

Materials: Bible, crucifix, candle, pens, sheet of paper with an outline of a cross and five small strips of colored paper for each participant, tape/glue

Reading Scripture: Matthew 26:14-27:66
 (Suggestion: Read Passion as a drama narrative as found in the missalette.)

Let's Pray, Reflect, & Explore!

Have a lit candle and a large crucifix on a table. Play soft music. The leader reads the following meditation **slowly**.

Leader: Close your eyes and imagine Jesus speaking to you. (Pause.)

- My name is Jesus. I, who am God, came to earth as a human being to show everyone how to live and how to love one another. This was difficult for many people who preferred to judge and exclude others who were different. (Pause.)
- Because of my teachings and way of life, the authorities felt threatened and decided to kill me. I want you to understand that evil cannot tolerate goodness. Evil wants to destroy all that is good. (Pause.)

Our God has a great love for us.

- I entered my passion and death with courage because, like the Suffering Servant, I knew my Father was with me. (Pause.)
- My Father turned my death into life. Death has lost its power. You do not need to fear. (Pause.)
- I ask you to have faith in me, for I have not left you orphans. I am always with you. I have given you my Spirit, who will bring to your mind all that I have taught. My Spirit will help you to live as my disciples. (Pause.)

Leader: I am going to give you a few minutes to read the meditation to yourself. From each section of the meditation, choose a keyword or phrase, write it on a strip of paper, and glue it to your cross.

Keep a quiet and prayerful mood.

Let's Talk!

Form small groups and discuss the following.

1. Of the five words or phrases you chose, share one and explain why you chose it.
2. Evil cannot tolerate goodness. Think of when someone did something really good, and he/she was ridiculed. Did you join in, or did you stand up for goodness? Discuss.
3. Jesus died for what he believed. Would you die for your faith? Discuss.
4. Jesus showed us how to say "yes" to good and "no" to evil. (Refer to Week One.) This Lent, have you been able to do this more often? Share. How do you plan to continue this way of life? Discuss.
5. The story of Jesus' life does not end in death, but in resurrection. Have you ever thought about what will happen to you when you die? Share. How does the truth of the resurrection give you hope and strength to live as Jesus' disciple? Discuss.

Let's Live It!

Select one or more actions.

1. Participate fully in Holy Week liturgies (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil).
2. On Holy Thursday, we commemorate the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Send cards to clergy (bishop, priest, deacon), thanking them for being servants of God. Pray for vocations.
3. Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
4. Individually or as a group, prepare Easter baskets for shut-ins or children who are in need.
5. Make a commitment to say "yes" to Jesus and live as his disciple.
6. Pray the Memory Verse each day.

Let's Pray!

Gather around the prayer table with a Bible, crucifix, and candle. Teens will hold their crosses for the prayer.

Leader: Jesus, you gave your life so that we might have life everlasting. (Pause.)

I invite each of you to say one word or phrase from your cross, and we will all respond,

"Jesus, by your cross and resurrection, you have redeemed the world."

Continue until everyone has said his/her word or phrase.

Conclude by singing "Were You There" or another appropriate hymn. Crosses can be taken home.