

I SORROW

I AM DEEPLY GRIEVED, EVEN TO DEATH.

MY GOD, IF IT IS POSSIBLE LET THIS CUP PASS FROM ME.

WE adore you, O Christ, & WE BLESS you BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS

BETRAYAL

the one I WILL KISS

JESUS: ARREST HIM and LEAD HIM AWAY...

JUDAS SAID "Rabbi!" & KISSED HIM.

YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD, LORD JESUS, HELP US WALKING YOUR STEPS.

STATION I: SORROW

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane: Matthew 26:36-41

STATION II: BETRAYAL

Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested: Mark 14:43-46

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Station I: SORROW

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

SCRIPTURE

Take some time to read and reflect on this week's passage: Matthew 26:36-41.

REFLECTION FOR ADULTS

Many Americans can remember exactly where they were on the morning of September 11, 2001. Huddled around television sets and radios, they watched and listened to the news of terrorist planes flying into the World Trade Center's Twin Towers. And then, as the impact of just how many lives had been lost began to register, a great sorrow gripped the nation and the world.

During a National Day of Prayer just three days later, Billy Graham addressed the sorrow of the nation with these profound words: "The lesson of this event is not only about the mystery of iniquity and evil, but it's also a lesson about our need for one another...A tragedy like this could have torn our country apart, but instead it has united us."

At this first station, in the Garden of Gethsemane, we encounter Jesus in his moment of deepest sorrow and pain. But notice he is not alone. The scriptures say "Jesus went *with* the disciples..." (Matthew 26:36). He then took his most trusted friends - Peter, James, and John - with him as he began the painful journey that would ultimately lead to new life. Although we tend to give them a bad rap for falling asleep three times, it's worth noting that, at least they were present with Jesus in these moments in the garden.

While most of us will not make history-altering decisions in our lifetimes, we all have moments of deep sorrow when we need to be surrounded by the love of our friends, especially those in the community of faith. Take a look at the picture you are coloring. How many tears do you see? As you begin this journey to the cross with Jesus, remember you are not alone.

Remember also "at night we may cry, but when morning comes we will celebrate" (Psalm 30:5, CEV).

REFLECTION FOR CHILDREN

Jesus spent the night before he died with his friends at the Last Supper. He was very sad because he knew that one of his friends, Judas Iscariot, would tell lies about him, and then turn him over to be arrested. After dinner, Jesus took his three closest friends - Peter, James, and John - with him to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. But Peter, James, and John couldn't even stay awake with Jesus while he prayed.

DISCUSSION WITH CHILDREN

- Was there a time when you cried because you were very sad about something?
- Who can you ask for comfort when you feel sad?

GOING DEEPER

- When have you faced a crisis and needed to turn to others for support or prayer?
- How did it make you feel to have to rely on them?



Station II: BETRAYAL

Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested

SCRIPTURE

Take some time to read and reflect on this week's passage: Mark 14:43-46.

REFLECTION FOR ADULTS

Et tu Brute? Even if you're not a Shakespeare fan, chances are you're familiar with this line from *Julius Caesar*. About a century before the betrayal of Jesus in Jerusalem, another betrayal occurred in the city of Rome. On the Ides of March, Julius Caesar made his way to the floor of the Senate where, to his great surprise, he found himself surrounded by assassins. An even greater surprise came when he realized one of them was his good friend and protégé, Marcus Brutus. In crafting this dramatic scene, Shakespeare puts into Julius Caesar's mouth these legendary words: "*Et tu Brute? You too, Brutus?*"

Someone once said that "the saddest thing about betrayal is that it never comes from your enemies." And so it was with Jesus and Judas. The scriptures are quick to point out that Judas was "one of the twelve" (Mark 14:43). It could even be argued that he was one of the more influential members of the inner circle. After all, he was the treasurer who made sure there was enough money to carry on the mission of building the kingdom. And yet, it was this "one of the twelve" who betrayed Jesus, setting in motion events that would ultimately lead to Jesus' crucifixion.

We will never know why Judas betrayed Jesus. Some people believe it was because he had no choice...it was all part of God's preordained plan. Others think it was because, like Brutus, Judas was hungry for power and control of the group. Whatever his motives, his betrayal ultimately cost Jesus his life.

Take a look at the picture you are coloring. Close to the betrayer's lips is an object that looks oddly like a crescent moon. In John's account of the Last Supper, after Judas gets up from the table to betray Jesus to the chief priests, John writes, "and it was night" (John 13:30).

Betrayal, especially by those who are closest to us, always feels as if a great darkness has descended. But take another look. Is this crescent a waxing one or a waning one? Is the picture getting darker or lighter? We alone have the power to choose what we do with a friend's betrayal.

REFLECTION FOR CHILDREN

When you betray a friend you hurt them by telling a lie about them. Judas was one of the twelve apostles, and one of Jesus' friends. But he also betrayed Jesus by lying to the priests and police about who Jesus was. The priests gave Judas thirty pieces of silver to in return for betraying Jesus. While Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas showed the soldiers where he was. Because Judas told lies about Jesus, Jesus was arrested.

DISCUSSION WITH CHILDREN

- Have you ever told a lie about someone you cared for?
- How do you think it made them feel to know you had betrayed them?

GOING DEEPER

- When have you used your own position of trust to betray someone close to you?
- Have you ever been let down by a close friend or family member?
- How did you choose to deal with your feelings?