

LESSON 8

THE FACES OF EASTER VII

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: THE ONE WHO WAS EASTER AND STILL IS

- **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 last presentation focuses on the faces of Christ on the cross and on Easter.

You will begin this week's presentation by presenting a summary of the first six 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)
- Jesus Offers the Bread and Wine (pp. 57-62)

Begin with those six presentations before adding the last plaque and its story.

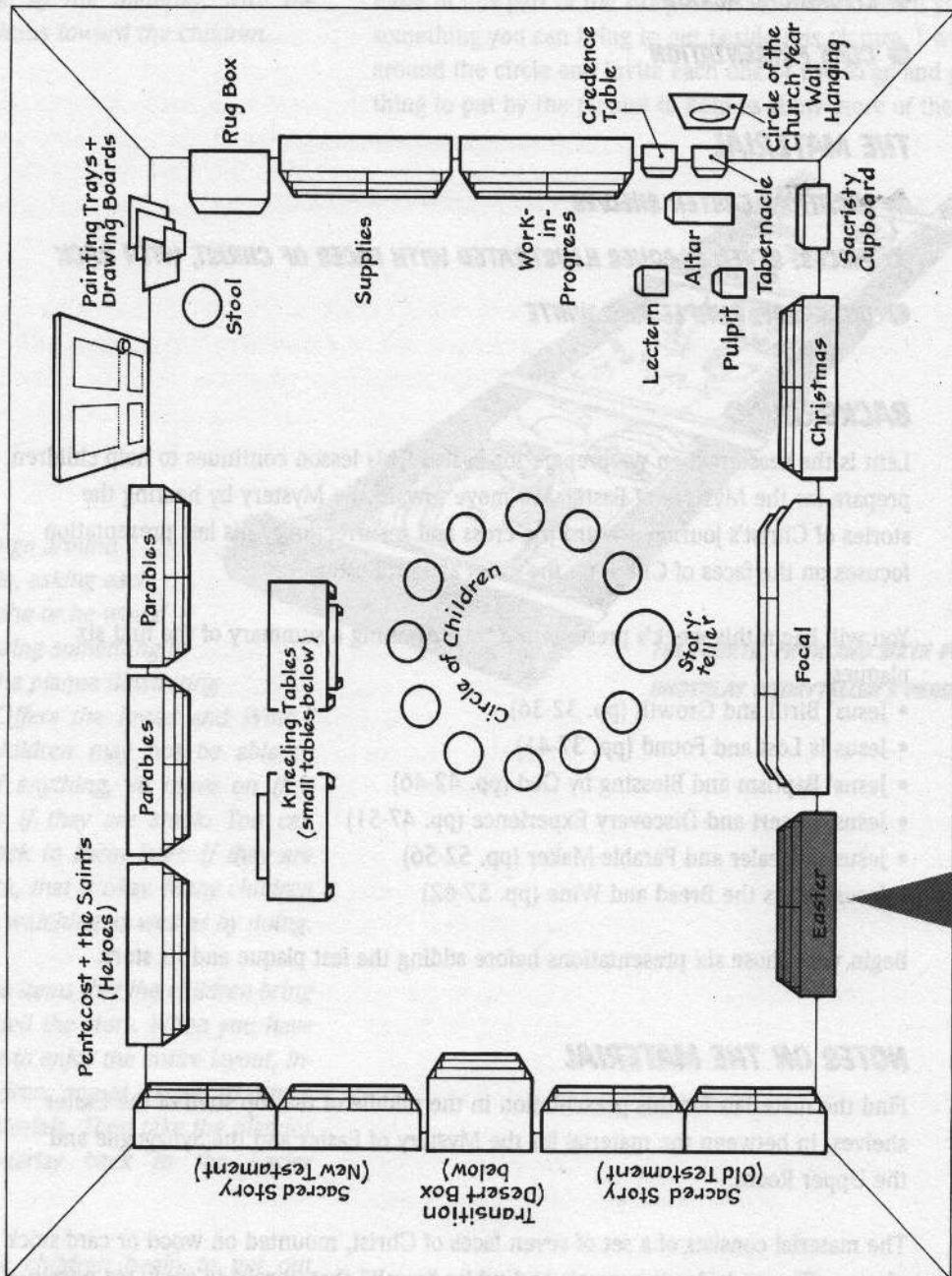
NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

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.

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.



WHERE TO FIND MATERIALS

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.

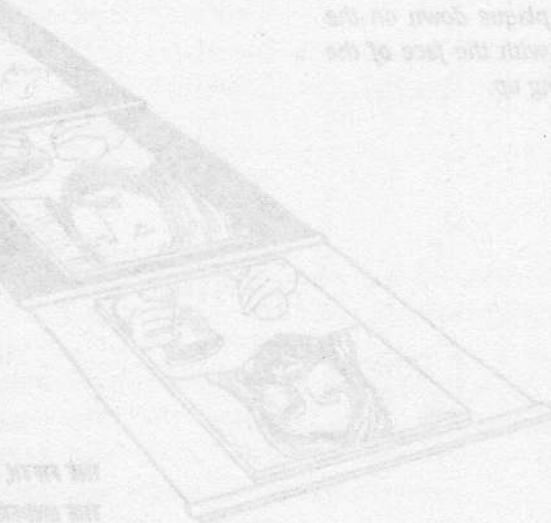
Unroll the underlay to uncover the rectangle for the fourth plaque. Tell in summary the story "Jesus' Desert and Discovery Experience" (pp. 47-51). When you are finished, lay down the fourth plaque.

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 rectangle for the sixth plaque. Tell in summary the story "Jesus Offers the Bread and Wine" (pp. 57-62). When you are finished, lay down the sixth plaque.

WORDS

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



MOVEMENTS

Don't unroll the seventh section of the underlay yet. Pick up the seventh plaque and hold it, with the face of Christ on the Cross facing the children. Tell this story:

Point to the dark sky.

Turn the plaque slowly back and forth as you describe the Faces in this part of the story, showing first one side, then the other. Finally, turn the edge of the plaque toward the children and "try" to pull the two sides apart.

Now unroll the white rectangle of the underlay.

Put the seventh plaque down on the white rectangle, with the face of the Risen Christ facing up.

WORDS

◆ The night was a confusing one. The next day, Jesus was taken outside the walls of the city and crucified.

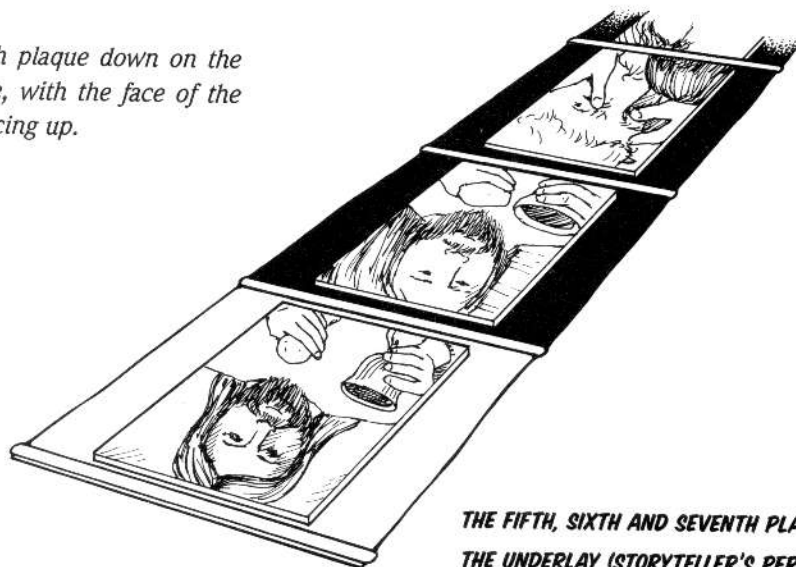
◆ That afternoon, Jesus died. The sky grew dark. Jesus was taken down from the cross and buried in a cave. A great stone was rolled into the opening of the cave to close it like a door.

Saturday was so quiet you could almost hear the earth breathing. On Sunday, it was the women who had the courage to go to the tomb just to be close to Jesus. They wanted to remember, even if it was sad. When they came to the tomb, they found that the stone had been rolled back and that the tomb was empty.

Jesus had died on the cross, but somehow he was still with them as he is with us, especially in the bread and the wine.

◆ When you look at this side (crucifixion), you know that the other side is there (Easter). When you look at this side (Easter), you know that this side (crucifixion) is there, and you cannot pull them apart. This is the Mystery of Easter, and that makes all the difference...

◆ ...and so the colors change.



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

MOVEMENTS

WORDS

Sit back and enjoy the complete story laid out in a line, then look puzzled. Say: Wait a minute. There's something wrong.

Point to each part as you call attention to the linear layout of the story. Here's the beginning...the middle...and the end.

Pick up the seventh plaque and turn it to the crucifixion side. Look! If we have only this side, the story has an end...

Turn the plaque over to the Easter side and show it to the children. ...but there is also this side.

Put the Easter plaque back on the white panel, resurrection side up. The ending is also a beginning, so we can't leave the story in a line.

Pick up the first plaque and roll the underlay toward you out of the way. Place the first plaque down where the first portion of the underlay was. Let's see what we can do.

Pick up the second plaque and roll up the second section of the underlay. Place the second plaque where indicated in the illustration on the next page.

Pick up the third plaque and roll up the third section of the underlay. Place the third plaque where indicated in the illustration.

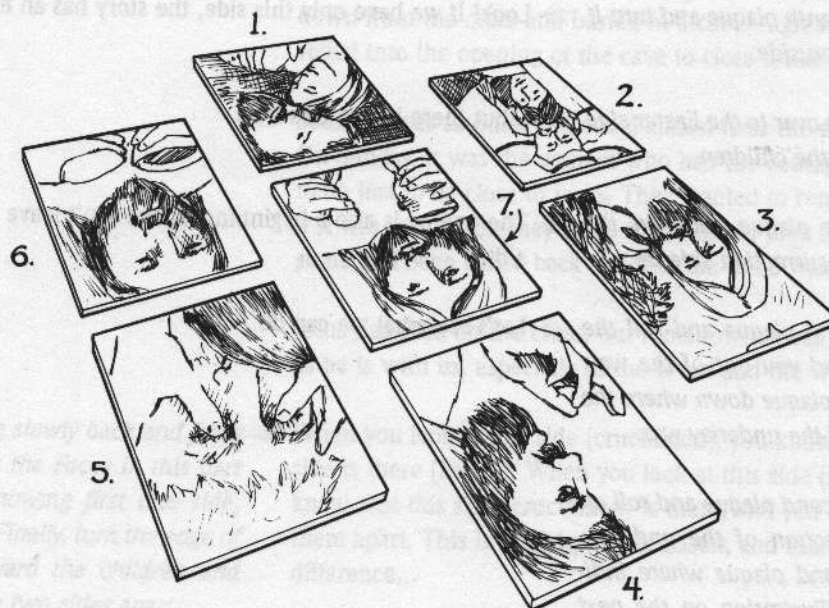
Pick up the fourth plaque and roll up the fourth section of the underlay. Place the fourth plaque where indicated in the illustration.

Pick up the fifth plaque and roll up the fifth section of the underlay. Place the fifth plaque where indicated in the illustration.

Pick up the sixth plaque and roll up the sixth section of the underlay. Place the sixth plaque where indicated in the illustration.

MOVEMENTS

Finally, pick up the seventh plaque and hold it while you finish rolling up the underlay. Place the underlay beside you. Place the seventh plaque (resurrection-side up) in the middle of the layout where indicated in the illustration.



THE CIRCLE OF FACES (STORYTELLER'S PERSPECTIVE)

Say:

◆ Now the story can go on forever.

I wonder what part of this story you like best?

I wonder what part of the story is the most important part?

I wonder where you are in this story? What part of the story is about you?

I wonder if there is any part of the story we can leave out and still have all the story we need.

When the energy in the wondering begins to wane, help the children to make choices about the work they are going to get out.