

Welcome to the Prayer Stations

This journey is designed for you to read, pray and visualize your way through the final events leading to Jesus' death. There is no resolution here intentionally. We'll leave Easter Sunday to take care of that. We want you to sit in the physical and spiritual reality of the Messiah, Jesus being led to His death.

These stations invite you to slow down and focus on Jesus. Turn off your cell phone, any music, or put away any other distractions before you begin. Think deeply and engage your mind and heart, take your time, read slowly and let the words of reflection sink in. Be open to what God has for you, and you'll see how your story is connected to, and a continuation of, God's story that began at creation.

We encourage you to respond to God through the various methods within the stations and it could be as simple as writing a word , a prayer or drawing a picture.

This Journey to the Cross is not about agendas or meeting anyone's expectations. It's simply a time and a space for you to focus on Jesus.

Set aside an hour in a quiet, distraction-free environment either alone or with your family/friend/spouse.

How to Experience Prayer Stations at Home

The hope for each station is to invite you in to Jesus' journey through a visual image and specific prompts to help you connect, understand and experience the story of Jesus.

Each station will have:

Read - Read aloud the words of Scripture

Look - Take the time to look at the image and think about what the artist is saying

Wonder - Put yourself within the story. Answer the questions provided.

Respond - Pray about, write, or draw something in response to the story. Grab some pens, paper, felts, etc to respond

Our prayer is that together, with the Father's help and protection, we will walk through the story and know it in a more significant way than we did before this experience.

I



JESUS IS TEMPTED

"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Matthew 26:38

Jesus is tempted

"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.
Stay here and keep watch with me."

Matthew 26:38

Read - Read aloud the words of Scripture

Look - Take the time to look at the image and think about what the artist is saying

Wonder - Put yourself within the story

- The enemy of God through the biblical story is depicted by a snake and sin like a poisonous drink. It is because of sin and the snake that Jesus walked the road you are beginning to journey on today.
- Because Jesus was tempted He can empathize with us. How does that encourage you?
- Is there anything that troubles you or bothers you about this picture?
- What is helpful to remember about this image when you are tempted?

Respond - Pray about, write, or draw something in response

Further Reading: Hebrew 4:14-16, Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 22:39-46

II



JESUS IS BETRAYED

"Friend, do what you came here to do." Matthew 26:50

Jesus is betrayed

"Friend do what you came here to do."

Matthew 26:50

Read - Read aloud the words of Scripture

Look - Take the time to look at the image and think about what the artist is saying

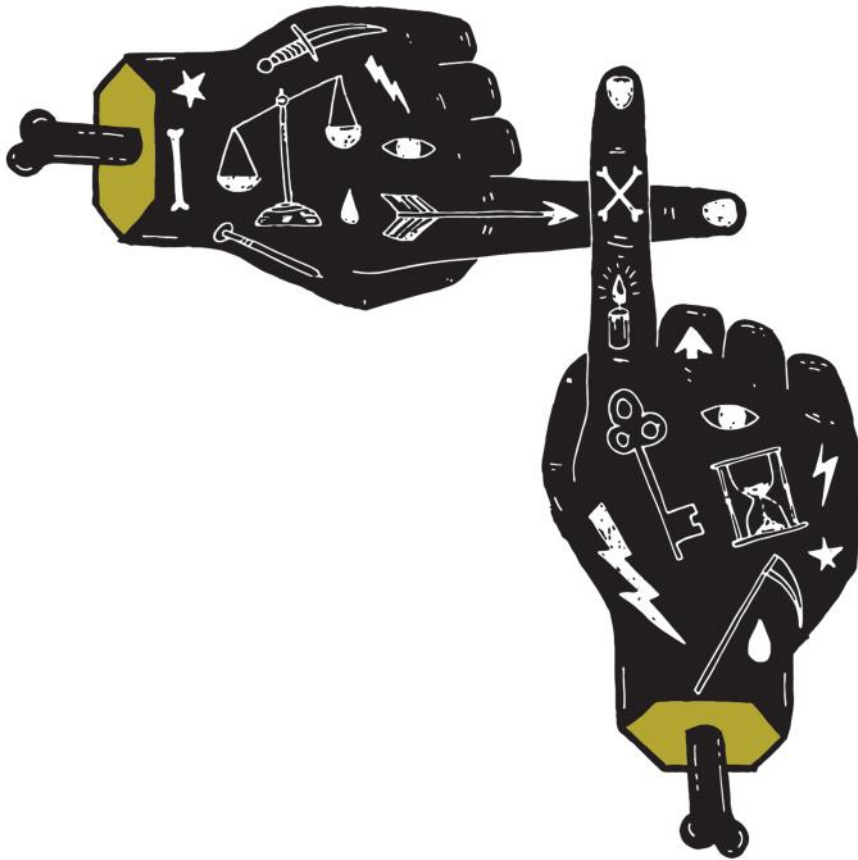
Wonder - Put yourself within the story

- What stands out the most to you about this image?
- Have you ever been betrayed by a friend, how did it feel?
- Every time you sin, you turn your back on Jesus and betray Him. How have you betrayed Jesus recently?
- When is a time that you put your heart in money or possessions over Jesus?

Respond - Pray about, write, or draw something in response

Further Reading: Matthew 26:14-16, John 13:21-30

III



JESUS IS CONDEMNED

"But this is your hour - when darkness reigns." Luke 22:53

Jesus is condemned

"But this is your hour - when darkness reigns."
Luke 22:53

Read - Read aloud the words of Scripture

Look - Take the time to look at the image and think about what the artist is saying

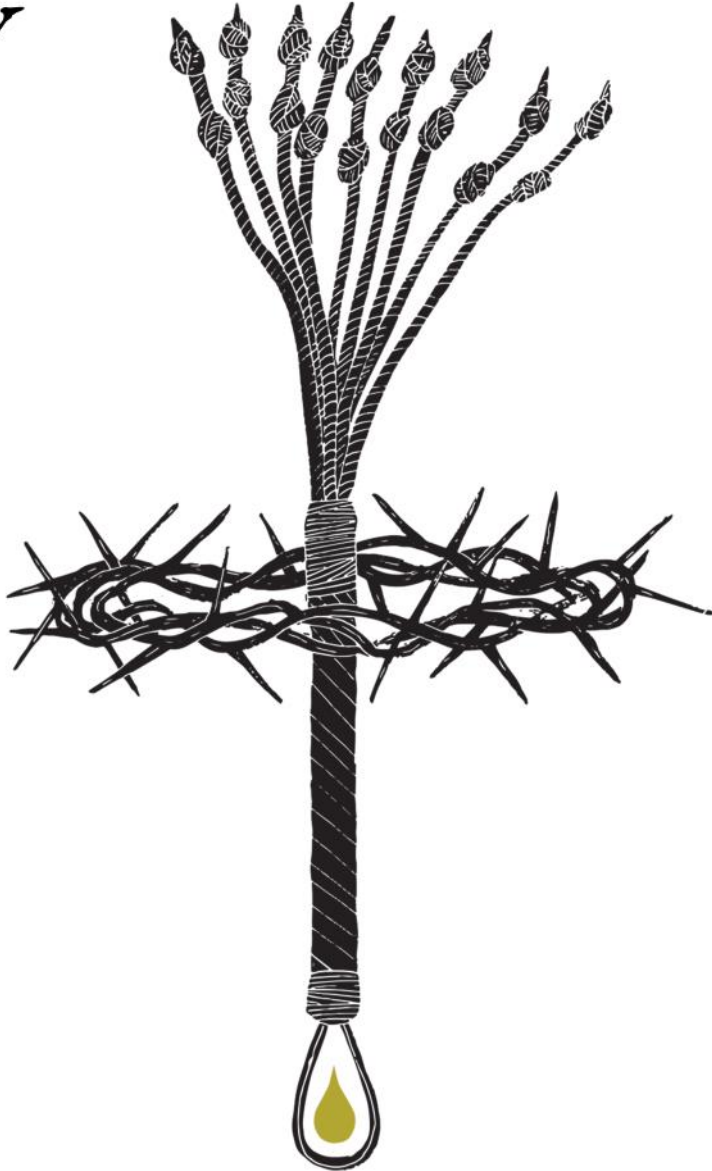
Wonder - Put yourself within the story

- What do you think some of the symbols represent?
- Which symbol speaks most powerfully to you?
- What 'darkness' is reigning in your life right now?

Respond - Pray about, write, or draw something in response

Further Reading: John 18:1-11

IV



JESUS IS MOCKED

"But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" John 18:23

Jesus is mocked

"But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?"
John 18:23

Read - Read aloud the words of Scripture

Look - Take the time to look at the image and think about what the artist is saying

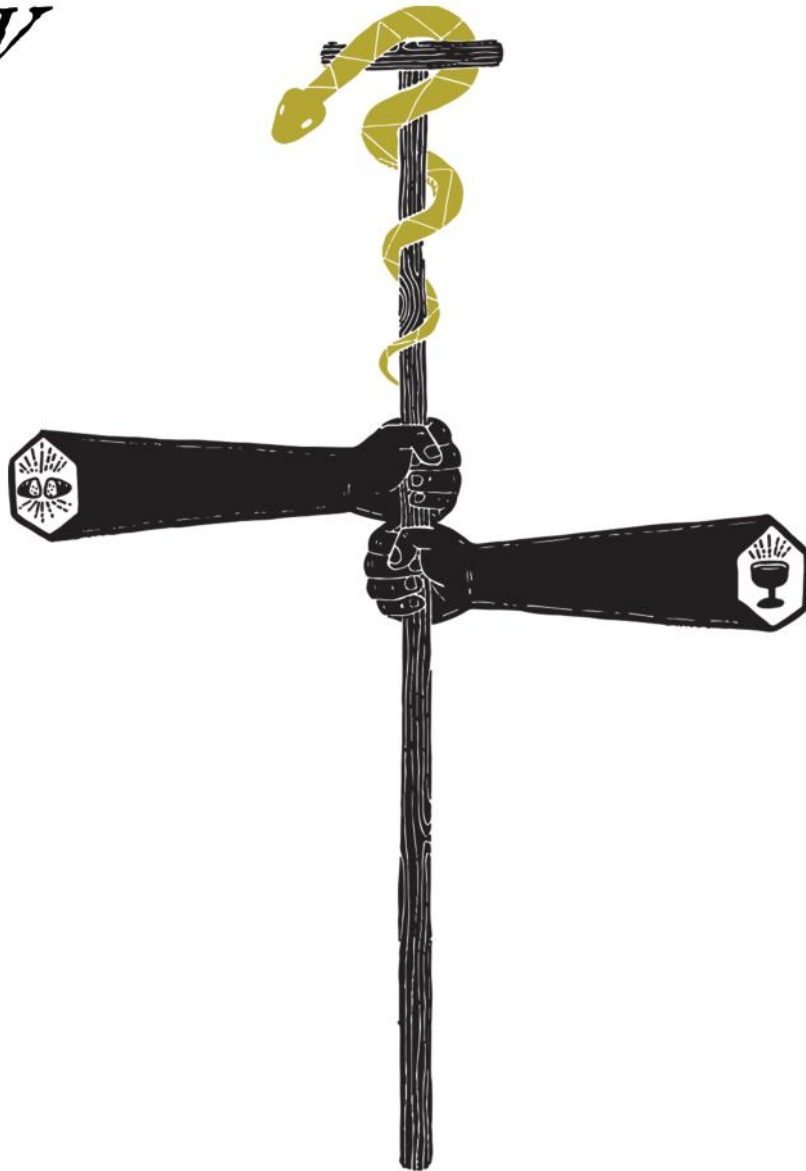
Wonder - Put yourself within the story

- How is pain represented in this image?
- The crown of thorns was made to mock Jesus. What in your life mocks what Jesus has done for you?
- Jesus was whipped and tortured. How does it make you feel knowing Jesus went through so much pain for you?

Respond - Pray about, write, or draw something in response

Further Reading: Luke 22:63-65, Mark 15:16-20, Isaiah 53:5

V



JESUS IS GIVEN HIS CROSS

"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." John 3:14-15

Jesus is given His cross

"Just as Moses lifted up the snake (to heal the people) in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life."

John 3:14-15

Read - Read aloud the words of Scripture

Look - Take the time to look at the image and think about what the artist is saying

Wonder - Put yourself within the story

- The image shows two hands tightly holding onto the staff, what are you holding onto that brings healing into your life?
- The snake has been used to represent both temptation and healing. How has God taken something sinful in your life and redeemed it for His glory?
- The bread and the wine of the Lord's Supper are represented in this image. How do you find healing in the Lord's Supper when you observe it?

Respond - Pray about, write, or draw something in response

Further Reading: Numbers 21:4-9, Matthew 26:26-29

VI



JESUS FALLS

"Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." John 12:24

Jesus falls

"Unless a kernel falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

John 12:24

Read - Read aloud the words of Scripture

Look - Take the time to look at the image and think about what the artist is saying

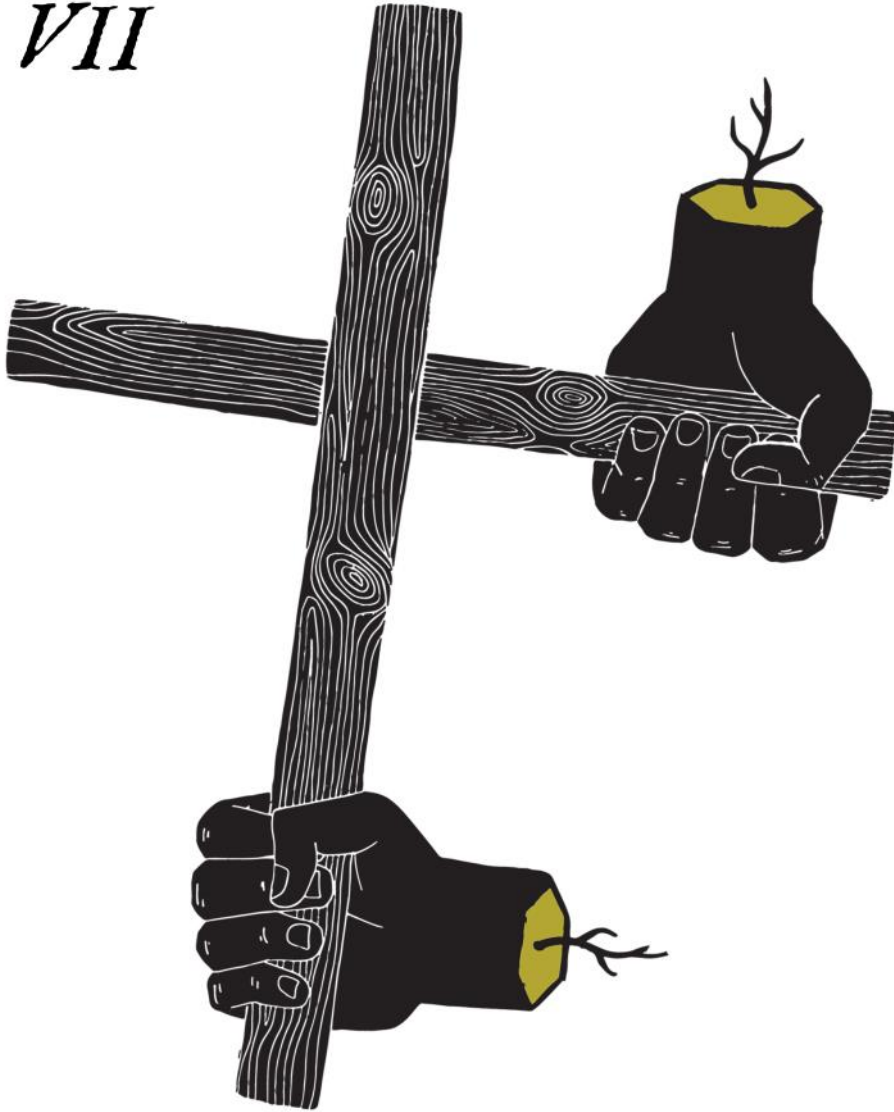
Wonder - Put yourself within the story

- When you plant a seed, do you ever give much thought to the reality that something had to die in order for you to be able to grow a new plant? Why do you think you skip over the sacrifice so quickly?
- What should you put to death in your life so that more fruit can be produced?
- What fruit have you seen in your life from your own sacrifice?

Respond - Pray about, write, or draw something in response

Further Reading: Parable of the sower—Matthew 13:1-9

VII



SIMON CARRIES JESUS' CROSS

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24

Simon carries Jesus' cross

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself
and take up his cross and follow me."

Matthew 16:24

Read - Read aloud the words of Scripture

Look - Take the time to look at the image and think about what the artist is saying

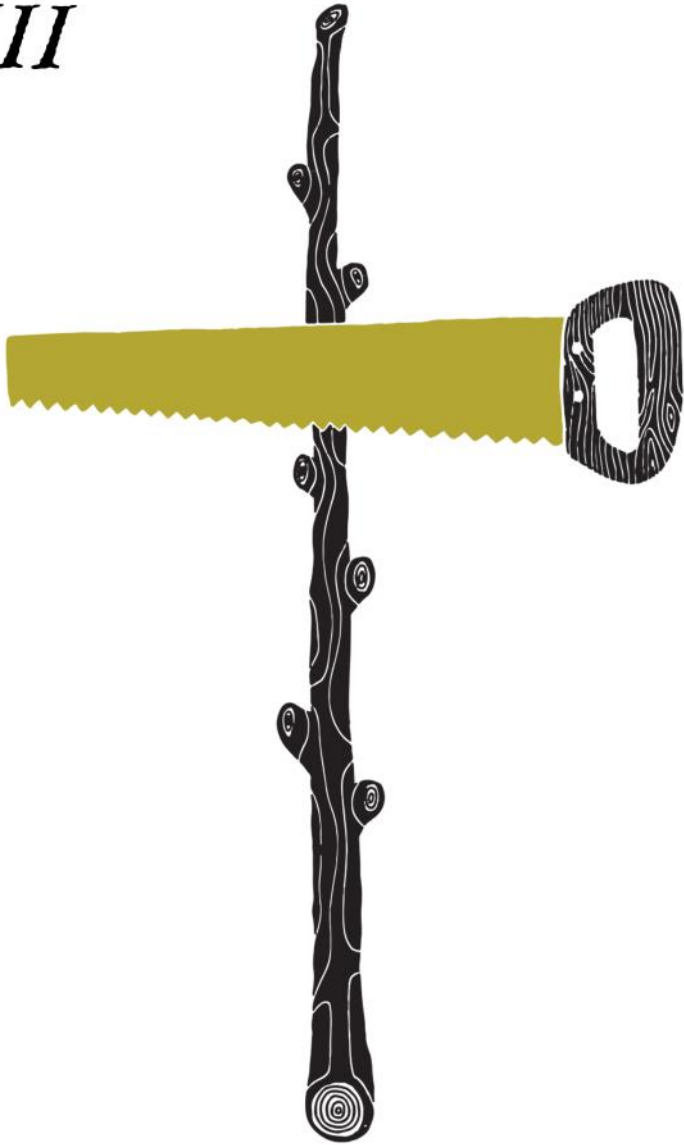
Wonder - Put yourself within the story

- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus had someone help Him on His way to fulfill His mission of dying on the cross?
- As you look at the cross, what do you think God is asking you to 'take up' right now in your obedience of following Him?
- Is there an area of your life that you need to 'deny yourself' in so that you can follow Jesus more fully?

Respond - Pray about, write, or draw something in response

Further Reading: Matthew 16:24-26, Luke 23:26

VIII



JESUS IS STRIPPED

"For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?" Luke 23:31

Jesus is stripped

"For if men do these things when the tree is green,
what will happen when it is dry?"

Luke 23:31

Read - Read aloud the words of Scripture

Look - Take the time to look at the image and think about what the artist is saying

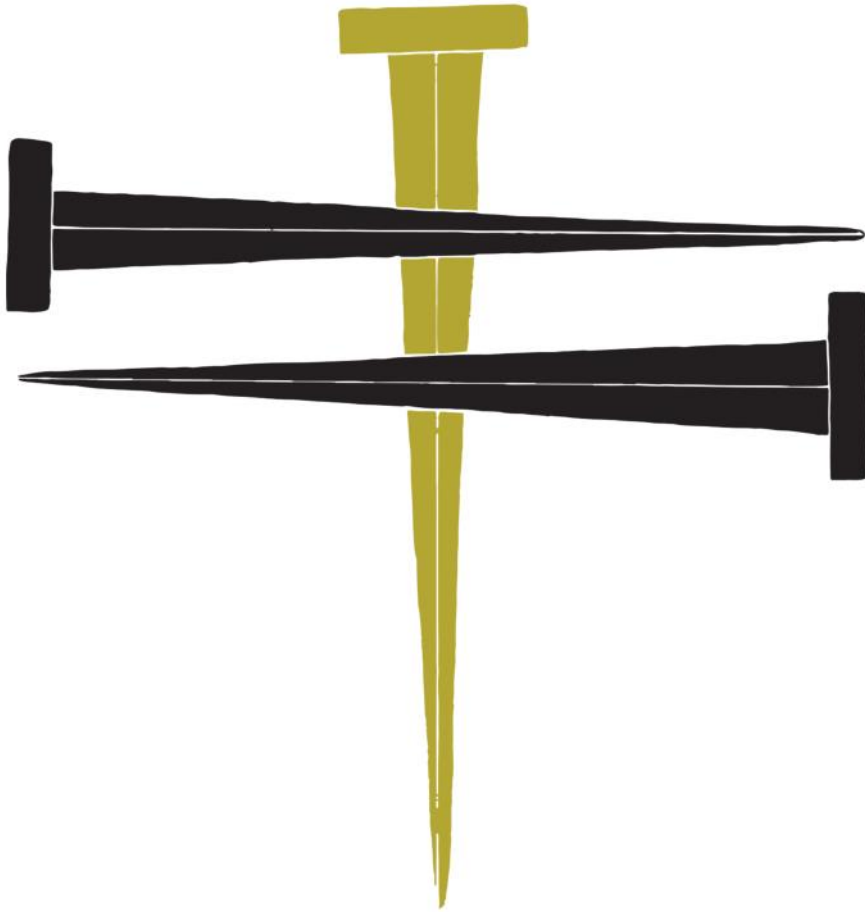
Wonder - Put yourself within the story

- A saw has to be sharp in order to easily cut something that is green. How has God used painful circumstances in your life in order to strip away what shouldn't be there?
- To be physically naked in front of a group of people would be a humiliating experience, but Jesus asks us to be vulnerable (relationally naked) with others. Who is Jesus asking you to be more vulnerable to in your life?
- We are in essence naked before God because He knows everything about us. What would you say God sees in you right now?

Respond - Pray about, write, or draw something in response

Further Reading: Luke 23:31-37

IX



JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

"My God My God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46

Jesus is nailed to the cross

*"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"
Matthew 27:46*

Read - Read aloud the words of Scripture

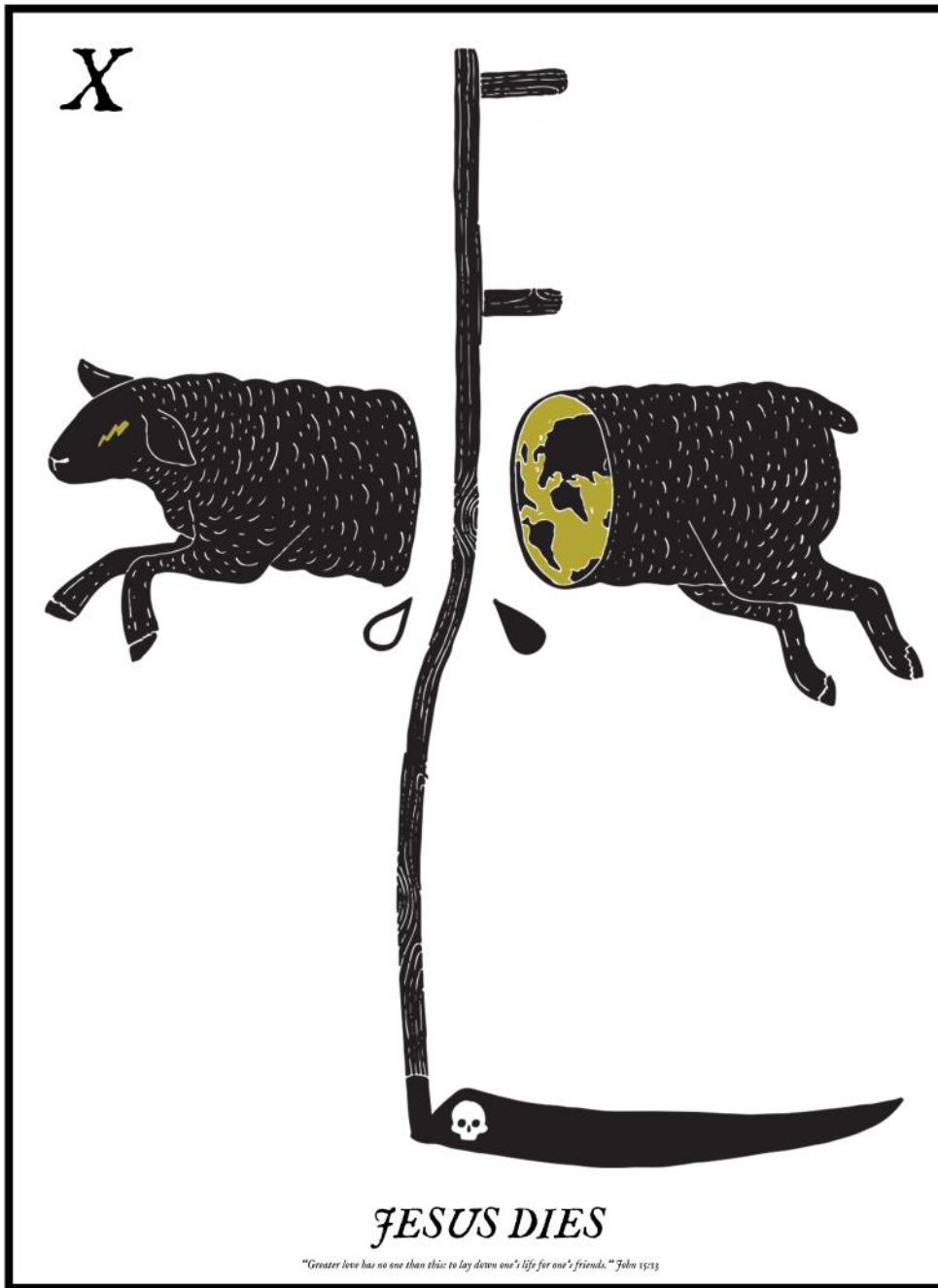
Look - Take the time to look at the image and think about what the artist is saying

Wonder - Put yourself within the story

- What do the spikes symbolize to you?
- Jesus felt alone on the cross. How do you feel alone right now?
- On the cross, Jesus took all of your sins and nailed them there. What does that mean to you?

Respond - Pray about, write, or draw something in response

Further Reading: Matthew 27:45-49



Jesus dies

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life
for one's friend."

John 15:13

Read - Read aloud the words of Scripture

Look - Take the time to look at the image and think about what the artist is saying

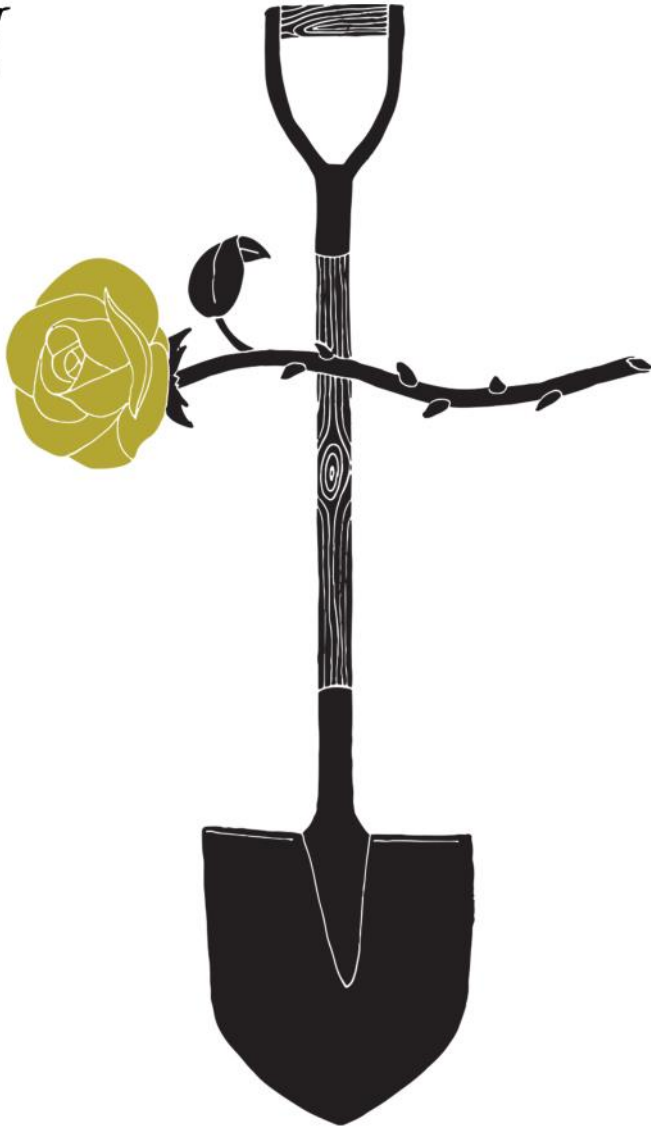
Wonder - Put yourself within the story

- Jesus, the Passover Lamb, came to die for the sin of the world.
- What are you most impacted by when you look at the image?
- What is the most sacrificial thing you have ever done for someone?
- What one thing should you say to Jesus about His sacrifice for you?

Respond - Pray about, write, or draw something in response

Further Reading: Luke 23:44-49, John 1:29-34, Colossians 2:13-15

XI



JESUS IS BURIED

"When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial." Matthew 26:12

Jesus is buried

"When she poured this perfume on my body,
she did it to prepare me for burial."

Matthew 26:12

Read - Read aloud the words of Scripture

Look - Take the time to look at the image and think about what the artist is saying

Wonder - Put yourself within the story

- With Jesus' burial, it seemed to the disciples that everything had been lost. It seemed all hope was lost. What is hopeless in your life right now?
- The rose is a symbol of love. How does Jesus' burial symbolize His love for you?
- Jesus was prepared for His death and burial. Are you prepared for yours? If not, what do you need to do?
- Satan, sin and death may think they have had the last laugh. Here, Jesus is laid to rest, but not for long.

Respond - Pray about, write, or draw something in response

Further Reading: John 19:31-42, 1 Corinthians 2:6-9

XII

JESUS RISES

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays his life down for his sheep." John 10:11

Jesus rises

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays
His life down for His sheep."
John 10:11

Read - Read aloud the words of Scripture

Wonder - Spend a few minutes imagining what the artist would draw for this image.

Reflect - Think about your experience going through the Prayer Stations.

- What station stood out to you the most? Why?
- What about Jesus' steps to death did you realize in a new way this year?
- What did the Holy Spirit speak to you?
- Is there something you need to do in response with your life today because of this experience?

Respond - As you reflect on your time going through the stations, is there a theme or a word that really stands out to you? Write that word on a piece of paper and put it among the other responses.

Tune into our Easter Service to Celebrate the Risen Jesus livestream at 10:00am

Further Reading: John 20:1-31