



## **PASSION PRAYER EXPERIENCE**

Welcome to the Passion Prayer Experience. This experience is designed to follow our sermon series "The Passion," which has led us to Easter. This isn't your "normal" prayer experience however. Students aren't meant to be quiet during each station; they are meant to interact and consider new ways to connect Jesus' death on the cross to their own lives.

We've provided a list of supplies you \*can\* get in order to do the experience fully, but with each station, we've provided a "hack" to do it with common household items. Read through the lists and gather the items ahead of time. Make sure to read the stations ahead of time so you understand how to make modifications. It is certainly helpful to have a printer, but can be modified to be on one device. When it says leader, that can mean a parent or pass it around so that each member of the family gets a chance to lead a station. This experience is best done around the dinner table.

The goal is help to prepare our hearts and minds as we approach Easter. It will take less than an hour to complete all 7 stations, or you can break them up and do a couple a day.

As you prepare, if you have any questions, please reach out to Tyler Lane ([tlane@vrl.church](mailto:tlane@vrl.church)).

And please join us for Easter Services at VRL [[www.vrl.church](http://www.vrl.church)]

Thanks for participating. May God bless you as you seek Him.

- ***The VRL Student Team***

# ITEM LIST

REMEMBER: This list is to provide the experience as designed. Each station can be modified with items you already have, or simply done orally.

## Forgiveness

- Water-dissolving paper: <https://www.amazon.com/Walk-Jesus-Water-Dissolving-Paper-Pack/dp/B075ZDV61B/>
- A bowl of water
- A spoon
  - ALTERNATIVE: You can choose to write on a single piece of toilet paper. OR Write on a note card and have the students rip the note card into very small pieces.

## Paradise

- Nails
- Hammer
- Wooden Cross (Doesn't have to be a cross – a standard scrap piece of wood will suffice)

## Behold

- Puzzle Pieces – you can use either a used puzzle, or purchase fresh puzzles. <https://www.amazon.com/Inovart-Puzzle-28-Piece-Puzzles-Package/dp/B00598K8VE>
- Make sure this puzzle is okay to not be used again (you will write on the pieces).

## Forsaken

- OPTION ONE:
  - i. Black butcher or paper, cut into a cross.
  - ii. Highlighters
  - iii. A UV flashlight <https://www.amazon.com/Escolite-Flashlight-Ultraviolet-Blacklight-Detector/dp/B008133KB4/> or <https://www.amazon.com/LUMAND-Flashlight-Keychain-Currency-Passports/dp/B00NOFMJKW/>
  - iv. You can also download a UV light on your Smartphone!
- OR you can use Scratch-off Crosses: <https://www.amazon.com/Magic-Color-Scratch-Cross-Ornaments/dp/B005DS6CJM/> and toothpicks
- OR you can use regular paper with lemon juice and hold it up to a lamp.

## Thirsty

- Mini cups (Dixie cups or communion cups)

- A splash of red wine vinegar in each cup (or grape juice, if you don't have grape juice, use water)

### **Finished**

- Small Hand/Pocket crosses [https://www.amazon.com/Certified-Caring-Holding-Cross-Pocket/dp/B00KNXDMV8/ref=sr\\_1\\_10?keywords=wooden+cross&qid=1554169255&s=home-garden&sr=1-10](https://www.amazon.com/Certified-Caring-Holding-Cross-Pocket/dp/B00KNXDMV8/ref=sr_1_10?keywords=wooden+cross&qid=1554169255&s=home-garden&sr=1-10)
- OR - Cross necklaces [https://www.amazon.com/Wooden-Cross-Necklaces-1-dz/dp/B0047QN46A/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?keywords=cross+necklace&qid=1554171570&s=toys-and-games&sr=1-5](https://www.amazon.com/Wooden-Cross-Necklaces-1-dz/dp/B0047QN46A/ref=sr_1_5?keywords=cross+necklace&qid=1554171570&s=toys-and-games&sr=1-5)
- The cross is intended to be used as a reminder. In your homes you may have a cross displayed. You can choose to use that as a reminder instead of purchasing small crosses. Remind your family where and why it is displayed.

### **Commit**

- Print the "commitment" verses and place all over table

## Station 1 – Forgiveness

### **READ Luke 23:1-5, 13-23, 32-34 (NIV)**

1 Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. 2 And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king."

3 So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"You have said so," Jesus replied.

4 Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man."

5 But they insisted, "He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here."

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13 Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people,<sup>14</sup> and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. 15 Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. 16 Therefore, I will punish him and then release him."

18 But the whole crowd shouted, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" 19 (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

20 Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. 21 But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

22 For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him."

23 But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. 24 So Pilate decided to grant their demand.<sup>25</sup> He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

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32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. 33 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. 34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

- **LEADER SAYS:** While Jesus was being executed, Jesus prayed for the very people who executed Him.
- **ASK:**
- Who have you wronged this week?

- Who do you need to forgive right now?
  
- **Have each student take a piece of the paper and write the name of one person they either need to forgive or they need to ask forgiveness from. After they are done, have them place the paper in the bowl. Then, stir.** [Again, modify with what you have (toilet paper or regular) The goal is to show that God removes it completely.]
  
- **DISCUSS:**
  - How is God's forgiveness like this?
  - Do you think there is anything that God won't forgive?
  - How can we forgive like God forgives?

**Close by praying that you will forgive others the way God forgives us.**

## Station 2 – Paradise

### **Read Luke 23:35-43 (NIV)**

35 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."

36 The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar 37 and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

38 There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the King of the Jews.

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

43 Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

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- **LEADER SAYS:** It's so interesting that as Jesus was dying, He was worried about other people. He wanted this thief to know the love and life that is found through following God. But also think about the thief's perspective for a minute: as he was also dying on his cross, he saw Jesus next to him dying for no logical reason. Perhaps it was in that moment that the thief saw his own sinfulness.
- **READ:** Colossians 2:14 says: "He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross."
- **ASK:**
  - What do think it means that our "sins were nailed to the cross?"
  - Jesus was so quick to forgive the thief on the cross even as He was dying for that thief's sins. What does this say about Jesus' character and nature?
- **READ:** Romans 5:8 (NIV) says, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- **LEADER SAYS:** Today, we are going to each place a nail in the cross, signifying that Jesus died for our sins.
- **Have each student take a nail and hammer it into the cross. As they nail it, have each person say, "Jesus, remember me."**

## Station 3 – Behold

### **READ John 19:25-27**

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," 27 and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

- **LEADER SAYS:** This is one of the more peculiar sayings of Jesus, that is, unless you understand what's going on. As Jesus was dying, He saw His mother. He realized that she was about to be left to care for herself. So, he asked one of his disciples to care for her. And he did! From there on out, Mary became a part of the disciple's home. This disciple took Mary in as his own mother, and she adopted him as her son.
- **ASK:**
- We all have spiritual "mothers" and spiritual "brothers." Who are some adults who have been like spiritual "mothers" or "fathers" to you? How?
- Who has been like a spiritual "brother" or spiritual "sister" to you? How?
- **LEADER SAYS:** We all have people who have played a part in our spiritual journey. In fact, a big part of our spiritual journey is all the different people who have played a role in it!
- **Have each person grab a few of the puzzle pieces and write the name of a person who has been a part of their spiritual journey.** (Have them use one puzzle piece for each name they write.)
- **ASK:**
- How are each of our people part of the bigger picture of our faith?
- How are each of our people part of our collective spiritual family?

**Close out in prayer, thanking God for your puzzle pieces. If you have time, try to connect some of the pieces together, in the center of the table.**

## Station 4 – Forsaken

### □ **Forsaken**

#### **Mark 15:33-34 (MSG)**

At noon the sky became extremely dark. The darkness lasted three hours. At three o'clock, Jesus groaned out of the depths, crying loudly, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

- **ASK:**

- Why do you think Jesus said that God "abandoned" Jesus?

- **LEADER SAYS:** Jesus was actually quoting a Psalm that David wrote to describe His circumstance on the cross. Let's read it together.

#### **READ PSALM 22:1-8**

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,  
so far from my cries of anguish?

2 My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,  
by night, but I find no rest.

3 Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;  
you are the one Israel praises.

4 In you our ancestors put their trust;  
they trusted and you delivered them.

5 To you they cried out and were saved;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

6 But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

7 All who see me mock me;  
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

8 "He trusts in the Lord," they say,  
"let the Lord rescue him.

Let him deliver him,  
since he delights in him."

- **ASK:**

- What is Jesus' hope that He offers?

- Have you ever felt like God abandoned you, like in the Psalm?

- What hope can you find through Jesus' death?

- **Have students pick up highlighters and write some of the things that Jesus offers us through His death on the cross.**

- **You will notice that those things stay hidden – take the UV lights, and shine them on the cross so they appear.**
- **ASK:** Why is hope like this UV light?

**Pray together, asking God to show you all of his goodness this week.**

## Station 5 – Thirsty

### **John 19:-28-30**

28 Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. 30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

- **LEADER SAYS:** While on the cross, Jesus experienced dehydration. He cried out, "I thirst!" However, the Roman guards didn't give Him anything satisfying.

**Have students take a cup with the splash of red wine vinegar [or whatever liquid you have] and dip their fingers in and taste.**

- **LEADER SAYS:** Jesus' needs were not met while on the cross. But Jesus was ALWAYS concerned about the needs of others.
- **ASK:**
  - Who did Jesus care about?
  - What is a need that you see -- in your family, friends, or in the world -- that needs praying for?
- **Pray for those people together.**

## Station 6 – Finished

- **Have everyone grab a cross.**
- [Leader Note: you can instead grab a cross you might have displayed in your house and use it as a reminder after the prayer experience.]

### **Read John 19:30:**

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

- **LEADER SAYS:** The word "finished" comes from the Greek word that also translates as "it is accomplished" or "it is complete."
- **ASK:**
  - What was accomplished when Jesus died on the cross?
  - What was "completed" or "finished" when Jesus died?
- **LEADER SAYS:** When Jesus died on the cross, that meant there was nothing left for us to do. The cross is a symbol of God's finished work in our lives. Nothing left to prove -- no work left to do to obtain salvation. It was just...finished.
- **ASK:**
  - Do you think we do a good job at remembering that Jesus' death on the cross is sufficient for salvation?
  - What are some ways to remember Jesus' death in our own lives?
- **Give thanks for the symbol of the cross, for its reminder of Jesus doing everything so that we might obtain salvation.**

## Station 7 – Commit

### **READ: Luke 23:44-46**

44 It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, 45 for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

- **Have the students spend their time reading each of the pages on the table.**
- **SAY:** When Jesus was ready to do the will of God, He "committed" His spirit into the Father's hands. Jesus was committed to doing the will of God even though it meant He would die.
- **ASK:**
- What does it mean to "commit" to something?
- What "commitments" have you made? (sports, dance, theatre, church, etc.)
- What do you think it looks like to "commit" to God? Have you ever thought of faith as a commitment?
- Do you think you've made a commitment to God? Why or why not?
- **SAY:** Sometimes, our commitments need strengthening. What do you think you can do to solidify your commitment to God?
- **Pray for the group and that they might strengthen their commitments.**
- [Leader note: If appropriate, walk the students through a prayer that they might pray to make a commitment for the first time. If your student makes that commitment, share it with Tyler or Eric! We'd love to help them in their next step!]

COMMIT CARDS to be PRINTED or READ

## Numbers 30:2

**When a man makes a vow to the Lord or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said.**

Proverbs 16:3

**Commit your  
work to the Lord,  
and your plans  
will be  
established.**

Psalm 37:5

**Commit your way  
to the Lord; trust  
in him, and he will  
act.**

1 Kings 8:61

**Let your heart  
therefore be  
wholly true to the  
Lord our God,  
walking in his  
statutes and  
keeping his  
commandments,  
as at this day."**

Luke 9:62

**Jesus said to him,  
“No one who puts  
his hand to the  
plow and looks  
back is fit for the  
kingdom of God.”**

Galatians 6:9

**And let us not  
grow weary of  
doing good, for in  
due season we  
will reap, if we do  
not give up.**

Deuteronomy 6:5

**You shall love the  
Lord your God  
with all your  
heart and with all  
your soul and  
with all your  
might.**

1 John 5:3

**For this is the love  
of God, that we  
keep his  
commandments.**

**And his  
commandments  
are not  
burdensome.**



2 Timothy 2:13

**if we are faithless,  
he remains  
faithful—for he  
cannot deny  
himself.**

Jeremiah 26:14

**But as for me,  
behold, I am in  
your hands. Do  
with me as seems  
good and right to  
you.**