

LESSON 5

THE FACES OF EASTER IV

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: JESUS' DESERT AND DISCOVERY EXPERIENCE

- LITURGICAL ACTION
- CORE PRESENTATION

THE MATERIAL

- LOCATION: EASTER SHELVES
- PIECES: SEVEN PLAQUES ILLUSTRATED WITH FACES OF CHRIST, WITH RACK
- UNDERLAY: PURPLE AND WHITE

BACKGROUND

Lent is the season when we prepare for Easter. This lesson continues to help children prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We move toward the Mystery by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week's presentation focuses on Christ's temptations in the desert.

You will begin this week's presentation by presenting a summary of the first three plaques:

- Jesus' Birth and Growth (pp. 32-36)
- Jesus Is Lost and Found (pp. 37-41)
- Jesus' Baptism and Blessing by God (pp. 42-46)

Begin with those three presentations before adding the fourth plaque and its story.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

Find the materials for this presentation in the middle of the top shelf of the Easter shelves, in between the material for the Mystery of Easter and the Synagogue and the Upper Room.

The material consists of a set of seven faces of Christ, mounted on wood or card-stock plaques. The underlay is a purple and white "scroll" that unrolls to show six purple rectangles and one white rectangle. Roll up the underlay so that the white rectangle is hidden inside.

WOMEN

A special carrier rack for the Faces plaques stands them up, making them visible to a child scanning the room full of materials. This stand for the plaques should also hold the rolled-up underlay. (See the illustration on p. 33.) If you do not use this stand, put the rolled-up underlay and plaques in a tray.

SPECIAL NOTES

Storytelling Tips: Inviting children to bring materials to put next to the stories introduces a technique of "side by side" connections. You can tell two Godly Play stories together and invite children to make their own links. This works especially well with older children. For example, you could tell the creation story (see *The Complete Guide To Godly Play, Volume Two*, pp. 41-48) side by side with the Faces stories. Ask children, for example, "I wonder where this day (from the Creation) belongs in this story (the Faces)?"



WOMEN

MOVEMENTS

When the children are ready, go to the Easter shelves and bring the plaques and rolled-up underlay to the circle.

Put the cards at your side and place the underlay in front of you. Unroll the underlay toward you to uncover the rectangle for the first plaque. Tell in summary the story "Jesus' Birth and Growth" (pp. 32-36). When you are finished, lay down the first plaque.

Unroll the underlay to uncover the rectangle for the second plaque. Tell in summary the story "Jesus Is Lost and Found" (pp. 37-41). When you are finished, lay down the second plaque.

Unroll the underlay to uncover the rectangle for the third plaque. Tell in summary the story "Jesus' Baptism and Blessing by God" (pp. 42-46). When you are finished, lay down the third plaque.

Unroll the underlay to uncover the fourth section. Pick up the fourth plaque and hold it so that the children can see it as you tell this story:

WORDS

Watch carefully where I go so you will always know where to find this lesson.

Jesus went into the desert to discover more about who he was and what his work was going to be. He was there for forty days and forty nights. There was little to eat or to drink.

One day he heard a voice. It said, "Why don't you turn one of those stones over there into bread and have something to eat?"

Jesus said, "No. To be a real human being, we need more than just bread to eat."

Suddenly, it was as if Jesus were on top of the great Temple in Jerusalem. The voice came back, "If you are really the Son of God, why don't you jump and see if God sends the angels to catch you before you hit the stones below?"

Jesus said, "No. We do not need to test God."

Then, it was as if Jesus could see all the kingdoms of the world. The voice came back again: "If you will follow me, I will make you king over all these kingdoms."

MOVEMENTS

Put the fourth plaque down on the fourth rectangle of the underlay.

Begin to go around the circle, asking each child if he or she would like to bring something to put by the plaque illustrating "Jesus' Desert and Discovery Experience." Some children may not be able to think of anything, so move on if it looks as if they are stuck. You can come back to them later. If they are still stuck, that is okay. Many children learn by watching as well as by doing.

Enjoy the items that the children bring to help tell the story. When you have had time to enjoy the entire layout, invite children, one at a time, to return their materials. Then take the plaques and underlay back to the Easter shelves.

Help the children begin to get out their work.

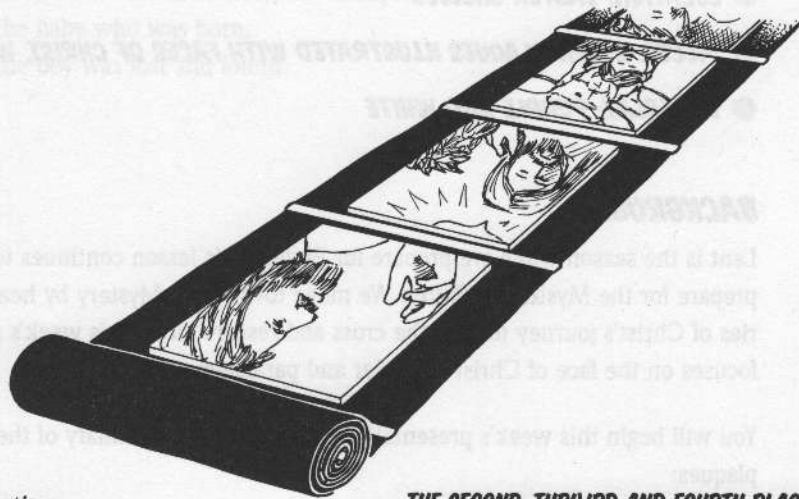
WORDS

Jesus said, "No. I am to be a king, but not that kind of king."

Then the voice went away.

Jesus went back across the Jordan and began to do his work. But what was his work?

Now I wonder what there is in this room that can help us tell more of this part of the story. Look around and see if you find something. I will go around the circle and invite each one of you to go and get something to put by this picture to help us show more of the story.



THE SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH PLAQUES ON THE UNDERLAY (STORYTELLER'S PERSPECTIVE)