

## The Passion of Our Lord, seen through the eyes of the children of Jerusalem

**Note:** Read this script as you would a read along story. Different members of the family can take turns reading and/or extinguishing the candles. Using different voices to tell a story always makes it more interesting. If you have children who are good readers, having them read parts of the script gives them a way to participate more fully. Younger children or those who do not like to read aloud can extinguish the candles.

### Reader

A boy name Jacob asked,

“Why would they arrest Jesus? He is kind, always going out of his way to help others. He always had time to tell a wonderful story or answer our questions.”

“I’ll tell you why they arrested him, said James, the oldest of the boys.

“There were those who hated Jesus, because he welcomed the outcasts and ate with sinners. His popularity with the people threatened Priests and the Elders, and the Pharisees resented the fact that Jesus was teaching things they did not agree with.

**Parent:** For the times we have been jealous of each other, we say

All: **We are sorry**

**Extinguish the first candle**

Extinguish any candle other than your Christ candle.

Extinguish your Christ candle last

### Reader

Jesus stands quietly and calmly before Pilate. The soldiers who arrested him have beaten him. His face is bruised, and there is blood on his clothes. They have made a crown of thorns and put it on his head. Pilate wants to please the people so he believes their false stories about Jesus.

**Parent:** For the times we have said unkind things, or accused someone of something they did not do, we say

All: **We are sorry**

**Extinguish the second candle**

### Reader

The children listen as people cry, “**Crucify Him! “Crucify Him!”** They watch as Jesus is led away by the soldiers.

The next time they see Jesus, he carries a heavy cross through the streets. Jesus looks so weak. The children walk along with Jesus, hoping if he sees them, he will not feel so alone.

The cross is too heavy for Jesus. Walking through the crowded streets, he falls to the ground. The soldiers shout at Jesus and the people in the crowd mock him. He drags himself to his feet and continues on his way.

**Parent:** For the times we are impatient and annoyed with each other, we say

All: **We are sorry**

### Extinguish the third candle

#### Reader

Mary, Jesus' mother, pushes herself to the front of the crowd and meets her son. The children watch as she takes his face in her hands they look into each other's eyes for a long time. You can see how much they love each other.

Mary smiles through her tears, whispers something in Jesus' ear and kisses him lightly on his forehead. Jesus nods.

#### Reader - you can change voices here or remain with the same reader

Look how exhausted Jesus is. The cross is too heavy! Jesus needs help. The soldiers are angry, listen to them shouting for someone to come and help.

The soldiers pick a man from the crowd to help Jesus. His skin is dark, and his clothing unusual. He does not seem to understand what people are saying to him.

Rebecca says, "By the look of his clothes he is a rich man, and he is definitely not from here. He won't want to help Jesus".

Rachel whispers, "You are wrong Rebecca, see how he looks at Jesus and how gently he lifts the cross off Jesus' shoulder, taking most of the weight upon himself.

**Parent:** For the times have judged other harshly or been too busy to help another, we say  
All: **We are sorry**

### Extinguish the fourth candle

#### Reader

Jesus is covered with sweat and blood.

"Look, says a boy named Jude, I see our neighbor, Veronica. She has brought Jesus a cup of water and is wiping the face of Jesus with a cloth.

As the children watch Veronica, Hannah asks,

"Where did Veronica get the courage to rush past the soldiers and offer Jesus such kindness?"

The longer they walk, the more Jesus tired gets. Look at him shaking under the weight of the Cross - even with stranger's help.

#### Reader - you can change voices here or remain with the same reader

Leah sees a group of women and says,

"I can see my mother! Look, she is there with some other women and they are all crying as they watch Jesus struggle to carry the cross.

The children watch Jesus stop and talk with the women!

"I wonder what he is saying?" says, the boy named Benjamin

"He is telling them not to cry for him. He knows God is with him," says a man standing near the children.

**Parent:** For the times we miss opportunities to help and support each other, we say  
All: **We are sorry**

**Extinguish the fifth candle. If you are using lights, dim or turn half of them off.**

**Reader**

Everyone watches. As Jesus begins to climb the hill, he stumbles. The man who is helping him carry the cross takes the full weight of it on his shoulders and reaches out to steady Jesus, yet Jesus falls a third time. The children wonder if Jesus has the strength to go on.

**Parent:** For the times we are tempted to give up, or make it harder for someone else to succeed, we say

All: **We are sorry**

**Extinguish the sixth candle**

**Reader**

The children watch the soldiers as they tear Jesus clothes off. There are places where it is stuck to his body. They can see the bleeding start again, and think, "Can't they be gentler with him?"

Without his clothes on, everyone can see all the bruises and cuts. Some of the people in the crowd gasp. Jesus looks so weak and frail.

The children cannot bear to watch the soldiers nail Jesus' hands and feet to the cross. They turn away as they hear him cry out in pain. Some begin to cry.

The oldest, James, reminds the others, "Even now Jesus is thinking of us not of himself. Listen, he is asking Our Father in heaven to forgive the soldiers.

**Parent:** For the times we hold grudges and choose not to forgive, we say

All: **We are sorry**

**Extinguish the seventh candle**

**Reader**

It took three long hours for Jesus to die on the cross, yet none of the children left.

It was hard for them to see him suffer, to see the blood from the crown of thorns run down his face and watch him struggle to breathe. Yet still they stayed, even when others in the crowd left.

As they stood on Calvary Hill, they watched. Jesus did not cry out or curse those who had done this to him. Some of the children could hear him pray softly. Benjamin thought he heard Jesus say, "It is finished." Then Jesus stopped breathing.

In the quiet, the children heard his mother say. "He is at peace."

**Extinguish the Christ candle**

[CLICK HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ult4hwTpkhg) sounds of thunder! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ult4hwTpkhg>

Turn up the volume on your phone or device.

This sound effect goes for 1.22 minutes. For young children let it play for 10-20 seconds, For older children let it go for 30-45 seconds.