Topic: Stations of the Cross

Grades: 1-6

Length: 60-90 minutes

**Students will be able to:**

* Identify the 14 Stations of the Cross
* Recognize that the Stations of the Cross is an important theme for the Lenten season
* Participate in the Stations of the Cross

**Resources:**

* Song (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoxopsRSfdU>)
* <http://www.loyolapress.com/images/stations-of-the-cross-for-children.pdf>
* Bible verses from SEARCH: Way of the Cross

**Materials Needed:**

* Smartboard
* Worksheets (grade appropriate)
* Candles (optional)

Procedure

**Introduction**

* Begin class with prayer (either your own or the one below)
* *Lord, during this Lenten season, may we remember you and all the sacrifices you made for us. Whenever we are faced with difficult decisions and temptation, help us to turn to you and remember to choose the choice that will make you smile. Thank you for your strength and graces. (Take 3-5 prayer intentions) We ask this in your name. Amen.*
* Play the song: *Here I am to Worship* (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoxopsRSfdU>)
* Allow for a few moments of silent individual prayer

**Body 1**

* Lead the students through a general discussion of the Stations of the Cross
  + What are the Stations of the Cross?
    - Generally, on the Fridays during Lent, there is a special liturgy held called the Stations of the Cross where people pray and meditate on the events that occurred during Jesus’ Passion—or the times leading up to, and including, His death.
  + What are some of the events that happen during the Stations of the Cross?
    - The Stations of the Cross consist of the events from when Jesus was condemned to death, until Jesus is laid in the tomb.
    - Some events that students may say are:
      * Jesus falls 3 times
      * Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
      * Jesus meets His mother, and the women
      * Jesus is nailed to the cross
      * Jesus dies on the cross
    - You may choose to run through the stations quickly by showing the students the stations on the Smartboard (using <http://www.loyolapress.com/images/stations-of-the-cross-for-children.pdf>)
  + Why do we participate in the Stations of the Cross during Lent?
  + What are some of the things we do during the Stations of the Cross?
    - We pray, and meditate on the suffering and actions of Jesus in His last few hours
    - Generally a reader will read off a prayer and reflection for that station. Sometimes there will be group prayers said out loud, and there is usually some kind of song sung between each station. We pray with our bodies by kneeling at times, and by facing the picture of the station that we are meditating on.

**Body 2**

* Once students have a general idea of what the Stations of the Cross are, break the students into groups of 3 or 4 to have them explore some of the stations more in depth
  + Grades 1/2—will color the picture that is associated with the station and explain to the class what they think happened.
  + Grades 3/4—will be given the bible verses associated with the station, and can find the verses in the bible. Once the verses are found, they may read and summarize what happens in that station.
  + Grades 5/6—will be given the bible verses associated with the station, and can find the verses in the bible. Once the verses are found, they may read and summarize what happens in that station. Students may also come up with a small one or two line prayer that can be associated with that station.
  + Any grade: students can also come up with a “freeze frame” (frozen picture with their bodies) depicting their station.
    - Example: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem—you may have one student acting as Jesus and bending down to comfort two or three other students, acting as the women, who may pretend to be crying.

**Body 3**

* As your class you may set up your own Stations of the Cross. If you have room, you can space the stations out in your classroom, or you may choose to do the stations in the gym so the students can actually walk the stations—just as if they were walking the same path that Jesus took.
* If available (and safety is not an issue) you may choose to set up a candle at each station, or have one or two students hold a candle and travel to each station (like an altar server)
* Be sure to have the students know that this is a very special time and they must show reverence at all times.
* Before going through each of the stations, have the students rehearse the phrase:
  + **Leader:** We adore you, Oh Christ, and we praise you…
  + **Group:** *Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world*
* Go through each of the stations, asking the students to perform their freeze frame (and say the prayers if they are the older students)
  + You may choose to sing a song in between, such as…

**Conclusion**

* Finish with a quick debrief of the liturgy
  + How did they feel during the Stations?
  + Did anything stick out during this time?