**Prayer -Walking with Jesus from the Garden of Olives to the Hill of Calvary - using Gospel Stories**

**Needed**

*Fifteen students to read a scripture passage at each of the 15 significant stages of the journey*

*from the Garden of Olives to the hill of Calvary.*

*15 nightlight: ones for each stage of the journey.*

*Each student needs a copy of the Response in their hands.*

*Students could also dress up as the various characters - tableau style.*

**Sacred Space**

*A purple cloth with some stones and sand marking out a roadway*

*A nightlight for each of the 15 stages on the journey*

*A cross to mark Stage Thirteen*

*A butterfly or a budding plant to mark Stage Fifteen*

**Leader**

Today we will walk the Way of the Cross remembering how Jesus made the final journey to his death and resurrection. We remember all that Jesus has done for us.

**Response** Jesus, may we walk in faith, hope, and love each day.

**Leader *Stage One***: Jesus Prays in the Garden of Olives and his Disciples fall asleep

**Reader 1** [Matthew 26: 36-40]

Jesus went into the Garden with his apostles. “Stay here while I go and pray.” He took with him Peter, James and John. Grief and anguish came over him. He said to them, “The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me. Stay here and keep watch with me.” Then he went a little distance from them and began to pray. He prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, take this cup (this suffering) from me. Yet, not what I want, but what you want. Then he returned and found the three apostles asleep. He said, “How is it that you three were not able to keep watch with me for even one hour?”

**All** Jesus, may we walk in faith, hope and love each day.

**Leader**

Jesus prayed because he knew what was ahead of him. He accepted the God’s will. Jesus invites us to be people of prayer, and, to pray for our own needs and for the needs of people who are suffering.

**Leader *Stage Two:*** Jesus is betrayed by Judas

**Reader 2** [Mark 14:43-46]

Jesus was still speaking when Judas, one of the twelve, arrived into the Garden. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs. Judas, the traitor, had given the crowd a signal: “The man I kiss is the one you want. Arrest him and take him away under guard.” As soon as Judas arrived, he went up to Jesus and said, “Teacher!” and kissed him. So they arrested Jesus and took him away.

**Leader**

Jesus must have been deeply hurt by the betrayal of Judas. We must be careful of how we treat

people in our lives. We must ask forgiveness of those we have hurt by our words and actions.

**All** Jesus, may we walk in faith, hope and love each day.

**Leader *Stage Three***: Jesus is Condemned to Death

**Reader 3** [Luke 22: 66-71]

Jesus was brought before the Council. “Tell us,” they said, “are you the Messiah?” He said, “If

I tell you, you will not believe me; and if I ask you a question, you will not answer. But from

now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right side of Almighty God.” They all said, “Are

you the Son of God?” He answered them, “You say that I am.” And they said, “We don’t need

any witnesses! We ourselves have heard what he said.

**Leader**

We know in our hearts that Jesus is the Son of God. We must publicly proclaim our faith in God and stand up for what we believe. We need courage to stand up for what we believe.

**All** Jesus, may we walk in faith, hope and love each day.

**Leader *Stage Four:*** Peter Denies that he Knows Jesus

**Reader 4** [Matthew 26: 69-70]

Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard when one of the High Priest’s servant-girl came over to him and said: “You, too, were with Jesus.” But he denied it in front of them all. “I don’t know what you are talking about,” he answered.

**Leader**

Peter denied that he knew Jesus three times. But Jesus forgave him. We must remember that

Jesus will always forgive us.

**All** Jesus, may we walk in faith, hope and love each day.

**Leader *Stage Five***: Jesus is judged by Pilate

**Reader** [Mark 15: 12-15]

Pilate spoke again to the crowd, “What do you want me to do with the one you call the king of

the Jews?” They shouted back, “Crucify him!” But what crime has he committed?” Pilate asked. They shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” Pilate wanted to please the crowd, so he set

Barabbas free for them. Then he has Jesus whipped.

**Leader**

We must stand up for what is right even when it is not easy. We should ask God to help us to make good decisions in our lives.

**All** Jesus, may we walk in faith, hope and love each day.

**Leader *Stage Six***: Jesus is crowned with Thorns

**Reader 6** [John 19: 2-3]

The soldiers made a crown of thorns and put it on his head; then they put a purple robe on him

and came to him and said, “Long live the King of the Jews.!” And they went up and slapped him.

**Leader**

Jesus suffered terribly. We should remember all that Jesus did suffer out of love for us. All

around the world people are treated unjustly. We must work for justice and peace.

**All** Jesus, may we walk in faith, hope and love each day.

**Leader *Stage Seven***: Jesus dies on the Cross

**Reader 7** [John 19: 16-17]

Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. So they took charge of Jesus.

He went out, carrying his cross, until he came to “The Place of the Skull,” as it is called.

**Leader**

Jesus was unjustly treated as a criminal. He picked up his cross and walked to his death. We

must walk in love all our lives as Jesus taught us by his word and his example.

**All** Jesus, may we walk in faith, hope and love each day.

**Leader *Stage Eight***: Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene

**Reader 8** [Matthew 27:32]

As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus’ cross.

**All** Jesus, may we walk in faith, hope and love each day.

**Leader *Stage Nine***: Jesus meets the Women of Jerusalem

**Reader 9** [Luke 23: 27-28]

A large crowd of people followed Jesus; among them were some women who were weeping for him. Jesus turned to them and said, “Women of Jerusalem! Don’t cry for me, but for yourselves and your children.”

**Leader**

In spite of his suffering, Jesus stopped to talk to the women. Jesus reminds us to treat others with kindness and respect. Jesus has taught us to think of others.

**All** Jesus, may we walk in faith, hope and love each day.

**Leader *Stage Ten***: Jesus is crucified

**Reader 10** [Mark 15:22, 24-26]

They took Jesus to a place called Golgotha… Then they crucified him and divided his clothes

among themselves, throwing dice to see who would get which piece of clothing. It was nine

o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. The notice of the accusation against him said,

“The King of the Jews.”

**Leader**

On Good Friday Jesus was crucified for our sins. He had done nothing wrong. We remember all that Jesus did for love of us.

**All** Jesus, may we walk in faith, hope and love each day.

**Leader *Stage Eleven***: Jesus speaks to the Thief

**Reader 11** [Luke 23: 39– 43]

One of the criminals hanging there hurled insults at Jesus: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” The other one, however, rebuked him, saying, “Don’t you fear God? You

received the same sentence he did. Ours, however, is only right, because we are getting what

we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong.” And he said to Jesus, “Remember me,

Jesus, when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus replied, “I promise you that today you will be with me in Paradise.”

**Leader**

We must accept the gift of Jesus’ forgiveness which is offered to all of us. And we must grant

forgiveness to the people who have hurt us.

**All** Jesus, may we walk in faith, hope and love each day.

**Leader *Stage Twelve***: Jesus Speaks to his Mother

**Reader 12** [John 19:25-27]

Standing close to Jesus’ cross were his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, “Here is your son.” Then he said to his disciple, “Here is your mother.”

**Leader**

Mary saw her son crucified as a criminal. How that must have hurt her. And yet she was faithful

to God all her life. We too must be faithful followers of Jesus even when the going gets tough.

**All** Jesus, may we walk in faith, hope and love each day.

Turn our hearts and our lives toward your kingdom.

**Leader *Stage Thirteen***: Jesus Dies on the Cross

**Reader 13** [Luke 23:44-46]

It was about twelve o’clock when the sun stopped shining and darkness covered the whole country until three o’clock; and the curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two. Jesus cried

out in a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I place my spirit.” He said this and died.

**Leader**

Jesus died a terrible death for all of us. Such is the depth of God’s unending love. We must

remember to thank God for his great love for us.

**All** Jesus, may we walk in faith, hope and love each day.

**Leader *Stage Fourteen***: Jesus is placed in the Tomb

**Reader 14** [Mark 15: 42-46]

It was Joseph of Arimathea who asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Pilate was surprised to hear

that Jesus was already dead….Pilate told Joseph he could have the body. Joseph brought a linen

sheet, took the body down, wrapped it in the sheet, and placed it in a tomb which had been dug

out of solid rock. Then he rolled a large stone across the entrance to the tomb.

**Leader**

Jesus died that he might be raised to new life. We are to keep the hope of the resurrection alive

in our hearts. We need to tell the good news of God’s love to others.

**All** Jesus, may we walk in faith, hope and love each day.

**Leader *Stage Fifteen***: Jesus is raised from the Dead

**Reader 15** [Luke 24:1-6]

Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, so they went in; but

they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They stood there puzzled about this, when suddenly two men in bright shining clothes stood by them. Full of fear, the women bowed down to the ground, as the men said to them: “Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he is risen.”

**Leader**

Jesus brings new life to all of us through his life, death and resurrection. The story is not over, it is just beginning. We are Easter people; a people of hope. We believe in the Risen Jesus.

**All** Jesus, may we walk in faith, hope and love each day.

**Leader**

Jesus, you are our Lord and Saviour. You showed us the depth of your love by walking the various difficult stages of your journey from the Garden of Olives to Calvary...from death to

resurrection. Help us to follow you each day. May all that we do, all that we say and all that we pray, give glory to you Lord. Amen.

**Suitable Hymns:**

Stabat Mater—Alive O 4, T2, L9

Alleluia! Alive O 4, T2, L9

Come Christians All Rejoice - Alive O 5, T3 L1