



Mission Stations of the Cross for children

missio 
Scotland



Opening Prayer

Dear Jesus, today we will follow you and pray with you as we go to the stations you visited on your final journey of love. You loved us so much that you gave up your life for us. Help us to give our love to others. We know that if we are kind to those around us then we are being kind to you.

Today, we take with us our cross to remind us of children in need around the world. Let us never forget them. Amen.



Station I:

Jesus is condemned to death

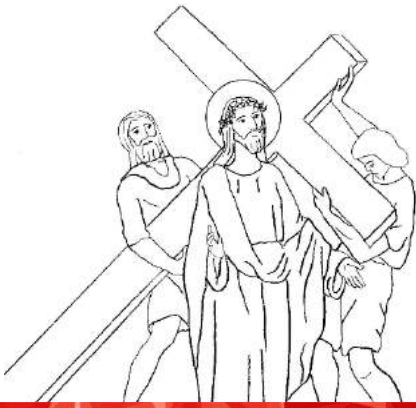
LEADER

Jesus was accused of many crimes that He didn't commit. He didn't defend Himself. He knew that He needed to die for our sins. Today, millions of children are condemned to death by malnutrition and starvation.

Lord help us to see you, condemned once again in these children—our brothers and sisters.

GROUP

Dear Jesus, we have so much while many have so little. Remind us to use our gifts so that all children in need may know the gifts of food, shelter and clothing. We want this season of Lent to be a time when we sacrifice a little of what we have to make life better for others.



Station II:

Jesus is made to
carry His cross

LEADER

The cross was big and heavy. It was hard for Jesus to carry it, but He carried the heavy cross without complaining once. Jesus told us that to follow Him we must take up our cross.

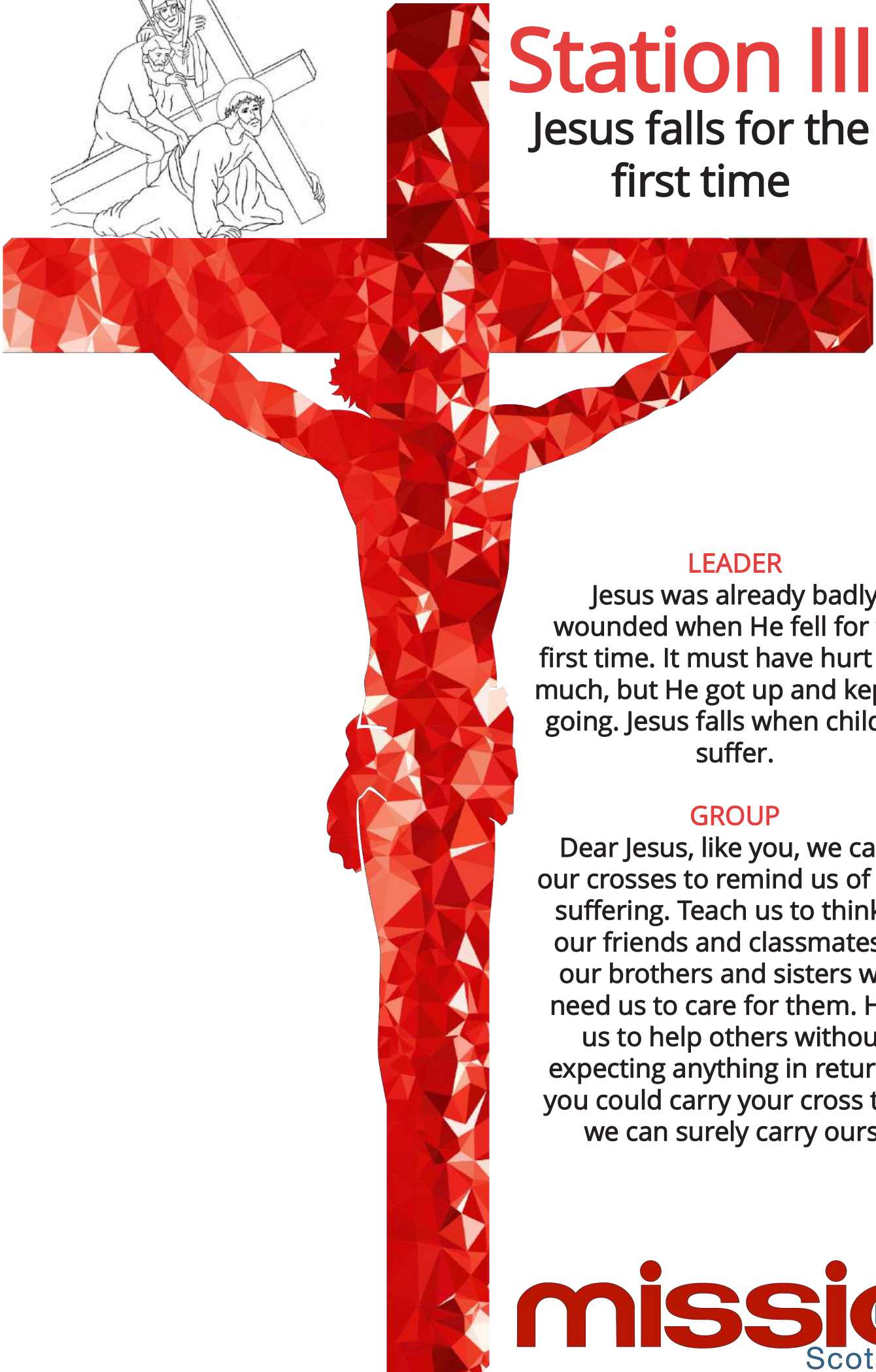
GROUP

Dear Jesus, like you, we carry our crosses to remind us of your suffering. Teach us to think of our friends and classmates as our brother and sisters who need us to care for them. Help us to help others without expecting anything in return. If you could carry your cross then we can surely carry ours.



Station III:

Jesus falls for the first time

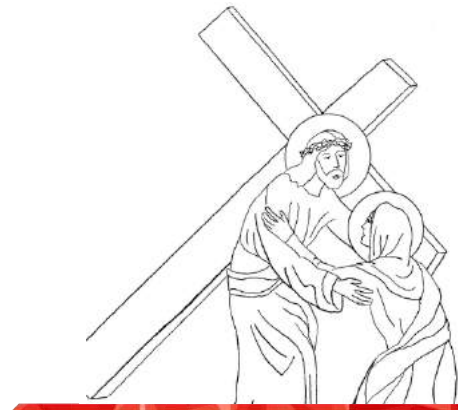


LEADER

Jesus was already badly wounded when He fell for the first time. It must have hurt very much, but He got up and kept on going. Jesus falls when children suffer.

GROUP

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Station IV:

Jesus meets His mother

LEADER

Jesus knew that His mother was sad to see Him suffering so much, but He was so happy that she came to see Him. Mary loved Jesus very much. Many children today, especially refugees, have no mother or father.

GROUP

Dear Jesus, teach us to love our mother and father, our sisters and brothers. Let us never forget how much they care for us. Today, we carry our crosses to remind us of all the children around the world who do not have a family to care for them. How can we show them that they are not alone?



Station V:

Simon helps Jesus carry His cross

LEADER

Simon didn't come to help Jesus, but to see what was going on. Then he was ordered by the soldiers to carry the cross, because Jesus was having such a hard time. When Jesus was so tired that He could go no further, Simon lifted up the cross and helped Jesus on His way.

GROUP

Dear Jesus, you let Simon help you to carry your cross, to teach us that we all need help at times. Let us always be thankful for those who help us when we are sad and need help.



Station VI:

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

LEADER

Veronica loved Jesus very much. When she stepped out to wipe His face, she risked getting in big trouble from the soldiers. Her love and kindness overcame her fear. When Jesus was in pain, Veronica reached out to wipe His face. Her reward was the grace of His presence with her forever.

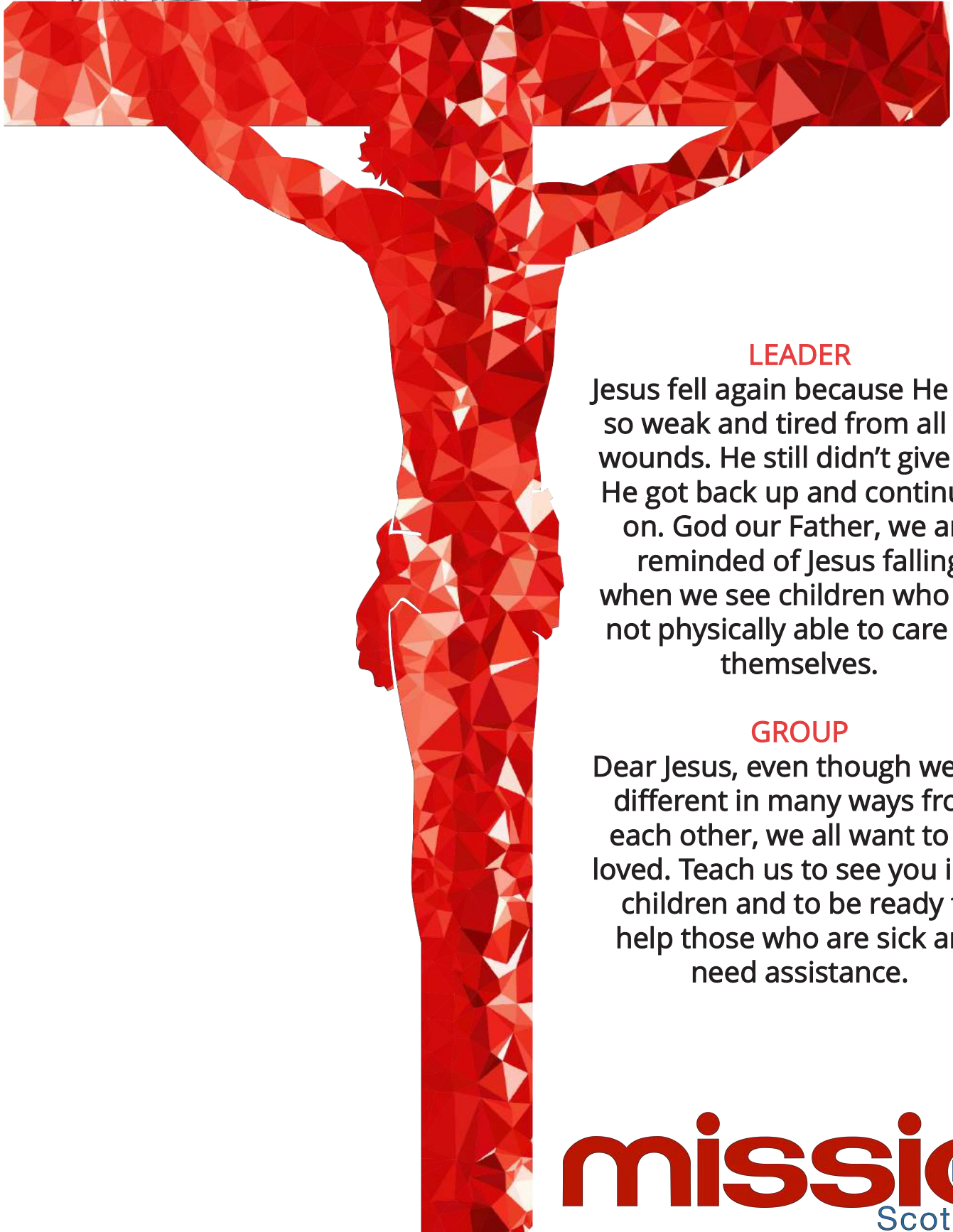
GROUP

Dear Jesus, help me to be like Veronica. When I see someone fall, I want to help them get back up. I know that helping others is like helping you.



Station VII:

Jesus falls for the second time

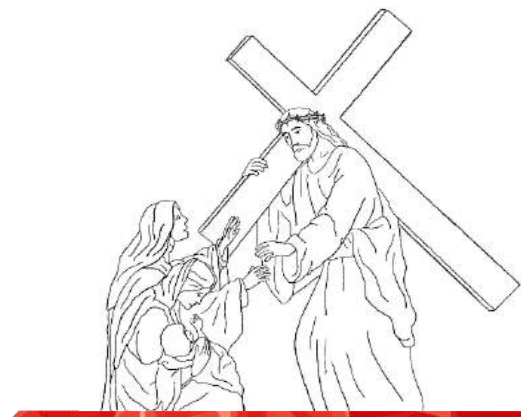


LEADER

Jesus fell again because He was so weak and tired from all His wounds. He still didn't give up. He got back up and continued on. God our Father, we are reminded of Jesus falling when we see children who are not physically able to care for themselves.

GROUP

Dear Jesus, even though we are different in many ways from each other, we all want to be loved. Teach us to see you in all children and to be ready to help those who are sick and need assistance.



Station VIII:

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

LEADER

A lot of people were against Jesus, but a lot of people followed Him. They were His faithful friends. Jesus stopped to tell the women not to worry about Him, but rather about their children and the future of their society.

GROUP

Dear Jesus, you taught women to care about their children. Help us to always care for the children of the world who live in conditions of poverty and war.



Station IX:

Jesus falls for a third time



LEADER

It's unbelievable that Jesus fell again and the soldiers didn't help Him. They only yelled louder for Him to get up and continue on. Jesus didn't get angry with them; He forgave them. Jesus falls again. How many children fall in places in the missions suffering with violence and war?

GROUP

Dear Jesus, we pray for our Missionary Children brothers and sisters both near and far who without our help have no one to care for them.



Station X:

Jesus is stripped of His garments

LEADER

To be without clothes in front of everyone is a humiliating thing. Jesus wasn't ashamed because He knew that His Father in Heaven loved Him and everyone who was there. Everything human is taken away from Jesus, even His clothes. Today, there are many children who have nothing—no clothes, no school and no hope.

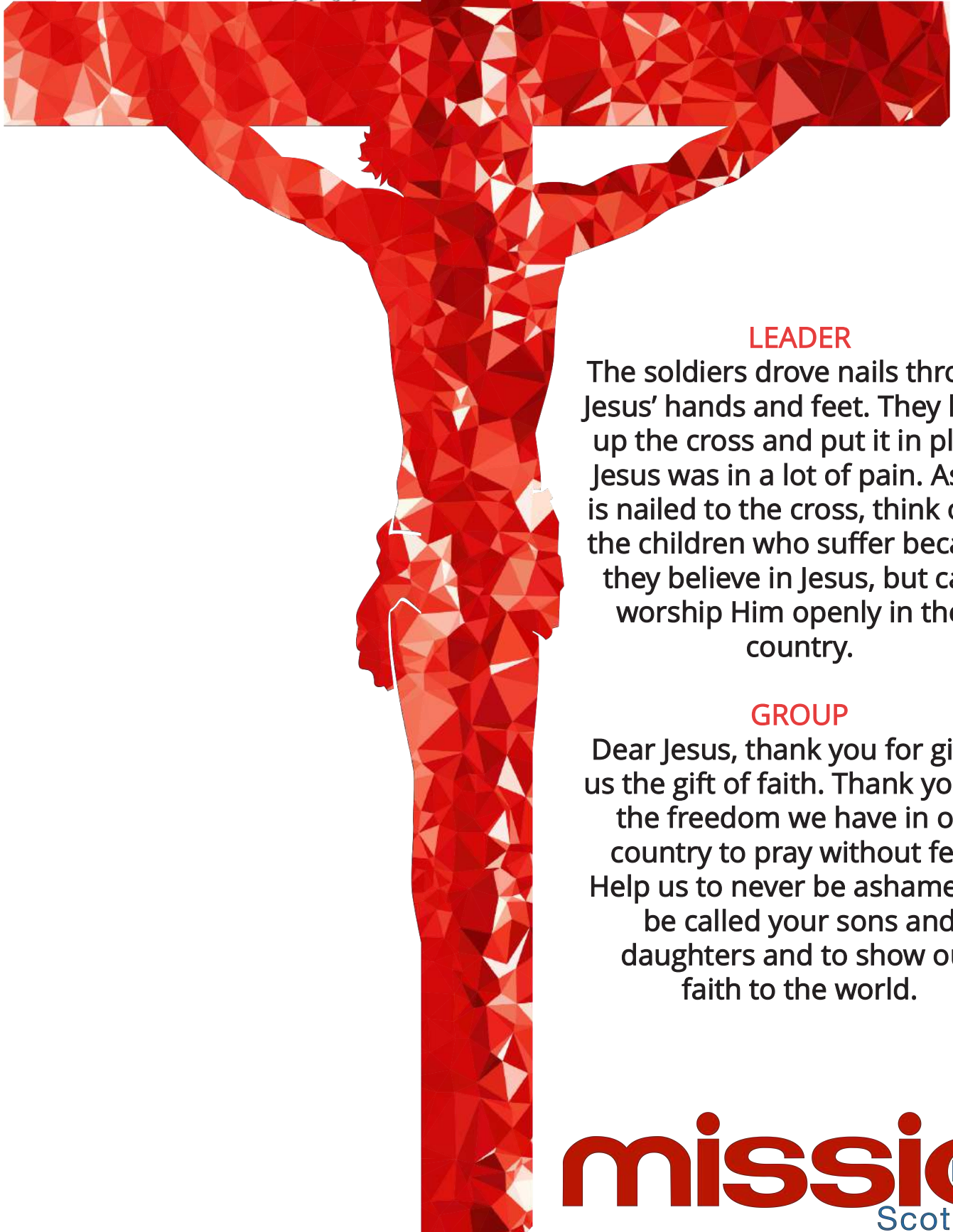
GROUP

Dear Jesus, when I look in my cupboard at home, I feel sad because I have so much when my poorer brothers and sisters have so little. Help me to appreciate all that I have and to give away to the poor the things that I do not need.



Station XI:

Jesus is nailed to the cross

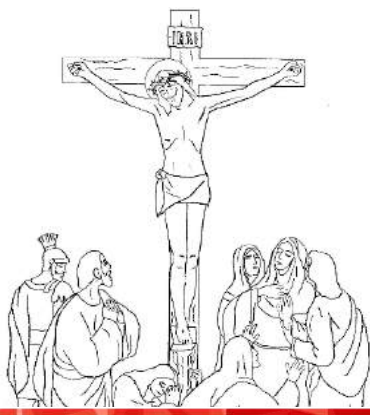


LEADER

The soldiers drove nails through Jesus' hands and feet. They lifted up the cross and put it in place. Jesus was in a lot of pain. As He is nailed to the cross, think of all the children who suffer because they believe in Jesus, but can't worship Him openly in their country.

GROUP

Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us the gift of faith. Thank you for the freedom we have in our country to pray without fear. Help us to never be ashamed to be called your sons and daughters and to show our faith to the world.



Station XII:

Jesus dies on the cross

LEADER

When Jesus died, the sky got dark and the ground started to shake. This made some people very scared. They saw that Jesus was innocent and that they had made a big mistake. Jesus dies for us. He loves us so much that He comes as a child, lives with us and later dies. Right now, think for a few minutes about the cross as a sign of Jesus' love for us. (Pause) Now, silently, in your own heart, tell Jesus about your love for Him and thank Him for showing His great love for you. (Pause)

GROUP

Jesus loved us so much that He died on the cross for us. Every time I look at the cross I remember His great love. Let us raise our crosses and pause for a minute to think about Jesus. Now, in your own words (silently) tell Jesus how much you love Him.



Station XIII:

Jesus is taken down from the cross

LEADER

Joseph of Arimathea gave Jesus His own burial cave because Jesus didn't have a place to be buried. Joseph was another one of Jesus' friends who took a risk to help Him.

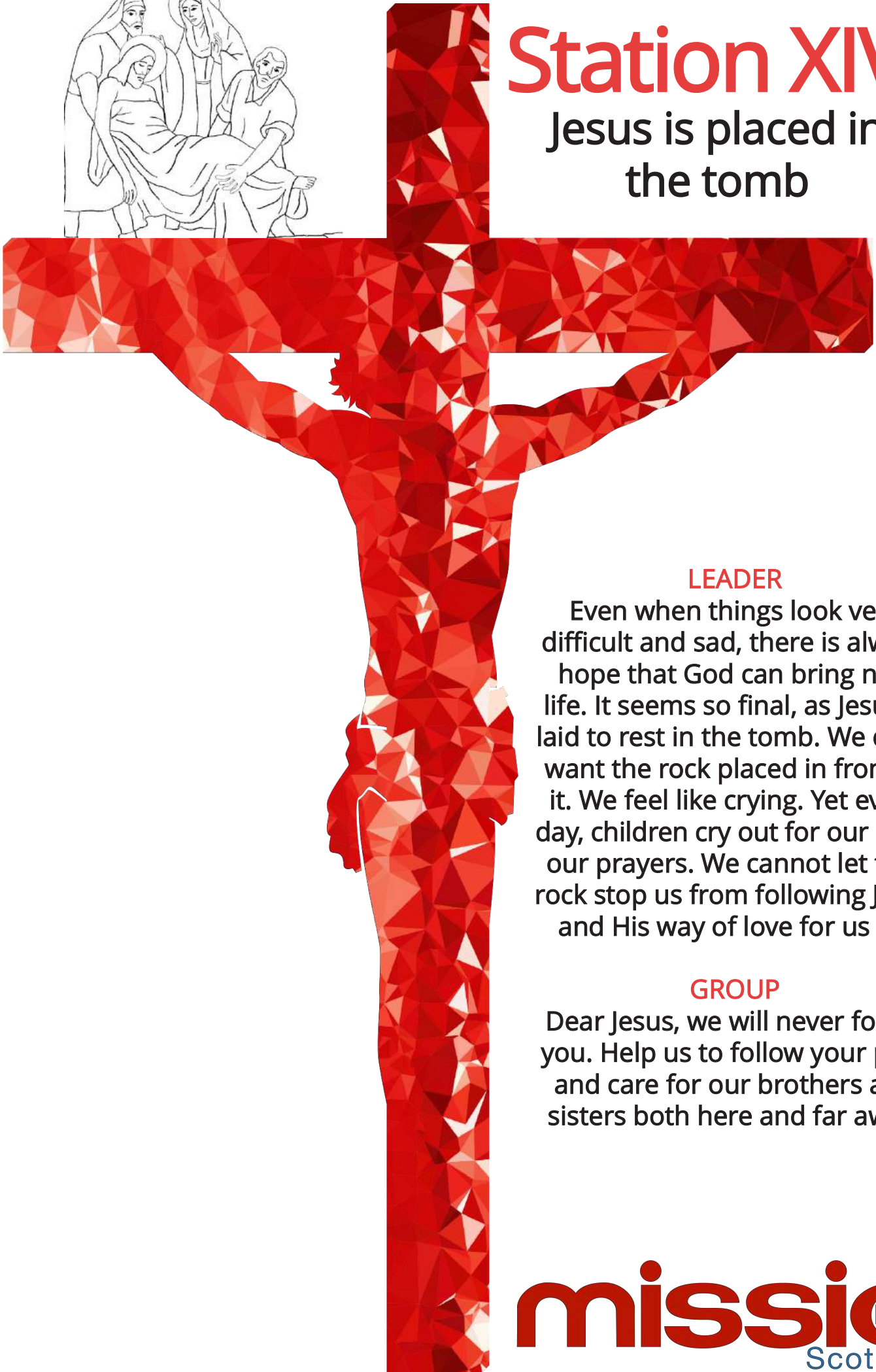
GROUP

Dear Jesus, we thank you for this cross. It will always represent our love for you. Help us teach other children in our Missionary Children family about you.



Station XIV:

Jesus is placed in the tomb



LEADER

Even when things look very difficult and sad, there is always hope that God can bring new life. It seems so final, as Jesus is laid to rest in the tomb. We don't want the rock placed in front of it. We feel like crying. Yet every day, children cry out for our help, our prayers. We cannot let that rock stop us from following Jesus and His way of love for us all.

GROUP

Dear Jesus, we will never forget you. Help us to follow your path and care for our brothers and sisters both here and far away.

Closing Prayer



God our Father, we will never forget our love for Jesus. Forgive us when we ignore Him by not helping those in need. Help us to see Jesus alive in our brothers and sisters in need, both here and in the missions. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Stations of the Cross Activities 1

THE CROSS

Provide students with a cardboard/paper cross. If possible, they can cut them out as a craft activity. Ask them to draw or paste on it the common symbols we associate with the events leading up to and including the Passion of Our Lord. Depending on the level of your pupils, you may wish to brainstorm these symbols with them or simply have them available for reference. We have provided some samples below. Once the crosses are completed, the children can bring them to use on their Stations of the Cross journey.

Here are a few examples:

- The bread and wine of the last supper
- The kiss of Judas the betrayer
- The cockerel that crowed three times
- Jesus falling
- St Veronica wipes Jesus' face
- Simon carries the cross
- The hill of Calvary
- The tomb and the rock covering it
- The crown of thorns



Stations of the Cross Activities 2

DRAMA

The praying of the Stations of the Cross lends itself to dramatic interpretation. Young children love to act. Children can 'perform' each station by creating a live montage of each station with or without props. Have pupils create the scene and then 'freeze' in place while prayers are being recited by older pupils. This works well in a school situation in front of the whole school population, perhaps in cooperation with older classes. It is also appropriate in a new parish church environment and can bring new reverence to parishioners.

COLOURING/ACTIVITIES

As well as the resources available on the Missio Scotland website: www.missioscotland.com, there are several Catholic/Christian publishing companies that have craft, activities and colouring pages that are perfect for enhancing the Stations of the Cross for young children. A quick Google search will reveal the possibilities. Some activities are freely available and others can be purchased for a small price.



Pontifical Mission Societies
Toronto, Canada

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www.missioscotland.com