



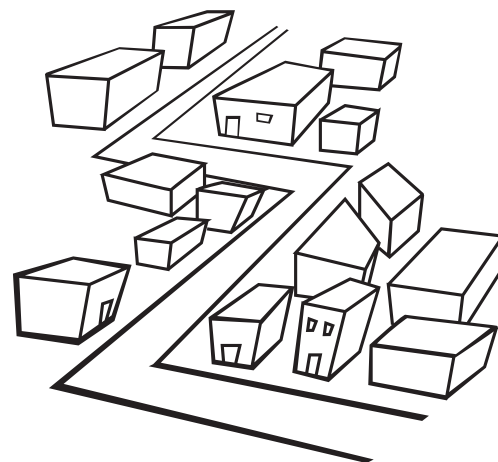
FACT SHEET VIA DOLOROSA

Luke 23:16-27

Read It:
Luke 23:16-27

Talk It:
What is the hardest thing you have ever done?

Know it:
Often in life we have to walk down some tough roads. No one has ever walked a tougher road than Jesus walked for us, literally. He had to walk down a road called the Via Dolorosa carrying a cross on His back, knowing He would soon die upon that cross. He was already very sore from being whipped and beaten. In fact, he was so sore, the soldiers finally had to ask a man in the crowd to carry the cross for Jesus. If you have ever heard the saying, "carrying the cross for someone," this is where it comes from. It means to help someone carry a great burden.



As Jesus walked along this road, people were yelling and jeering at him. People He would soon be dying to save were being cruel to Him, but he struggled on in love. God gave Him strength to keep on going, no matter how hard it was. Often we have to walk through difficult times too, and God helps us. King David said it this way, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me..." (Psalm 23: 4) Things were not looking good for Jesus. The road ahead looked bad. But there was hope at the end of the road because Jesus knew there was a reason for the tough road. The same is true of our tough roads. God is with us, and He promised to work all things out for good for those who love Him. (Romans 8:28)

Go Do It:
What hard time are you going through? Have you thanked God for it? Often people pray and ask Jesus to make the hard times go away instead of realizing that God may have them in a hard time for a reason and that good may come from it at the end of the road. That is why the book of James says we can "count it joy" when we go through times of trials. That doesn't mean we have to be happy, but we can trust that God is up to something good through the tough times. Take some time to thank Jesus for the road He walked for you and to ask Him to help you stick it out while you walk your own tough roads.