



# What's So Good About Good Friday?

CONNIE CLARK

**W**hen you think of Jesus on the cross, you might feel sad. You might even feel a little scared or angry, especially on Good Friday, when we remember all that happened to Jesus before he died. It's OK to feel this way. But remember that Jesus' great sacrifice on the cross has saved us from the power of sin and death forever. On Good Friday, we remember that Jesus freely gave up his life for one reason: Jesus loves us. That is very good!



That's why Christians spend time looking at the cross or the crucifix on Good Friday. But we don't look at the crucifix the way we look at a piece of furniture or a decoration. We look at the crucifix *in prayer*, remembering Jesus' love for us. (This is a good idea any time you look at the cross or crucifix.)

**Here are some ways you can remember Jesus' love on Good Friday:**

**Go to church.** Mass is not celebrated on Good Friday, but many Catholics still spend time at church. We might take part in the Stations of the Cross, where we walk with Jesus in his suffering. We can also venerate the crucifix. This is when we stop and look at the crucifix in prayer and love, remembering all that Jesus has done for us.

**Stay with Jesus.** Between noon and three o'clock, spend some quiet time with Jesus. You might color pictures of Jesus, read a Bible story, or make a card for someone who's sick. You could even do a chore around the house,

## Good things to do on Good Friday

**The people and places of the cross** All the people and places below are found in the Gospel of John [see John 18:1–19:42]. Can you find them all inside the cross? Then, when you go to church on Good Friday, listen and look for these words in the Gospel reading. See page 51 for the answers.

	S	R	J	B	A	V	D	S	A	P		
	T	U	O	E	G	U	A	R	D	S		
	A	Y	S	N	C	O	L	L	N	L		
	K	G	E	M	A	P	F	E	L	W		
A	D	N	V	D	P	I	L	A	T	E	Y	E
L	P	G	R	L	H	M	A	L	C	H	U	S
D	B	A	C	S	O	L	D	I	E	R	S	S
A	G	T	C	N	F	R	G	O	L	G	O	T
D	B	E	O	B	A	R	A	B	B	A	S	T
	U	L	R	O	M	L	E	T	I	S		
	R	B	I	P	F	Y	O	E	M	E		
	T	O	M	U	O	E	D	K	O	I		
	Y	M	A	R	Y	Q	L	E	N	R		
	A	B	T	E	R	U	C	E	P	P		
	R	E	H	L	A	N	Y	P	E	F		
	D	M	E	S	M	T	I	E	T	E		
	O	D	A	N	N	A	S	R	E	I		
	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	R	H		
	X	Z	S	A	D	U	J	V	A	C		

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such as emptying the dishwasher or cleaning a bathroom, as a small sacrifice for your family.

**Grow something.** On Good Friday, we look ahead with hope. Planting seeds and watching them grow into living plants is one way to remember that Jesus' death is not the end. Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday gives us new life. That's something good that really lasts forever!



**CONNIE CLARK** is editor of *Living Faith Kids*, a quarterly magazine of daily Catholic devotions for children. To learn more, visit [LivingFaithKids.com](http://LivingFaithKids.com).

Annas	gatekeeper	Mary
Barabbas	Golgotha	Mary of Magdala
chief priest	guards	Pilate
courtyard	Joseph of Arimathea	Simon Peter
disciple	Judas	soldiers
garden	maid	valley
gate	Malchus	

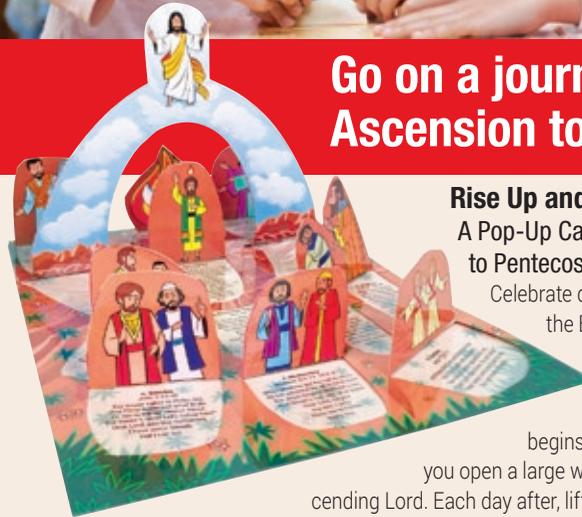
## Good Friday by the numbers

Number the events of Good Friday in their correct order. If you need help, read John 18:1-19:42.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ___ Peter denies Jesus three times.                                | ___ A crown of thorns is placed on Jesus' head.                  |
| ___ Jesus is crucified.  | ___ Jesus bows his head and dies.                                |
| ___ Jesus goes to the garden with his disciples.                   | ___ Jesus is laid in the tomb.                                   |
| ___ Soldiers divide up Jesus' clothes and cast lots for his tunic. | ___ Jesus says to the disciple about Mary, "Behold your mother." |
| ___ Pilate has Jesus scourged.                                     | ___ The cock crows.  |



## Go on a journey from Ascension to Pentecost

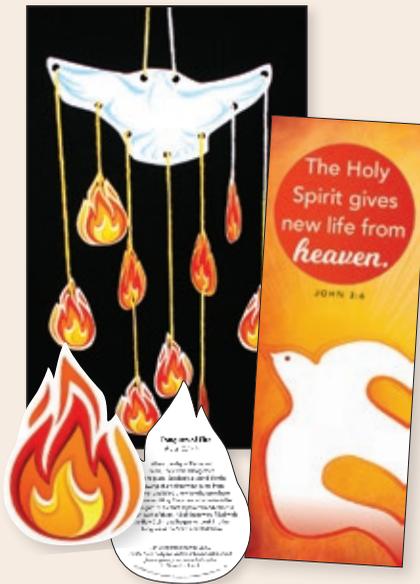


### Rise Up and Shine! A Pop-Up Calendar from Ascension to Pentecost

Celebrate discipleship and continue the Easter celebration all the way until Pentecost Sunday in a unique way! The countdown begins on Ascension Day when you open a large window to reveal our ascending Lord. Each day after, lift up a flap and learn about the first disciples and the gifts and messages they shared. Finally, on Pentecost, the Spirit's flame is revealed, a reminder that our hearts are burning to share the good news of Jesus' love and forgiveness. As the Pentecost season starts, we rise up and shine his light to the world.

Code **DGB** • 9¼" x 12½" – 1-9: **\$1.99** ea • 10+: **\$1.69** ea

## Other Pentecost Resources for your classroom



### Pentecost Mobile

A perfect handout for Pentecost Sunday, this easy-to-assemble mobile features beautiful dove and flame imagery. Cutting is required. String not included.

Code **FRD** • Cardstock • 8½" x 11"

### Pentecost Bookmark

Mark the season of Pentecost as you mark your book page with this colorful bookmark, with John 3:6 and a prayer on the back.

Code **BZN** • Paper • 7" x 2½"

### Flames of Discipleship Gifts of the Holy Spirit

These Pentecost flame hand-outs are an inspiring reminder of the Holy Spirit's gifts.

Code **FLP** • Sold only in sets of 25 sheets (125 flames a set).



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