Danielle-First Station-Jesus is Condemned to Death

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

Jesus is condemned to death. Jesus was innocent and falsely accused. But still he trusted in His heavenly father to save him.

In our own families we often falsely accuse others of things or misunderstand what their intentions are. Parents are misunderstood by their children and children by parents. Husbands and wives misjudge each other and siblings falsely accuse each other. We can hold grudges and be upset or we can openly communicate so we can better understand each other.

(Parents and child-arms crossed making faces and upset with each other)

Lord-help us to have strength like you to trust in God’s plan. Guide us so we may have patience in working through our misunderstandings.

Parent- Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

Student-Lord wrap your arms around my family and give us understanding!

(Place UNDERSTANDING sign on display)

Danielle-Second Station-Jesus accepts his cross

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

Jesus accepts his cross, willingly and without resistance. He knew he was innocent but he took on the pains of the cross because he understood that he needed to in order to save us.

In our own families we are given many struggles and pains that we must carry. A family member may get injured or diagnosed with an illness that needs special attention. We can get upset with Jesus while dealing with these burdens or we can unite as a family and lean on each other to conquer the crosses were given.

(Parents and child-diabetes-taking sugar count)

Lord-help us to accept the plan you have for our lives. May we be thankful not only for all the good things but learn to see you in the crosses we bear.

Parent-Cast your care upon the Lord, and he will support you; never will he permit the just man to be disturbed. Psalms 55:23

Student-Lord wrap your arms around my family and give us acceptance!

(Place ACCEPTANCE sign on display)

Danielle-Third Station-Jesus falls for the first time

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

As Jesus is carrying his cross the weight causes him to stumble and fall. He is mocked and ridiculed but he gathers the strength to get up and continue on.

In our own families we stumble and fall. As parents we may fall and forget that our children need our guidance and love by our actions and words. As children we may stumble and get involved in dangerous behaviors. As a family we need to offer each other forgiveness and the strength to get up from these temptations and continue on.

(Parents and child-parents fighting and child on phone)

Lord-help us to acknowledge when we fall and to offer each other a helping hand to get up and continue on.

Parent- Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4

Student-Lord wrap your arms around my family and give us strength!

(Place STRENGTH sign on display)

Danielle-Fourth Station-Jesus meets his mother

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

Mary, Jesus’ own mother, had to witness her son struggling and suffering at the hands of others. Through his pain Jesus consoles his mother and reassures her that this is not the end.

In our own families we experience suffering and pain. A child’s rejection, the loss of a loved one and many many others. It is through the love and support of our parents and children that we can get through these moments. When we support and encourage one another we can keep our head held high and continue to do our best.

(Parents and child-hugging)

Lord-help us to continue to support and love one another when the days get long and we become tired. May we look to you as an example of what unconditional love looks like.

Parent- It is precisely in this that God proves his love for us: that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Student-Lord wrap your arms around my family and give us unconditional love!

(Place UNCONDITIONAL LOVE sign on display)

Danielle-Fifth Station-Simon helps Jesus carry his cross

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

Simon of Cyrene was just a bystander as Jesus was carrying his cross. The soldiers seeing that Jesus was struggling forced Simon to help. He may have been upset or embarrassed when he was told what to do, but afterwards may have had a change of heart when he realized who Jesus really was.

In our own families we often feel like we are forced to help others. We may get upset with our parents when they force us to do chores or homework, as parents we may get frustrated when we feel like we don’t get any time to ourselves. When we feel like we’re being torn away from what we had planned it can cause extra stress within our relationships. We may need to take a step back and open our eyes to the fact that families are there to help and support each other.

(Parents and child-exhausted and looking at each other then hugging)

Lord-help us to be aware of the struggles others in our families are dealing with and be willing to help and serve them without complaining!

Parent- Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40

Student-Lord wrap your arms around my family and give us support!

(Place SUPPORT sign on display)

Danielle-Sixth Station-Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

The followers of Jesus were sad to see him suffering. They wanted to help but some didn’t know how to do that. One woman, Veronica, knew she couldn’t take away all of Jesus’ pain but wanted to help anyway she could. So when Jesus passed by, she offered him a towel to wipe the sweat and blood from his face. Even through his suffering Jesus showed his appreciation for this small gesture by leaving an imprint of his face on Veronica’s towel.

In our own families we often see others suffering and want to help them, but we’re not sure what to do. A parent may see their children getting picked on or a child sees their parent becoming stressed out at work. Although we can’t take away the problems they face, we can offer them a simple act of kindness, doing an extra chore at home or setting aside some one on one time. As parents we need to teach our children to look out for the needs of others. Knowing that our family is on our side can give us the energy we need to keep going.

(Parents and child-child crying, parents stressed—turn to each other and talk with a smile)

Lord-help us to be there for each other in simple ways. Give us the energy to put our needs aside and love our family more.

Parent- Train a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not swerve from it. Proverbs 22:6

Student-Lord wrap your arms around my family and give us kindness!

(Place KINDNESS sign on display)

Danielle-Seventh Station-Jesus falls for the 2nd time

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

Jesus is sore and tired from carrying his cross and suffering at the hands of others. He falls a second time, and it takes even more strength to get back up. But knowing that he must do this to save us he continues on.

In our own families we may fall and lose faith in each other. We may experience divorce or feeling of abandonment. Spouses may need to put in extra work towards making their marriage survive or work together to create a loving home afterwards for their children. Children may feel a sense of failure in themselves during these times. We need to be reminded that through all the struggles in our families, Jesus is always there for us. Sometimes we may need to look to Jesus for his hand to get us back up.

(Parents and child-parents arguing—walk away from each other—child and parents all bow their head in prayer)

Lord-help us to know that you are always on our side, stretching out your hand to lift us up!

Parent- For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matthew 18:20

Student-Lord wrap your arms around my family and help us to turn to you in prayer!

(Place PRAYER sign on display)

Danielle-Eighth Station-Jesus comforts the women

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

Jesus was pressing on, through the blood and pain. The people who loved Jesus were suffering alongside him while he carried his cross. They were grieving and emotional. Jesus’ love for them showed in every step he took. When he saw women crying for him he knew he had to offer them comfort and remind them of his love for them.

In our own families we often are so busy and consumed with our schedules that we neglect to notice the struggles others are going through. Children may feel that their parents don’t have time for them. As parents we must be attentive to our children’s feelings and emotions. Parents need to set aside time to talk with their children about what is happening in their lives. Children have so many things pulling in them in many directions and they need someone who they can rely on for stability and comfort. Help us to be like Jesus and reach out to those in need.

(Parents and child-parents doing several things and ignoring child, child struggling—parents then look at child and embrace)

Lord-help us to be attentive to those around us, offer each other a sense of stability in our lives and be willing to reach out to those in need.

Parent- Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Romans 12:15

Student-Lord wrap your arms around my family and give us stability!

(Place STABILITY sign on display)

Danielle-Ninth Station-Jesus falls a third time

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

Jesus is nearing the end of his journey up Calvary. He is tired, hurting and struggling. As he struggles to carry his heavy cross he falls down for a third time. Every time he falls it is harder to get back up. The cross is heavy but his love for us is greater than the weight of the cross.

In our own families we carry a lot of weight on our shoulders. When the pressure of keeping up with everyone else weighs us down, it’s easy to fall and bury ourselves in the guilt that comes over us. When we feel that we are not providing enough for our children, parents or spouse it may be time to disconnect from others and focus on being the best version of ourselves that we can be. When we allow others to steal our joy we can become irritated and annoyed with the smallest things. God wants us to be thankful for all he’s given us, stand back up and continue on.

(Parents and child-watching another family and getting upset-face each other and move closer)

Lord-help us to focus on our families and counting the blessings he’s given us not the blessings he’s given others.

Parent- A tranquil mind gives life to the body, but jealousy rots the bones. Proverbs 14:30

Student-Lord wrap your arms around my family and give us tranquility!

(Place TRANQUILITY sign on display)

Danielle-Tenth Station-Jesus is stripped of his garments

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

Jesus has arrived at the place where he is to be crucified. The soldiers tear off your garment, as they do so the sores are re-opened and Jesus is exposed to embarrassment as they roll dice for his only belongings, his garments. Jesus stands there among all the humiliation and remains calm and peaceful.

In our own families many times we rip open old scars and past troubles. We may do this to try and humiliate and embarrass someone. If we tear them down we often times feel better about ourselves. It’s easier to ridicule others shortcomings then to accept that we too have areas in our life that aren’t perfect. When we get the urge to strip someone of their human dignity, it’s important for us to calm ourselves and be reminded that Jesus calls us to be respectful and caring to all those around us.

(2 children laughing and pointing at another child—one stops and invites the 3rd to join them)

Lord-help us to clothe others with respect and dignity and not strip them down with embarrassment and humiliation.

Parent- A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. John 10:10

Student-Lord wrap your arms around my family and give us dignity!

(Place DIGNITY sign on display)

Danielle-Eleventh Station-Jesus is nailed to the cross

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

Jesus is laid on the cross and large nails are driven into his hands and feet. Jesus lays there and looks at the people who are doing this to him. Even through the extreme pain and agony, Jesus loves them and commits to dying for each one of them.

In our own families we too look around at others with judgement. We discriminate others by their race, religion or way of life, we speak harshly about others. Children hear what their parents say and often times imitate their words. We need to make sure our words are building each other up and not tearing each other down. Even when others hurt us, we need to be more like Jesus and have love in our hearts.

(Parents gossiping, children listening---parents stop and talk with child)

Lord-help us to look at others with the same love and affection that you looked upon with to those who crucified you.

Parent- Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if on has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. Colossians 3:12-13

Student-Lord wrap your arms around my family and give us compassion!

(Place COMPASSION sign on display)

Danielle-Twelfth Station-Jesus dies on the cross

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

As Jesus hung on the cross, he forgave the soldiers who had crucified him, and prayed for his mother and friends. Jesus wanted all of us to be able to live forever with God, so he gave all he had for us.

In our own families it is important that we take time to acknowledge the love Jesus has for us. Please kneel and use this time to thank Jesus for his willingness to die for you and express your thankfulness for his forgiveness.

(Parents and child-Kneel in silence)

Lord-help us to forgive others like you did.

Parent- Then Jesus said, Father, forgive them, they know not what they do. Luke 23:34

Student-Lord wrap your arms around my family and give us forgiveness!

(Place FORGIVENESS sign on display)

Danielle-Thirteenth Station-Jesus is taken down from the cross

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

Jesus was treated horribly on his way up Calvary, such hatred and aggression, but when he is taken down from the cross he is treated with so much compassion and care. He is gently laid in his mother’s arms. His body is cleaned and treated with respect.

In our own families when someone passes away we are usually very caring and giving to the family. We want to make sure they are taken care of and comforted. Why does it take a death or serious accident for us to show care to others. Why can’t we treat them with the same attention and love while they are living or before a tragedy strikes? It takes time and commitment to serve those around us, but we need to do so before it’s too late.

(Parents and child-walk over to another parent and child and spend time together)

Lord-help us remember to appreciate the people in our lives at all times. May we reach out to others at all times not just in their time of need.

Parent- The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Psalms 9:10

Student-Lord wrap your arms around my family and give us comfort!

(Place COMFORT sign on display)

Danielle-Fourteenth Station-Jesus is laid in the tomb

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

Joseph of Arimethea gave up his own tomb so Jesus’ body could be laid to rest properly. They anointed his body with oil, covered him with fresh linens and said their goodbyes to their friend. A large rock was then rolled in front of the tomb. Imagine how sad they must have been…not knowing what was to come!

In our own families we can lose hope, we may feel we’ll never be able to go on an extravagant vacation, have all the newest and best gadgets, buy new vehicles, or build our dream home. The things of this world will pass and die with our bodies. We need to focus our energy and time in being a faithful follower of Jesus, we need to put all our hope in what’s to come after we leave this world. Jesus paid the price for us so that we may rise to a new life with him in heaven and enjoy the rewards of eternal salvation!

(Parents and child-picking up gadgets, car keys, trendy items—cover them all with a white cloth and look up to heaven)

Lord-help us to live a life that is pleasing to you and will allow us to join you in heaven, so we may share in the joy of your resurrection.

Parent- Through whom we have gained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. Romans 5:2-5

Student-Lord wrap your arms around my family and give us hope!

(Place HOPE sign on display)