

## V. Scent of Surrender

### Jesus' Last Breath

Mark 15:33-38

*At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said. With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.*

- ▶ Spend a few minutes thinking of Jesus breathing on the cross. What was his breathing like?
- ❓ Jesus was the light of the world, but the light went out when Jesus died. As you imagine Jesus taking His very last breath, blow out the candle. What are you sensing? What are you feeling? Share this with God. Thank Jesus for giving His life.
- ▶ Quietly dwell to listen for anything that God is asking you to die to.

For Kids: Jesus took our sin away when he died for us on the cross. Thank Jesus for loving you so much that he gave his life for you.

## VI. See Forgiveness

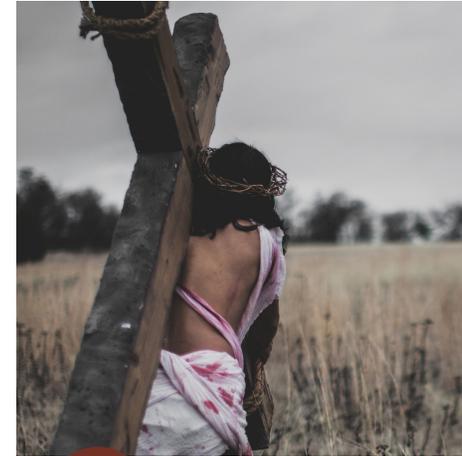
### Jesus' Finished Work on the Cross

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)

*For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.*

- ▶ Stop and take a minute to observe your reflection in the "Forgiveness Mirror." What do you feel? Do you see yourself as truly forgiven and your sin crucified with Jesus?
- ❓ Do you acknowledge that Jesus' work on the cross was fully complete, and that you are completely forgiven? Thank Jesus out loud for taking your punishment and giving you eternal, abundant life.
- ▶ Honor Jesus by writing a heartfelt thank you to Him on the Thanksgiving Wall.

For Kids: Write a "Thank You" note or draw a picture to thank Jesus for forgiving you and giving you life with Him forever in heaven.



# GARDEN & CRUCIFIXION

## EXPERIENCE

### PURPOSE:

This experience is to stir and prepare your heart to more deeply appreciate and celebrate Easter. To gain the most: quietly, reverently and prayerfully explore the six prayer stations in order.

*Slow down. Listen. Dwell. Appreciate.*

*Ponder each question and activity.*

*What is God saying to you through scripture and his Spirit? Be receptive to receiving a deep blessing.*

## I. Taste Unity | Jesus' Last Supper

Luke 22:14-22

*When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."*

- ❓ Jesus chose to give you the gift of His body. What does Jesus' "body given for you" mean to you?
- ❓ Jesus poured out his blood as a sin offering. What does Jesus' "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you" mean to you? Have you accepted Jesus gift of God's covenant promise of complete redemption of your sins?
- ❓ Jesus specifically asked us to remember Him. Remember Jesus now.
- ▶ Reverently take the communion elements, taste and remember.  
For Kids: Jesus invites you to know His love for you. Do you know Jesus loves you and wants you to follow Him? If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, take communion with your parent.

## II. Hear & Obey | Jesus in the Garden

Luke 22:39-46

*Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."*

- ▶ Gethsemane was where Jesus began His suffering. Imagine yourself in the garden near Jesus in the wee hours of the night. Hear him ask: "Father, if you are willing take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:42)
- ❓ Listen and hear Jesus choosing to obey the Father. What does Jesus' obedience to take the cup of wrath for your sin mean to you?
- ▶ Listen quietly and wait to hear: what obedience is God calling you to?  
For Kids: Jesus always obeyed His Father in Heaven. Pray and ask God to help you obey God, too.

## III. Feel the Weight

Jesus Takes up the Cross

John 19:16-18

*Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.*

- ❓ Sin is a heavy, deadly burden. Ponder the weight of your sin.
- ▶ Lift the Cross-member and feel the weight. What does it mean that Jesus carried the burden of the weight of your sin on the cross?
- ▶ Think if Jesus carrying the cross for you. Thank Jesus for lifting the weight of the cross and taking away your sin.
- ❓ Jesus said His followers must also pick up their cross. What specific cross are you currently bearing? Share this burden with God and ask Him to help you carry this burden in the way of Jesus.

For Kids: Sin is heavy and breaks our relationship with God, but Jesus lifts our sin off us, and puts it onto His cross. Do you know that Jesus has lifted your sin and forgiven you?

## IV. Cease Striving | Jesus Crucifixion

Luke 23:32-35

*Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."*

- ▶ Pray Outloud | Psalm 139:23-24 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
- ▶ Pray and admit any unconfessed sin, acknowledging that Jesus already died to forgive you.
- ▶ Write down your unconfessed sin, and nail it to the cross. Thank Jesus for cancelling your sin through His sacrifice on the cross.
- ❓ Will you honor Jesus' perfectly finished work on the cross, and cease your striving? Thank God for his unconditional love, and ask Him to help you to cease striving to earn it. God already loves you.

For Kids: God wants us to be honest with Him and confess our sin. Tell God you are sorry for the times you disobey Him, and thank Jesus for loving and forgiving you—no matter what.