

LET'S RECREATE ST. HELENA'S SEARCH TO FIND THE

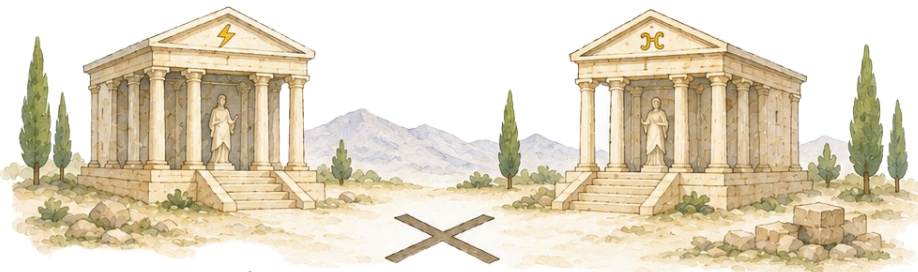
# LOST RELIC OF THE TRUE CROSS

After the crucifixion of Jesus, his cross, as well as those of the two thieves who were crucified with him, were buried when the emperor erected a pagan temple on the site. Centuries later, when Christianity became legal, Constantine sent his mother, the empress. Helena to search for the true Cross. Let's search for the True Cross just as St. Helena did and learn a bit about her journey along the way! You can search for an icon of the Holy Cross, perhaps with some basil plants surrounding it, or maybe cupcakes with crosses piped on them in colorful icing! The steps of this game have to be made up to suit your own personal space, but here are a few ideas.



When Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity, and his mother, St. Helena, traveled on pilgrimage to Jerusalem to visit, discover, and preserve the holy sites. You are now setting out on a journey to find a different cross!

*(perhaps place the next clue in a suitcase?)*



After the Crucifixion took place, during the persecution of Christians, the wood of the cross was buried as temples to the Roman god, Jupiter, and to the goddess, Venus, were erected upon the spot.

*(Perhaps place an "X" on the ground or in a sandbox with instructions to dig to find the next clue?)*



When she found the spot on which the crucifixion was to have taken place, with the help of an elderly Jew named Jude, she ordered the pagan temples torn down and the earth excavated.

*(Perhaps place the next clue under a pile of blocks that must be torn down?)*



Three crosses were found there, along with some nails. Not knowing which was Christ's and which were those of the thieves, Helena had the wood of each touched to a dying woman's body. When the true cross touched the woman, she was restored to life!

*(Perhaps place three identical boxes with crosses on them for the children to find, but with the next clue in only one of them?)*



It is said that it was the scent of basil that drew St. Helena to the site of the crucifixion and the finding of the treasure that is the True Cross. She erected the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher there, which was completed in 335 AD, and relics of the cross are venerated there today.

*(Perhaps leave a trail of basil leaves/stems that lead the students to a hidden prize?)*

