

# The Day Jesus Died: Cross-Gen Good Friday At Home

## Introduction

Sometimes, days can be really hard and really sad. We might feel that is especially true in our world right now.

Good Friday is a hard and a sad day. Good Friday is hard because it's the day in Holy Week that we remember Jesus' death on the Cross. We remember that Jesus experienced pain and violence at human hands. We acknowledge that people, even us, can do awful things. But on Good Friday, we also listen to Jesus' words of forgiveness and unfailing love.

Good Friday shows us the strongest force in the universe—the breadth and power of God's love—even stronger than death. It was then. It still is.

## Invitation to Worship

Because we cannot gather in person to remember these important events, we offer you a few different ways to engage with this story and let Jesus' love seep into your family's ritual.

Use this at-home guide to experience a short cross-generational worship and an interactive activity.

***Please read it all the way through and adapt to your family's needs.***

May God's Good Friday Love Sustain You!



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## What you need:

**Set up for worship:** A place to gather, a candle to remind you of God's presence, a Bible or the Spark Story Bible, a way to play music

## Activities to do together

***Tasting Jesus' Tears:*** Small cups, table salt, water (maybe something sour too)

***Hurting Hearts:*** Red construction paper, some small nails, band-aids

## Opening

Light a candle and share this prayer together *either as a family or individual*

**Echo Prayer** *try the response first so everyone knows it*

Leader: Even when's it's a bad day

**All: You are always with us, God.**

Leader: Even when we are sad or upset,

**All: You are always with us, God.**

Leader: Even when we are sick or hurting,

**You are always with us, God.**

Leader: Even when we die,

**You are always with us, God.**

Leader: Even now, in your love, you are with us.

**All: Amen.**



**Word** *choose what is right for you*

Read the story of The Day Jesus Died

Grown up Bible: Matthew 27:27-66, Mark 15:21-47, Luke 23:26-51

Spark Story Bible: Page 476

## Key Verse to Remember

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

## Share

What makes you sad today or this week? Who helps you when you are sad? What colors do you see when you are feeling down? What does it feel like to be forgiven?

**Blessing** *make the sign of the cross on each other's hand or forehead and say*

✝ You are a Beloved Child of God, sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the Cross of Christ forever.

## Activities to Engage the Story Together

**Tasting Jesus' Tears:** Small cups, table salt, water

Mix multiple small cups, some with regular water and some with salt water. Have folks taste their own. What does it taste like? You could also mix a sour taste in for sour wine for older kids.



**Take away** This is a simple reminder and invitation to engage all of our senses in Jesus' passion and crucifixion. Lots of people cried. What do tears taste like? Does crying making you feel better or worse? How are tears like holy water (our sense of compassion/empathy/care for others and ourselves)? What other senses has the Holy Week journey invited us **into** (foot washing, Lord's Supper, feel of wood or nails)?

**Hurting Hearts:** Red construction paper, some small nails, band-aids

Cut out lots of hearts with the red construction paper. Write a prayer on each heart. Something you dream for the world. Something that makes you sad or God said. Poke the nails through the paper. Kids don't often get to use nails—what are they like (sharp, hard, cold)? When you are done, take out the nails and put band-aids on the holes.



**Take away** Jesus kept loving even when his heart and body were broken. God never stops healing us, even when we are hurt. God never wants us to be pain. God is always seeking to make us and the whole world well.

**Note about abuse: If someone is ever hurting you, please tell someone you trust—this is not God's doing.**

## Songs during activity

“Were You There When They Crucified My Lord”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLJ0jLAmOA>

“Unfailing Love” – Chris Tomlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mAvLY0PF7g>