

Sample Prayer for Salvation

*Dear God,
I know that I have sinned. Please forgive me. I believe that Jesus died for me and rose from the dead for me. Please be in charge of my life and be my Lord and Savior.
In Jesus' Name,
Amen*

Please join us now in the sanctuary for the Good Friday service.

Childcare provided for babies – 4's.

Welcome to the Good Friday Family Experience!

- Your family will journey through ten activity stations that will take you through Jesus' path to the tomb.
- Use this guide to know what to do at each station. There are also helpers along the way if you need them!
- Adapt the readings and activities as needed for your child. Fifth graders will experience this differently than a five year old. That's ok! Just adapt as you need to as you go.
- Don't rush through. Take time for good conversation with your kids. However, we only have an hour, so don't go too slowly. 😊
- If your child asks a question you don't know the answer to, it is totally fine to say, "I don't know, let's look that up later."

Station 1: The Problem

Do: Take turns standing at the blue line. Each person's task is to jump from the blue line to the red line with one jump.

Ask: What happened? Did you make it to the goal or did you fall short?

Read Romans 3:23

Ask: What is sin? (Knowing the right thing to do and not doing it)

Say: We all sin and fall short of the glory of God. We all mess up. This sin separates us from God. Sin is a problem for all of us. God sent His son Jesus to take the punishment for our sin.

Read Romans 6:23.

Do: Take one small rock. If you are able, put the rock inside your shoe for the remainder of the journey.

Say: This rock represents our sin. Walking around with our sin is not how we were created to be. Sin separates us from God because He is holy. Sin doesn't go away on its own, but like a pebble in your shoe will continue to hinder and bother you. And even worse, it will separate you from God. Tonight we are focusing on how Jesus died for these sins.

Station 10: The Gospel

Discuss: Because Jesus died for us, He made a way for us to go to Heaven. Each of us must make a choice to follow His way.

Do: Talk about each part of the gospel (good news of Jesus) together.

1. We all sin. **(write child's name on their palm in black marker)**
2. Jesus came and died for our sins **(draw red dot on palm)**
3. When we believe in Him, repent of our sins, and ask Him to be the Lord of our lives, we are not separated from Him anymore. We can go to heaven when we die and we can have a relationship with Him on earth. **(Read Romans 10:9)**
4. God holds us in the palm of His hand forever.

Pray together. Thank God for His good news. If there is a member of your family who has never had a chance to trust in Jesus as their Savior and would like to, there is a sample prayer on the back page.

Station 9: The Tomb

Read Matthew 27:57-60.

Discuss: Jesus' body was placed in a tomb. You have carried the rock through every station. It may have felt uncomfortable. It may have felt bad. We are not made to live in sin. We are made to be close to God. Jesus died and was buried to bury our sin problem as well. When we understand that and ask Him to forgive us and to be the Lord of our lives, He makes it possible. He takes our sin away. He makes us right with God.

Do: Take the rock out of your shoe and place it into the tomb as well.

Discuss: This is not the end of the story! On Sunday we celebrate that Jesus rose from the grave. Three days after being put in the tomb, He was raised to life again. He beat death!

Do: Take a goody bag to open later. God exchanges our sin and death for the gift of eternal life with Him!

Station 2: Judas

Do: See how high you can stack the silver coins. See if each of you can get thirty coins stacked.

Say: Judas was one of Jesus's closest friends. The religious leaders were mad and jealous of Jesus and wanted to get rid of Him.

Read Matthew 26:14-16

Discuss: Sin is when we do things our way instead of God's way. How did Judas choose himself over God? Name some ways that we do things our way instead of God's way.

Do: Knock down your tall tower with one big hit.

Read Matthew 27:3-5

Discuss: Sometimes sin seems like great fun for us or seems like it won't be that big of a deal. But sin always has consequences and it always Share about a time you know you did things your way instead of God's way. Did you know it right away? Did you feel bad right away or later?

Station 3: Jesus' Arrest

Read Matthew 26:47-56.

Do: Start the timer. Before the time is up, use the Legos to create the scene you just read about.

Discuss:

What emotions do you think Jesus' friends were feeling? How do you know?

What did one of them do out of fear and/or anger? (Cut off someone's ear)

Do we ever sin out of fear or anger? What are some examples?

Station 8: Jesus Died.

Read Matthew 27:34

Do: Jesus was offered this sour drink to try to ease the pain.

Pick up a cotton ball and dip it into the vinegar. Touch it to your tongue.

Discuss: How would you describe it?

The bitterness reminds us that sin is bitter and nasty. It sours our own hearts. Just like Jesus refused the drink, we must choose to turn away from our sin. We must repent (another word for turn away from sin).

What is the difference between really repenting and just saying "sorry"?

Read Matthew 27:45-46, 50-51

Discuss: The curtain that hung in the temple separated people from God. Only the priests could go into the "Holy of Holies". When Jesus died for us, the curtain tore in two. We would no longer be separated from God. By trusting in Jesus, we can go to heaven and be best friends with Him on earth.

Do: Walk through the curtain to the next station. Say "Thank you, Jesus, for making a way to You" as you go through.

Station 7: The Cross

Do: Give each family member a piece of paper and a pen.

Think about all of the examples of the sins that we have talked about. Think of a sin that you know you have committed. Write it down on the paper.

Read John 19:15-18

Discuss: Jesus was nailed to the cross for every one of the sins we wrote down on the paper. The soldiers put nails in his hands and His feet.

Do: With grown ups' help, nail your paper to the cross using a hammer.

Pray silently and thank Jesus for going to the cross for your sin. Ask Him to forgive you for the sin you wrote on your paper.

Station 4: Peter

Do: Visit our rooster. (Please don't touch or put your fingers in the cage!) Take a family selfie with the rooster. If you post it on social media, please tag #lovewestb.

Read John 18:25-27.

Discuss: One of Jesus's closest friends pretended not to even know him. Jesus had predicted that Peter would deny Him three times before the rooster crowed.

Sometimes we sin by treating people badly. God wants us to be kind and loving, but sometimes we are mean and hurtful. Name some ways that people can sin against other people?

Station 5: Jesus' Arrest

Read John 18:28a, 33-38

Discuss: Pilate, the governor, was trying to figure out the truth about who Jesus was and what He did wrong. People were saying all kinds of untrue things about Jesus. They said He was a liar or crazy or blasphemer against God. They didn't believe that He was the Messiah - God's son sent to save them from their sins.

Do: Find the truth. Search through the sand pit for the cross.

You might find other things, but remember that the truth about Jesus is that He is God. He came to forgive our sins.

Discuss: The people who were accusing Jesus were lying about Him. One way we can sin is by choosing to say things that aren't true.

Share about a time that you know you lied.

Station 6: Jesus is Punished

Read John 19:1-3.

Do: Carefully touch the crown of thorns.

Discuss: What would it be like to wear that on your head? The soldiers were making fun of Jesus by calling Him "king". They didn't realize that He was the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

What else did they do to Jesus?

What do you think was the worst part for Him?

Do: Take a small leather strip and tie knots to remind you of the whip that the soldiers used on Jesus.

Discuss: For each knot you make, name a sin that someone might commit that physically hurts someone else.

What is the difference in hurting someone on accident and hurting someone on purpose? Which is sin?