

Holy Week



FOCUS

1. The Beatitudes were revolutionary in their objectives, overturning what the world in Jesus' time considered valuable in favour of a new series of values: poverty of spirit over riches; mercy instead of ruthlessness; purity of heart rather than selfishness, etc.
2. Jesus transformed the traditional Passover meal into a sacred 'memorial' celebrating his life, death and resurrection.
3. In Holy Week we remember the suffering, death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
4. Following Jesus faithfully is not an easy or fleeting task. It requires a lifetime of effort, a daily struggle involving self-denial, or mortification (that is, dying to oneself).

In these lessons your child may have:

- reflected upon and discussed the Beatitudes;
- identified some of the things that could stop us putting God first in our lives;
- explored the similarities between the Jewish Passover meal and the Last Supper;
- explored the significance of the Stations of the Cross within the Christian tradition;
- developed a creative response to the Stations of the Cross.

Matthew 5: 1-12

... Blessed are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Blessed are those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 16:25

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "if anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Mark 15:33-39

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ... "My God, My God, why have you deserted me?" ... Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ... The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said, "In truth this man was the Son of God."

SUGGESTED HOME ACTIVITIES

The following are suggested activities for you to do with your child.

1. Read and discuss with your child the Beatitudes in Matt. 5:13-16.
2. Encourage your child to reflect on the happiness and blessings they have received from God.
3. Ask your child if they have experienced any of the Beatitudes.
4. Discuss with your child ways your family could be of service to your local community; e.g., sporting clubs, nursing homes, school and parish activities.
5. Encourage your child to complete the Stations of the Cross on the Activity Page and discuss with them how these stations allow us to follow Jesus from the Last Supper, to the Cross to the tomb and finally to Easter Sunday.
6. As a family attend the major services during Holy Week.
7. More activities can be found at www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au Click on **Home Activities**.

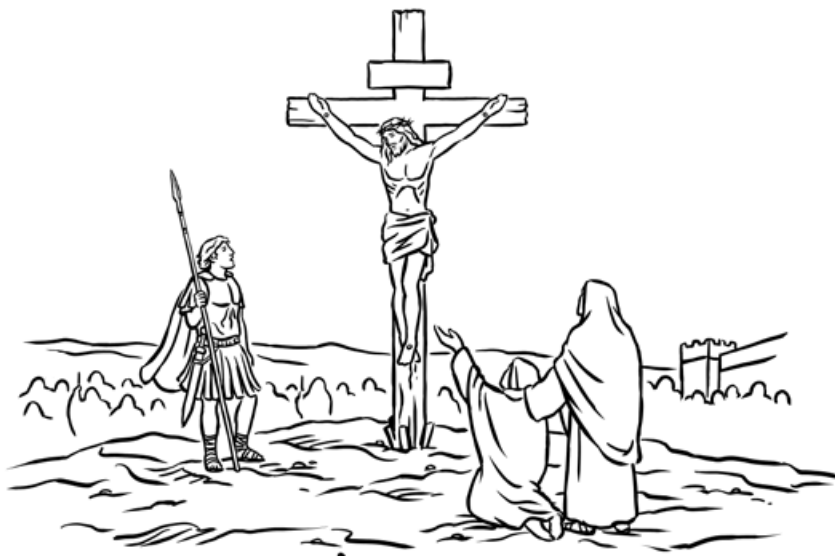
TO REMEMBER:

The Cross reveals God's love for us.

- The Stations of the Cross remind us of Jesus' journey to Calvary. Begin with the first Station of the Cross and journey through to the fourteenth. On your path complete the missing Stations.

START HERE

1. _____
2. The Garden of Gethsemane.
3. Jesus before the Sanhedrin.
4. _____
5. Jesus is whipped and crowned with thorns.
6. _____
7. Jesus helped by the Cyrenean.
8. Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem.
9. Jesus is stripped and nailed to the Cross.
10. _____
11. Jesus speaks to Mary and John.
12. _____
13. _____
14. Jesus is raised from the dead.



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