shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Should I crucify your king?" "We have no king but Caesar!" the chief priests answered. Then he handed him over to be crucified. Then they took Jesus away. Carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him and two others with him, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Pilate also had a sign made and put on the cross. It said: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. Many of the Jews read***

*this sign, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Don't write, 'The king of the Jews,' but that he said, 'I am the king of the Jews.'" Pilate replied, "What I have written, I have written." When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, a part for each soldier. They also took the tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it, to see who gets it." This happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled that says: They divided my clothes among*

*themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing. This is what the soldiers did.*

**Take a few minutes and write something down. It can be your name, a struggle that you have, a sin that God has forgiven. Nail this piece of paper to the cross and thank God for His willingness to send His one and only Son to be your Savior.**

**Please step back to the seats with your notecard to take time to reflect and write before moving to the cross.**

# **Station 5 - “Mary Speaks”**

**Read John 19:25-27**

***John 19:25-27 Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.***

**Read “Mary Speaks”.**

**Mary Speaks by Madeleine L'Engle**

**O you who bear the pain of the**

**whole earth,**

**I bore you.**

**O you whose tears give human tears  
their worth,**

**I laughed with you.**

**You, who, when your hem is  
touched, give power,**

**I nourished you.**

**Who turn the day to night in this  
dark hour,**

**light comes from you.**

**O you who hold the world in your  
embrace,**

**I carried you.**

**O you who laughed and ate and  
walked the shore,**

**I played with you.**

**And I, who with all others, died for,  
now I hold you.**

May I be faithful to this final test,  
in this last time I hold my child, my  
son,  
His body close enfolded to my  
breast,  
the holder held: the bearer bare.  
Mourning to joy: darkness to mourn.  
Open, my arms: your work is done.

**What must it have been like for  
Jesus' mother to watch her son  
become her savior? Thank God for  
your family. If you have family with  
you now, pray over them. Thank  
God for allowing them to be in your  
life. If you have family in other  
places, or some who have already  
joined Jesus in Heaven, spend a few  
moments thanking God for their**

**memory and the impact they had  
on your life.**

# **Station 6 - Communion**

**Read John 19:28-30**

*John 19:28-30 After this, when Jesus knew that everything was now finished that the Scripture might be fulfilled, he said, "I'm thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was sitting there; so they fixed a sponge full of sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it up to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished." Then bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.*

**Before taking communion, smell this cup of vinegar. Why was Jesus so willing to become a mockery for all who gathered for His crucifixion?**

**Why would Jesus choose to endure so much pain and humiliation and torture? Because of you. You are the reason Jesus died on the cross. Jesus loves you! Say out loud, Jesus loves me! As you take communion remember that Jesus chose to endure a sponge of vinegar on our cross so that we could have communion with God, Forever.**

# **Station 7 - Remember the Tomb**

## **Read John 19:31-42**

***John 19:31-42 Since it was the preparation day, the Jews did not want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special day). They requested that Pilate have the men's legs broken and that their bodies be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and of the other one who had been crucified with him. When they came to Jesus, they did not break his legs since they saw that he was already dead. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. He who saw this***

*has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth. For these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: Not one of his bones will be broken. Also, another Scripture says: They will look at the one they pierced. After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus—but secretly because of his fear of the Jews—asked Pilate that he might remove Jesus's body. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and took his body away. Nicodemus (who had previously come to him at night) also came, bringing a mixture of about seventy-five pounds of myrrh and aloes. They took Jesus's body and wrapped it in*

*linen cloths with the fragrant spices, according to the burial custom of the Jews. There was a garden in the place where he was crucified. A new tomb was in the garden; no one had yet been placed in it. They placed Jesus there because of the Jewish day of preparation and since the tomb was nearby.*

**As you prepare to leave, take a small stone and remember that night. Jesus' body was placed in a tomb. The Romans placed a large stone to seal the tomb. Roman soldiers stood guard over Jesus' burial place. Remember it is Good Friday, but Easter is coming. Pray**

**the Lord's Prayer before leaving the church building in silence.**

*Our Father in heaven,  
your name be honored as holy.*

*Your kingdom come.*

*Your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our  
debtors.*

*And do not bring us into  
temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.*

**~ Matthew 6:9b-13**