

LESSON 7

THE FACES OF EASTER VI

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: JESUS OFFERS THE BREAD AND WINE

- 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 the face of Christ as he enters Jerusalem and offers the Twelve—and us—the bread and wine.

You will begin this week's presentation by presenting a summary of the first five 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)
- Jesus' Desert and Discovery Experience (pp. 47-51)
- Jesus as Healer and Parable-Maker (pp. 52-56)

Begin with those five presentations before adding the sixth plaque and its story. If this is the last week you will meet before Easter, then tell the seventh Faces presentation (pp. 63-68), too.

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.

SPECIAL NOTES

At Home: When telling these stories in a home setting, remember to substitute "I wonder" questions for the activity of bringing other materials to place beside the plaques. Suitable "I wonder" questions for the last four Faces stories include:

- I wonder if anybody around this table has discovered who they are and what their work is going to be?
- I wonder if anyone in this family has come close to people—especially people no one else wanted to come close to? I wonder if anyone here has told parables? I wonder if anyone around this table has ever been sick?
- I wonder if anyone here has come close to holy bread and holy wine?
- I wonder if anyone here remembers their very best Easter? I wonder what the earliest Easter is you can remember?

MOVEMENTS

When the children are ready, go to the Easter shelves. 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 of "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 rectangle for the fourth plaque. Tell in summary the story "Jesus' Desert and Discovery Experience" (pp. 47-51). When you are finished, lay down the fourth plaque.

Unroll the underlay to uncover the rectangle for the fifth plaque. Tell in summary the story "Jesus as Healer and Parable-Maker" (pp. 52-56). When you are finished, lay down the fifth plaque.

Unroll the underlay to uncover the sixth section. Pick up the sixth 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 to Jerusalem for the last time. It was the time of the Passover, and the city was full of people from many different lands. They thought Jesus was coming to be king, but they weren't paying attention.

He wasn't riding on a great white horse when he came into the city. He wasn't being carried by soldiers. He was riding on a donkey, and it wasn't even his. He had borrowed it.

MOVEMENTS

WORDS

Still, that Sunday when Jesus came into Jerusalem, people waved palm branches, which were a sign of kings.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Jesus went into the Temple to teach. Every night he went back to the Mount of Olives with the Twelve. The people watched him and whispered that the Mount of Olives was where angels were supposed to come down to make an army to drive away the Roman soldiers.

One day when Jesus was teaching in the Temple, he said, "Do you see that old woman over there? She's going to put something in the money box. Listen. Did you hear anything? No. She put the smallest coin there is in the box. That was all the money she had."

Now, here comes a rich man. He has so much money to put into the money box that he had to have help to carry it. His money makes a huge clanging and ringing as they pour it into the box.

Now, I wonder which one really gave the most, the old woman or the rich man.

Some said the rich man gave the most. Some said the old woman.

The Temple guards said, "On Thursday we will take him." But on Thursday, they could not find him. That evening, Jesus and the Twelve hurried through the dark streets to a house. They climbed up the stairs to an upper room and shared their last supper together.

After they had everything they wanted to eat, Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it and said something like, "Whenever you break the bread like this and share it, I will be there." He also took a cup of wine, gave thanks to God for it, and said, "Whenever you share a cup of wine like this, I will be there."

What was he talking about? He was always saying things like that. How could they know? Still, they did not forget, and later they would understand.

Suddenly Judas got up and left. The rest sang a hymn and then went to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. Jesus wanted to pray. When he was finished, he joined the

MOVEMENTS

Put the sixth plaque down on the sixth rectangle of the underlay, with the face of Jesus toward the children.

Begin to go around the circle, asking each child if she or he would like to bring something to put by the plaque illustrating "Jesus Offers the Bread and Wine." 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.

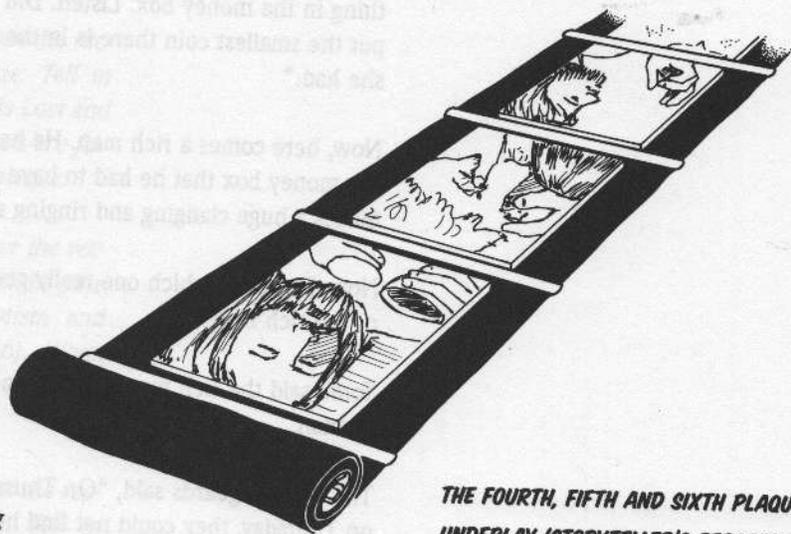
Enjoy the items that the children bring to help tell the story. When you have had time to enjoy the entire layout, invite children, one at a time, to return their materials. Then take the plaques and underlay back to the Easter shelves.

Help the children begin to get out their work.

WORDS

Twelve, but Judas came out of the dark and greeted him. This was a signal for the Temple guards to take him. They too came out of the shadows and took Jesus away with them into the night. The Twelve disappeared into the darkness as well.

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 see something you can bring to put beside this picture. I will go around the circle and invite each one of you to go and get something to put by the picture to help us show more of the story.



THE FOURTH, FIFTH AND SIXTH PLAQUES ON THE UNDERLAY (STORYTELLER'S PERSPECTIVE)