

## LESSON 2

# THE FACES OF EASTER I

### LESSON NOTES

#### FOCUS: JESUS' BIRTH AND GROWTH

- LITURGICAL ACTION
- CORE PRESENTATION

#### THE MATERIAL

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

#### BACKGROUND

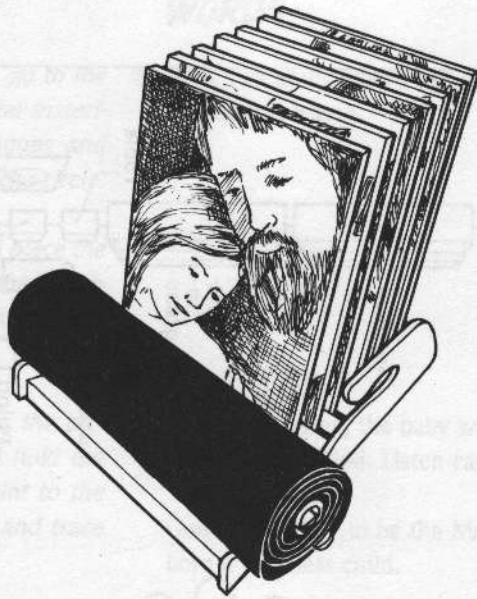
Lent is the season when we prepare for Easter. This lesson helps children prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We move toward the Mystery by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week's presentation focuses on the face of Christ as a newborn child. If you used the presentations of the Holy Family and the Mystery of Easter on the first week of Lent, then you might want to tell two of the Faces presentations today.

#### 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.

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 also holds the rolled-up underlay. If you do not use this stand, put the rolled-up underlay and plaques in a tray.



**THE EASTER PLAQUES**

### **SPECIAL NOTES**

**Storytelling Tip:** At the end of each presentation of the Faces stories, you invite children to choose materials from the room that will help tell more of the story. For example, when you tell today's story of "Jesus' Birth and Growth," one child might bring crèche figures to place by the plaque. Another child might bring the desert box. Be open to the surprising connections children make as they explore the meaning embodied in the materials. This activity is especially important because it provides movement and action to these stories and integrates the whole room with Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection.

Be sure you unroll the underlay so that its roll is closest to you, not to the children. This keeps the roll from blocking some of the children's view of the Faces. (See the illustration, p. 36.) The underlay unrolls toward the storyteller, so you also need to pull the unrolled portion toward the children. It is as if the story is growing out of the rolled up underlay like a seed, the white part rolled up inside. It also is growing out of the storyteller's life and experience toward the children. The illustrations in these sessions make this clear. Each time you present any of the Faces of Easter, unroll the underlay, place the first plaque, unroll the underlay, place the second plaque, etc.

## MOVEMENTS

When the children are ready, go to the shelf where the Lent and Easter materials are kept. Bring the plaques and rolled-up underlay "scroll" to the circle.

Put the cards at your side and place the scroll in front of you. Unroll the underlay toward the children to uncover the rectangle for the first plaque.

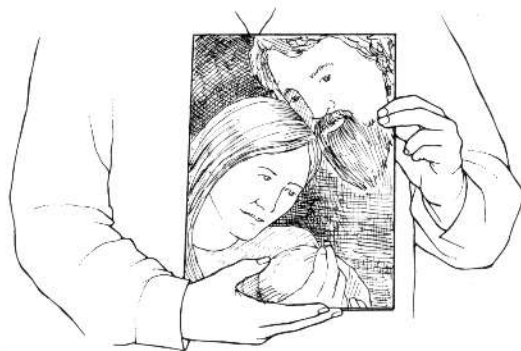
Pick up the first plaque, with the picture of the infant Jesus, and hold the face toward the children. Point to the figures as you identify them and trace around their faces.

## WORDS

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

In the beginning, the baby was born. God chose Mary to be the Mother of God. Listen carefully! Listen to the words.

God chose Mary to be the Mother of God, and the Word was born a wordless child.



**HOLDING THE FIRST PLAQUE (CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVE)**

In Mary's face, trace the cross with your index finger along the line of the nose to the mouth, and then the line from eye to eye. Repeat for Joseph's face.

Trace a circle around the whole family.

When you have enjoyed for a moment the idea of the baby growing, put the plaque down on the underlay, facing the children.

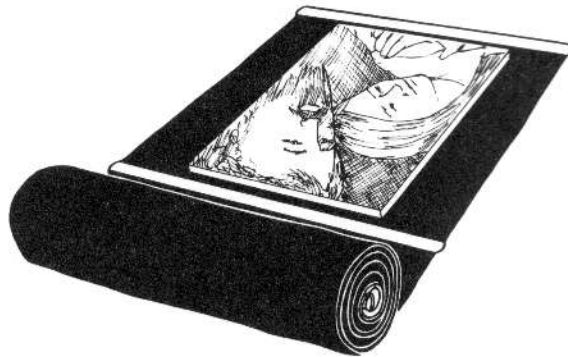
When the baby looked up into the face of the Mother Mary, he already saw the cross. When he looked into the face of the Father Joseph, the cross was there, too.

The Mother Mary and the Father Joseph held the baby close. They kept the baby warm. They gave the baby everything the baby needed to grow, and it began to grow.

Now I wonder if there is anything in this room that you can bring and put beside this picture to help us tell more about this part of the story. Look around and see. I will go around the circle and ask each one of you if you would like to go and get something to put beside the picture of the Christ Child to show more of the story.

## MOVEMENTS

## WORDS



**THE FIRST PLAQUE ON THE UNDERLAY (STORYTELLER'S PERSPECTIVE)**

*Begin to go around the circle, asking each child if he or she would like to bring something to put by the plaque. 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.*

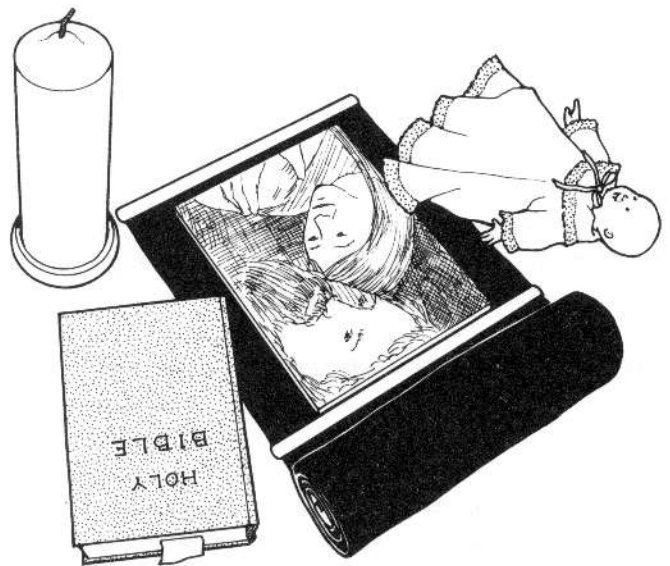
*Sometimes children get up, wander for a moment and bring something at random, without knowing why. That's okay. Be amazed (which is easy) and wonder why with them, together coming up with something relevant. Everything in the room is connected in some way.*

*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 to their places on the shelves. Then take the plaques and underlay back to the Easter shelves.*

*Help the children begin to get out their work.*

■ I don't know what you are going to get. You are the only one in the world who knows that.

If you don't feel like getting something, that's okay. Just enjoy what we make together.



**THE FIRST PLAQUE WITH ITEMS CHOSEN BY THE CHILDREN (STORYTELLER'S PERSPECTIVE)**

# Wander