

Stations of the Cross at home for young families

This material has been taken from Wintershall Stations of the Cross workshops for schools, and adapted for use by young families at home. It is suitable for pre-school and primary aged children upwards, and uses a variety of pictures, sensory objects and actions to engage with the story of Jesus' last journey to the Cross. It can be completed in one day, or used as a reflection per day during Lent and Easter.

SAMPLE PAGES – FOR THE COMPLETE FREE SET PLEASE EMAIL education@wintershall-education.com

PREPARATION

Read through the material

Download the pdf on your tablet or phone. You could print them out but this is not essential.

At each of the 14 'stations' or stopping points, there is:

- A **picture** to look at and wonder about together – you will find the 'Wintershall' pictures here, but there are many other images on the internet about this story. For example [here](#)
- A link to the **story** in the **bible**, and a short reflection
- An **object** or action to complete
- A short **prayer** or thought

Gather the objects needed for each station

Place these in a basket, box or bag ready to find. You will need:

One 'tear' shape drawing, or sequin per person	Rosary beads	
A clean tissue or handkerchief		String
A nail/old pin		Bandage or strip of white cloth
A scrap/ piece of old clothing (e.g. an old piece of clothing)	A smooth stone, pebble or rock (or card circle)	A small stick, pebble, gravel (something you might fall over on)



Create a special space

Decide where and when you are going to do The Way of the Cross, sitting comfortably together – inside, or outside if it's fine weather.

Gather some materials to create a special space in your home. Place an open Bible on a cloth (or scarf), with a candle, or an electric candle, or a small table lamp. **The little display** could be set up in the centre of your circle, on a table if you are sitting around one, or on the ground if you are in a circle on cushions.

You may prefer to 'walk' the stations round your home, or outside if you have a garden space, choosing where to stop. Between each 'station' you could walk round in a circle singing a song.

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ON THE DAY

- Set up the central display: cloth/bible/light (or pictures of these)
- Have the box, basket or **bag of 'objects'** for each Station ready
- You know your family and who is confident about **reading**. Take it in turns, if that works best.
- Have the **pdf and pictures** ready to show, on your tablet, phone, or laptop, or printed out.
- Remember, as 'leader' allow time to **wonder about each picture**. This is the time to talk and to question. There is never just one 'answer' or response!
- If you are going to sing, have the music ready to play



WORDS OF INTRODUCTION – to be read by the 'leader'

- Ever since the first Easter, people have wanted to make special journeys to the Holy Land where Jesus was born and lived his life, and they especially wanted to follow in the footsteps of Jesus in Jerusalem, as he made his way to the Cross. But most people couldn't make that long and difficult journey all the way to Jerusalem! So, they made paintings and carvings in stone and wood, and set up a 'Way of the Cross', in their Church buildings, and in special places, at home in their own countries.
- Today, we are going to make this same journey, a Way of the Cross, with Jesus and one another, here in our home! Journeys are full of surprises! We can discover new things about places, people and times. We will have 'Stations' or 'stopping points' to help us follow Jesus on his way to the Cross. We will use pictures, objects, actions, and words from the bible stories.
- We will be looking at pictures from a place called Wintershall. It is a big 'farm' in Surrey, where the Stations of the Cross have been made by many different artists and are placed in the fields and lanes leading up a big hill. It's very beautiful there. But here at home we can 'walk' through these stations too, sitting in our home or garden (if you have one), or walking round the room or outside space if we want to. We could sing while we do that.
- We are going to gather lots of different objects which will help us tell the story.
- Some parts of the Way of the Cross may disturb or confuse us, but that's OK – we are together, looking after each other, listening and watching with Jesus. And we will come away from this journey seeing things a little differently.
- You may have heard this story about how Jesus died many times before. But come to it afresh today, and hear it as if for the first time. Let this time together speak to us, and change us a little bit. Let the words travel across time and space from the time of Jesus. Let Jesus and his Word in the Bible be present with us now, telling us about our times in the 21st Century and our lives together here in our home and family.
- Let's be open, and allow our love for each other and for God to grow even deeper and stronger.

SO, IF YOU ARE READY.....LET'S BEGIN!

Station 1

I wonder
what
this
station
is?

Pass the image
around, or show
it to everyone



I Wonder.....

I wonder what is
happening?

I wonder what
Jesus is
thinking?

I wonder where
his hands are?

The Bible - Jesus is arrested

Invite someone to read. Taken from the Gospel of St John (chapters 18

16-27)

Police and soldiers with clubs and swords come to the garden and
taken prisoner. His friends are frightened and run away. Jesus is
where the authorities accuse him of blasphemy. He tells them the truth to
them, saying who he is and why he has come. The soldiers make fun of
him; they hit him, spit on him, and throw a palm branch onto his head.

SAMPLE PAGES

The object

Ask a child to find the PIECE OF STRING in the bag or basket.
Pass it round, having a good look at it. This reminds us of the rope
that tied Jesus's hands together as the soldiers led him away.



Prayer or thought

Dear Jesus, I sometimes get defensive when I know I have done something wrong. But you had done nothing wrong. You spoke the truth, and then you were silent. You stand beside all those people who feel alone and defenceless when others don't listen and judge them unfairly. Help me to tell the truth, and to be honest and brave.

Response for everyone to repeat after the leader:

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Station 2

I wonder what this station is?

Pass the image around, or show it to everyone



I wonder.....

I wonder
what is
happening?

I wonder how
the
as?

SAMPLE PAGES

The Bible

Invite someone

The cross is large. Jesus's back for him to carry. It is so big and heavy. It is very hard for Jesus to carry, and he is exhausted but He does not cry out or complain.

The object

Ask a child or adult to find the small stone or pebble. Pass it round, having a good look at it. Feel how hard it is.

Activity: Leader now invites one child (or if everyone has a stone, everyone) to mark out a CROSS on one side of the stone using a sharpie or black felt pen or marker.

I wonder what this stone reminds us of We will now carry this stone with us as we follow Jesus on the Way of the Cross



Prayer or thought

Dear Jesus, sometimes I have to do hard or difficult things at school or at home. Sometimes difficult things happen in my life which make me angry or sad – they feel very 'heavy' to carry.

Please help me to carry the difficult things I have to do or accept in my life.

Response for everyone to repeat after the leader:

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Station 3

I wonder what this station is?

Pass the image around, or show it to everyone



I wonder.....

I wonder what is happening?

I wonder what Jesus can see?

The Bible - Jesus falls for the 3rd time

Invite someone to read

Jesus is already

Jesus as he falls

under the weight of the heavy cross. It is so painful for
he moves slowly forward along the way

The object or action

Together, think about what it is like to fall over, in the playground or at work. When did you last fall over? How did it feel? Was anyone there to help you? If in your garden, or outside, look around and see what you might fall on. You could pick this up and add it to your basket.

When we have something really difficult to do, and can't do it, we can feel like giving up. We can't go on! But because God is always with us, then nothing can defeat us.



Prayer or thought

Dear Jesus, you are with us in times of suffering and help us when we feel weak. Thank you that nothing in the whole world can separate us from your love.

Response for everyone to repeat after the leader:

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.