

Start-up/Third Grade Lesson Plans

Lesson 18 – Stations of the Cross

Materials needed:

- Stations of the Cross worksheet – 1 per child
- Stations of the Cross color handout – 1 per child

All classes will pray the Stations together this evening. Please gather your class and come to the church.

After Stations (if time):

- How do you think the Stations of the Cross began? What is their history?
- Soon after Jesus died, Christians in Jerusalem marked out all the holy places of Christ's passion and death, such as the place where He was condemned by Pontius Pilate or the site of His crucifixion.
- Tradition says that the Blessed Virgin Mary used to visit daily the scenes of Jesus' passion and crowds of people followed her.
- Many of these people were from other countries, but wanted to continue this devotion when they returned home.
- They used statues or pictures to show the scenes of Jesus' last day on earth and then visited each one, just as if they were in Jerusalem.
- In this way, the people could remember what Jesus had done for them and remain close to Him.
- We do the same thing today with our Stations of the Cross.

- **We visit the place where Jesus:**
 - † **Is condemned to death**
 - † **Takes the cross upon his back**
 - † **Falls the first time**
 - † **Meets his blessed mother**
 - † **Hands over the cross to Simon of Cyrene to carry**
 - † **Falls the second time**
 - † **Meets the women of Jerusalem**
 - † **Falls the third time**
 - † **Is stripped of his garments**
 - † **Is crucified on the cross**
 - † **Dies on the cross**
 - † **Is taken down from the cross**
 - † **Is laid in the tomb**

Discussion Questions:

1. **How did you feel as we prayed the Stations of the Cross?**
2. **Why do you think we pray the Stations, especially during Lent?**
3. **Why did Jesus give his life for us?**
4. **Lent is a special time we set aside to think about the Sacrifice Jesus made for us. It is also a time we commit to making sacrifices in our own lives. Why?**
5. **What sacrifices do you think would be good to make during Lent? Is it too late to start now?**

Invite your students to reflect on Jesus' suffering by writing prayers of gratitude for His great sacrifice or complete the Stations of the Cross worksheet together.