

Station 1: Judas Matthew 26:14-16; 47-49

Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, went to the chief priests and they promised to give him money, so he watched for a chance to betray Jesus. Judas came to Jesus in the garden and kissed him, which was a sign for the soldiers to arrest Jesus.

Take a coin to remember Judas betraying Jesus.

Station 2: Caiaphas Matthew 26:57-65

Caiaphas, the high priest, tried to find evidence against Jesus. Caiaphas got so angry that he tore his clothes in rage. The Jews spat on Jesus and hit him.

Take a piece of torn fabric to remember Caiaphas tearing his clothes in anger.

Station 3: Simon Peter Matthew 26:69-75

Simon Peter could not believe that he would ever deny Jesus. But when the cock crowed, he found he had pretended three times that he did not know Jesus.

Take a feather to remember Peter disowning Jesus three times before the cock crowed.

Station 4: King Herod Luke 23:8-12

King Herod wanted to see Jesus performing miracles. When Jesus didn't answer him, Herod dressed Jesus up in fine clothes and mocked and ridiculed him.

Take a piece of purple cloth to remember Herod dressing Jesus in a fine robe and mocking him.

Station 5: Pontius Pilate Matthew 27:11-26

Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, did not want to kill Jesus, so he washed his hands to show it was not his decision.

Take a shimmery blue stone to remember Pilate washing his hands in water when he handed Jesus over to die.

Station 6: The soldiers Matthew 27:27-31

The Roman soldiers dressed Jesus as a 'king' in a scarlet robe and a crown of thorns, then led him out and nailed him onto a cross. They cast lots for his clothes.

Take a nail to remember the Roman soldiers nailing Jesus to the cross.

Station 7: Simon of Cyrene Matthew 27:32

Simon of Cyrene carried the cross for Jesus.

Take a wooden cross to remember Simon of Cyrene carrying the cross.

Station 8: The thieves Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who was crucified with Jesus shouted insults, but the other criminal knew Jesus had done nothing wrong, and asked Jesus to remember him when he came into his kingdom.

Take a piece of rough cloth to remember the criminals who died with Jesus.

Station 9: Mary, mother of Jesus

John 19:26

Jesus' mother Mary followed him to the cross. Jesus told Mary and his dear friend John to be a mother and son to each other.

Take a heart to remember Mary's love and sorrow.

Station 10: The person with the sponge

Matthew 27:45-50

The people standing around the cross heard Jesus shout out. One of them offered him a sponge soaked in vinegar.

Take a piece of sponge to remember the person who offered Jesus a drink.

Station 11: The Roman soldier

John 19:31-37

The soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear, and blood and water flowed out.

Take a red flower petal to remember the soldier who pierced Jesus' side with a spear, and saw both blood and water.

Station 12: The Roman Centurion

Matthew 27:51-54

The Roman centurion felt the earthquake when Jesus died, and he knew that Jesus was the Son of God.

Take a jeweled cross to remember the Centurion who realized that Jesus was the Son of God.

Station 13: Joseph of Arimathea

Matthew 27:57-61

Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus' body to his own new tomb, and rolled a stone over the entrance.

Take a stone to remember the stone that Joseph of Arimathea rolled in front of the tomb.

Station 14: Nicodemus

John 19:38-42

Nicodemus helped Joseph to carry Jesus' body and get it ready for burial.

Take a strip of cloth to remember Nicodemus wrapping up Jesus' body.

Station 15: The women

Luke 23:55--56

The women followed Jesus at a distance, all the way to the tomb. Then they went home to prepare spices and perfumes.

Take some cloves to remember the women who watched and waited.

It may feel rather incomplete to stop here. What an abrupt ending to such a horrific story! However, Good Friday is supposed to feel wrong because it's the day Jesus—an innocent man—God's own Son—died a criminal's death. At the same time we call it "Good" because without Jesus' death on the cross—His payment for our sin-- our relationship with God would be forever broken. He took the punishment we deserve. This is the Good News that we cling to as we look forward to celebrating His redemptive victory over death on Easter morning! The story is not over yet!