

Good Friday Devotion

April 18, 2025

NAILS

Instructions: Use this devotional on Good Friday with the nail, jar of oil and cross you were given.

NAIL OF PAIN AND HUMILIATION

Pray this Prayer: Forgive us for our thoughtless and hurtful actions, and our unwillingness to recognize your presence in our midst. Spirit of promise and wholeness, we reach out to you in prayer.

Read: John 19:16-19 (Common English Bible)

Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified. The soldiers took Jesus prisoner. Carrying his cross by himself, he went out to a place called Skull Place (in Aramaic, Golgotha). That's where they crucified him—and two others with him, one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Pilate had a public notice written and posted on the cross. It read "Jesus the Nazarene, the king of the Jews." Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing.

First Reflection: Take the nail and hold it.

As you feel it between your fingers, reflect on when you have felt hurt or humiliation. Feel God's presence with you as you live with that hurt.

Silent Reflection & Prayer

Now reflect for a moment when you have stood aside and observed someone wrongly treated, or when you have caused hurt and humiliation, when you have wrongly treated someone. In this moment of silence, turn toward the Spirit Courage which can empower us to stand with those who are wrongly treated. Where you have acted wrongly, received forgiveness and had the courage to take action toward reconciliation.

Silent Reflection & Prayer: Journal your thoughts, feelings and emotions.

NAIL OF FORGIVENESS

Read: Luke 23:34, 43

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Second Reflection – Approaching the Cross

Take your cross and hold it in your hand – if in the sanctuary, gaze at the cross.

On this darkest of days, we remember the death of Jesus of Nazareth, the nails that went into his hands and feet. We remember the violence of those nails. Confessing our participation today in the sin of this world, we gaze at the cross. We are invited to place our fears and judgments, our guilt and our worries, at the cross. We are promised forgiveness and hope at the cross. The nails that once destroyed are a source of forgiveness. What forgiveness are you in need of today?

Silent reflection: You are again invited to journal your thoughts, feelings, emotions.

Pray this prayer: We bring to the cross...our awareness of violence in ourselves and the world. We bring to the cross...our fears that can sour into hate. We bring to the cross...our judgment of the beliefs of others. In the cross, we see an end, but also a doorway to a new beginning with God.

Third Reflection – Nails & Anointing

As you look at the nail and the cross, what hurts, guilt or act that needs forgiveness do you wish to release to God? Name them as you let the nail drop from your hand leaving the old behind and being born anew, washed in forgiveness and bathed in hope.

Take your bottle of oil and open it. Put a few drops on a finger and make the sign of the cross on your forehead or palm. Hear these words: "In Jesus Christ you are forgiven. You have been made new at the foot of the cross". Receive this oil of blessing, that your hands and heart might do no violence, but become the hands and heart of Love in our world, spreading peace and justice for all.

Pray this prayer: May my hands be instruments of peace, the hands of Love in our world. Amen.

Close with the Lord's Prayer