



**STATION V: JUDGMENT**  
 Jesus is Judged by Pilate: Mark 15: 1-5, 15

**STATION VI: CROWNING**  
 Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns: John 19: 1-3



**STATION V : JUDGMENT**  
 Jesus is Judged by Pilate: Mark 15: 1-5, 15



**STATION VI: CROWNING**  
 Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns: John 19: 1-3



## Station V: JUDGMENT

Jesus is Judged by Pilate

### SCRIPTURE

*Take some time to read and reflect on this week's passage: Mark 15:1-5, 15.*

### REFLECTION FOR ADULTS

Chances are you have probably never heard of Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. That's because we know her by another name: Mother Teresa. By the age of eighteen, she answered God's call to move to India, and joined a religious order of nuns who had a commitment to helping the poorest of the poor in that country. Later this "Saint of the Gutter", as Teresa was sometimes known, founded her own religious order, the Missionaries of Charity, and dedicated the rest of her life to serving those whom society had judged as unworthy of love. Where others saw only the dregs of humanity, Mother Teresa saw children of God. Where others judged people based on their position in society, Mother Teresa judged them based on their position in the reign of God. In fact, she is quoted as saying, "If you judge people, you have no time to love them."

At this fifth station, we find ourselves standing with Jesus in Pilate's judgement hall. He is tired and dirty from a sleepless night, humiliated by the spitting, and hurting from the slaps of those who wish to mock him. His clothes are ragged and torn. And he is hungry. "Then the chief priests accused him of many things" (Mark 15:3).

Most of us have probably encountered someone on a street corner, or a bus stop, or the train platform holding their hand out, asking for assistance of some kind. Many of the people we encounter in these situations look tired...and dirty...and hungry. And we began to judge. And in our judgment of them, we found we had no time to love them.

After the chief priests judged Jesus, Pilate handed him over to be crucified. Sadly, this is also what happens when we judge others, rather than loving them. Our judgment condemns them to the death of hopelessness. Take a look at the picture you are coloring. Notice all the fingers

pointing in judgment. What if instead they were all extended with a handshake of solidarity for the person judged wrongly? Fingers pointed in judgment will never find time to love.

## REFLECTION FOR CHILDREN

Imagine what it must have felt like for Jesus on the night he was arrested. He was not given anything to eat, he was not allowed to sleep, and he had to walk from place to place all over Jerusalem. The soldiers spit on him, and called him names. And then the chief priests accused him of many untrue things. But Jesus did not hate them. Instead, he loved them the same way God loves us when we are unkind, and treat others with disrespect. Sometimes the things we do make Jesus very sad. But just like Jesus loved the people who had treated him wrongly, God loves us and always wants us to try better to follow God's ways.

## DISCUSSION WITH CHILDREN

- Have you ever thought less of someone because they didn't have nice clothes or a beautiful house?
- How do you think it would feel to be that person?

## GOING DEEPER

- How might you focus more on loving others rather than judging them?
- What concrete actions could you take to love someone whom others think is unlovable?



## Station VI: CROWNING

Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns

### SCRIPTURE

Take some time to read and reflect on this week's passage: John 19:1-3.

### REFLECTION FOR ADULTS

There is a contemporary icon, *Madonna of the Holocaust*, which shows Mary, dressed in the clothes of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Eastern European Jewish woman, holding Jesus on her lap. They are surrounded by barbed wire and the names of horrific places like Auschwitz, Birkenau, Dachau, and Bergen-Belsen. There is a large yellow Star of David sewn onto Mary's clothes, and a dove in Jesus' hands. The imagery used in this icon is a stark reminder that Jesus and Mary were both Jews, and had they been living in Hitler's world, would have been forced into a concentration camp because of their faith.

At this sixth station, we see the agents of the state forcing Jesus to wear a crown of thorns and a purple robe to identify him as the "King of the Jews" (John 19:2). The phrase "the Jews" is sprinkled liberally throughout John's account of the Passion and, unfortunately, Christians have often used this as an excuse for anti-Semitism and mistreatment of our Jewish brothers and sisters. Many biblical scholars believe that a more accurate translation of the Greek word *loudaioi* would be "Judeans" (referring to a region), rather than "Jews" (referring to an entire religion). When it comes to religion and how we treat one another, words *do* matter!

Whether Jesus lived in 1<sup>st</sup> century Jerusalem or 20<sup>th</sup> century Germany, he will always be found with the marginalized, the oppressed, and the forgotten. Take a look at the picture you are coloring. Notice the triangle in the middle. It seems to have broken pieces of glass or rock strewn on it. As you color in the shapes, be mindful of all the lives that have been broken over the centuries because of religious prejudice and the careless misuse of language.

## REFLECTION FOR CHILDREN

After Pilate sentenced Jesus to die, the Roman soldiers made a crown out of thorns and placed it on Jesus' head. Then they knelt in front of him saying, "Hail, the King of the Jews!" But they didn't really mean what they were saying. Jesus was a Jew, and the Romans did not like Jewish people. So they used their words to make fun of Jesus.

## DISCUSSION WITH CHILDREN

- How do you think Jesus wants you to treat people of different religions?
- What could you do to learn something about the Jewish religion?

## GOING DEEPER

- Is it strange to think of Jesus as a Jew, rather than a Christian?
- What implications might that have for your own relationships with people of other faiths?