

An illustration of Jesus Christ carrying the cross. He is depicted with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a light blue robe. He is walking through a landscape of soft, colorful clouds in shades of purple, pink, and orange. The cross is made of dark brown wood with black stripes. In the top left corner, there is a purple circle containing the text 'WALK This Way'. At the bottom, the text 'STATIONS OF THE CROSS for Children' is written in purple. A faint watermark 'All Saints Press' is visible across the center of the image.

WALK
This Way

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
for Children

WALK This Way

STATIONS OF THE CROSS *for Children*

Introduction

The way of the cross: there are many paths that walk the way of the cross. Long ago Jesus walked this hard, sad way to die. In our churches you'll find 14 crosses, maybe with holy pictures or sculptures, that remind us of the way Jesus walked. But we can walk this way with our love, with our prayers, with our imaginations, and with the way we act each and every day. Find a place in your home to think about this way. You might put a cross there. If you don't have a cross, you can make one by joining two sticks together with winding yarn. You could also draw a cross for a quiet corner of your room or your home. Then with the help of this book think about the way of Jesus long ago. Walk this way.

THE FIRST STATION

Pilate Judges Jesus

Jesus walked the way that is right. We all know what it is to feel, “It’s not fair!” When people say, “Well, too bad!” or “Life isn’t fair, so get used to it,” they are not speaking God’s way. God sent the prophet who said, “Do justice. Love goodness.” God sent John the Baptist who taught, “Share with the poor. Don’t cheat. Don’t bully.” Jesus came for justice. Jesus came for goodness. Jesus came to care for the poor and weak. And when he came before an unfair judge, Jesus kept walking God’s way. On that terrible day, an unfair judge sent Jesus to death. But God had a plan for justice: goodness: life.



Walk this way:

Be fair. Help those who are being bullied.



THE SECOND STATION

Jesus Takes Up the Cross

Jesus walked the way of the cross. Jesus never chose evil or violence or death for anyone. But when powerful people chose to put Jesus to death, he did not run away. He chose to walk the way of the cross for

God's People. Jesus knew every life goes through death: Jesus was ready to walk through this hard death for love of all God's People.

Walk this way:

Make the sign of Jesus.

Make the sign of the cross.

THE THIRD STATION

Jesus Falls for the First Time

Jesus walked the way even when he stumbled. Sometimes we look at television or movies or video games, and they seem to tell us: it's good to be the strongest! The good guy is the one who beats everybody else

up! Jesus showed us something different. Jesus showed us: God is with us, even when we are weak. God is with us even when we stumble and fall.



Walk this way:

When you fail, look to Jesus.

He loves you just as you are.



THE FOURTH STATION

Jesus Meets His Mother

Jesus walked to holy Mother Mary. Mary was with Jesus from the day he was born to the day he died—and after. Mother Mary loved her son Jesus all his life. She loved God's People, too, so much that she

was willing to give him to his life of teaching and healing, and to stand by him on this hard day. God loves Jesus and Mother Mary. God loves you, and all God's People.

Walk this way:

Stand by the people you love.

Stand by the people God loves.

THE FIFTH STATION

Simon Helps Carry the Cross

Jesus walked the way, but he needed help. A traveler named Simon was by the side of the road that day. We don't know if he already knew Jesus, and we don't even know if he wanted to help. But the sol-

diers made this traveler carry part of the cross for Jesus. The way of the cross was too heavy for Jesus. We will always remember Simon who helped him on this hardest day: this hardest way.



Walk this way:

*Who needs your help today
with something that is too hard for them?*

THE SIXTH STATION
Veronica and
the Face of Jesus

Jesus walked the way by being true to God. This station remembers how a woman who saw him struggle with the cross took her own veil from her head and wiped the face of Jesus. We do not know her real name, but she is remembered as “Veronica,” a name that means a true image or picture. The story goes that a picture of Jesus’ true face stayed on her veil afterwards. What we do know is that Jesus himself was a true picture! Jesus who walked the way of the cross was always true to God. If you want to know what God is really like? Look at Jesus.



Walk this way:

Think of your favorite story about Jesus.

Remember: this is a story about God.

THE SEVENTH STATION

Jesus Falls for the Second Time

Jesus walked the way of the cross, even when he fell down. Once a traveler asked a saint who lived with friends in a place of prayer, “What do you do here?” The saint said, “We get up, and we fall down. And we get up again.” The saint meant that everyone there, no matter how hard they tried, did wrong things. Did things they did not want to do. That’s what the saint called “falling down.” We do bad things, too, sometimes. We are mean to a friend or family member. We don’t help when we can. That’s when we fall down. And just like the saint, we keep our eyes on Jesus and get up again.

Walk this way: When you say, “I’m sorry, God,” in your heart, you are getting up again.





THE EIGHTH STATION

Jesus and the Women of Jerusalem

Jesus walked with the women of Jerusalem. Many other friends of Jesus were by the road that hard day. Many women who loved Jesus and listened to his teaching were there. They

cried. They were so sad that Jesus was suffering and going to die. Jesus loved them, too. He was sad that they and their children had hard lives, too. Jesus loved these friends to the very end. He knew that loving God would help them—not just that day but forever. Jesus walked the way of the cross for them, and for us, too.

Walk this way:

*Think of a friend or family member
who needs your kindness today.*

THE NINTH STATION

Jesus Falls for the Third Time

Jesus walked the way of the cross, even when he fell again and again. Sometimes we really don't know what to do next. Nothing we can think of sounds good enough. What do we do? Who can help us?

Remember: Jesus knows what it is to fall. Jesus knows what it is to struggle and fail. Jesus knows everything you need. Bring your sadness to Jesus, and he will always be there to hear and to help.

Walk this way:

Is there something hard you know you have to do this week? Ask for help.





THE TENTH STATION

Soldiers Take Away Jesus' Clothes

Jesus walked the way when he had nothing left at all. Soldiers were ready to kill Jesus, but first they took away his clothes. Jesus did not want a single person on earth to be without a friend and brother.

Jesus is friend to the poor. Jesus is a friend to the homeless. Jesus is a friend to anyone is cold, without enough warm clothes to cover them. Jesus prayed for them that day with his death. Jesus prays for them now with his life with God.

Walk this way:

Ask your family, "How can we help those who need food and clothing?"

THE ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus Placed on the Cross

Jesus walked the way of the cross until the very end. The ruler ordered soldiers to kill Jesus. The soldiers put Jesus on the cross. They nailed him to the cross. They left him to die. This was the hardest, saddest day any of Jesus' friends could imagine. Some of them stood nearby. Even though they hated to see Jesus in pain, they did not leave him all alone. And even from the cross, Jesus showed love. He said to his dear friend John, "I give you my mother." He said to his dear Mother Mary, "I give you John to be your son." Not even the cross could stop Jesus from loving God's People.

Walk this way: Who loves you and cares for you? Thank God for that beloved person.





THE TWELFTH STATION Jesus Dies on the Cross

Jesus walked the way of death. On this hard, sad day, the hardest and saddest thing happened: Jesus died. Jesus loved all the people in the world. Jesus knew that death was scary for all the people in

the world. Jesus did not want to walk away from this hard, sad part of being human. Jesus loved his friends. Jesus loved his mother. Jesus loved God. But he called aloud to beloved God, "It is finished." Then Jesus died. We love you, Jesus, who lived and died for us.

Walk this way:

*Sometimes we know someone who has died.
Pray for them today.*

THE THIRTEENTH STATION

Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross

When Jesus could walk no more, those who loved him walked him home. Mother Mary and friend John were with him. The women who cried for Jesus were with him. A man named Joseph was with him, too.

When Jesus died and came down from the cross, they opened their arms and took him up. They cared for his body, even though he had died. They gently laid him to rest in a tomb. They never stopped loving Jesus: they walked the way.

Walk this way:

*What words of love can you write
or say to Jesus today?*





THE FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus in the Tomb

Jesus walked again. The friends of Jesus placed the body of Jesus into a tomb. That's a dark and quiet place where they thought Jesus would be forever. But God knew better. In three days the friends of Jesus would know better, too. And today: we all know better. Jesus did not stay in the quiet tomb. God had a plan for Jesus—a plan God has for each and every one of us. God gave Jesus new life. And that new life was a promise to each one of us: Walk this way.

*Walk the way of Jesus,
and even though we die,
we will know God's own life. Forever.*