

The Faces of Easter III

Lent is the season when we prepare for Easter. We move toward the Mystery of Easter by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week's presentation—the third in a series of seven—focuses on the face of Christ as the One who was baptized and blessed.

How to Use this Parent Page

With your child, begin by looking together at the illustrations below and listening as your child recalls—and in a sense *relives*—the experience of today's Godly Play presentation. Invite your child to respond to the drawings. You might say, for example:

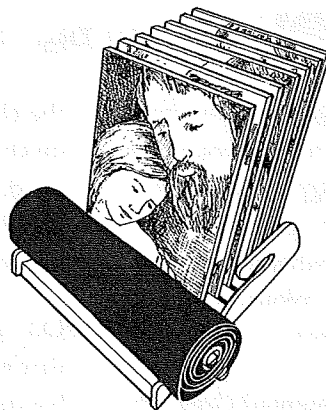
- I wonder what you can tell me about these pictures?
- I wonder what these pictures have to do with today's story?

Just listen. This is *not* a time to quiz children on what they may or may not recall about the lesson, but to be quietly present as they share their own experience. This will be different for each child—one may retell much of the presentation, another recall a single moment that had

meaning, and yet another talk about his or her own creative response. Again, your role is not to correct or supplement what your child tells you, but simply to *listen* in a supportive way. You are supporting the formation of young—sometimes very young—theologians.

Then, if you wish, you can read with (or to) your child the condensed version of today's presentation offered below. (If you retell the lesson, you might like to use the home version of the Godly Play materials for Lent, available from Godly Play Resources, called the "Mini Faces of the Journey"; call 1-800-445-4390 or visit www.godlyplay.com). Conclude by sitting quietly for a moment and then saying "Amen."

The Presentation



Jesus grew and became a man. When he was about thirty years old, he went to the River Jordan where his cousin, John, was baptizing people.

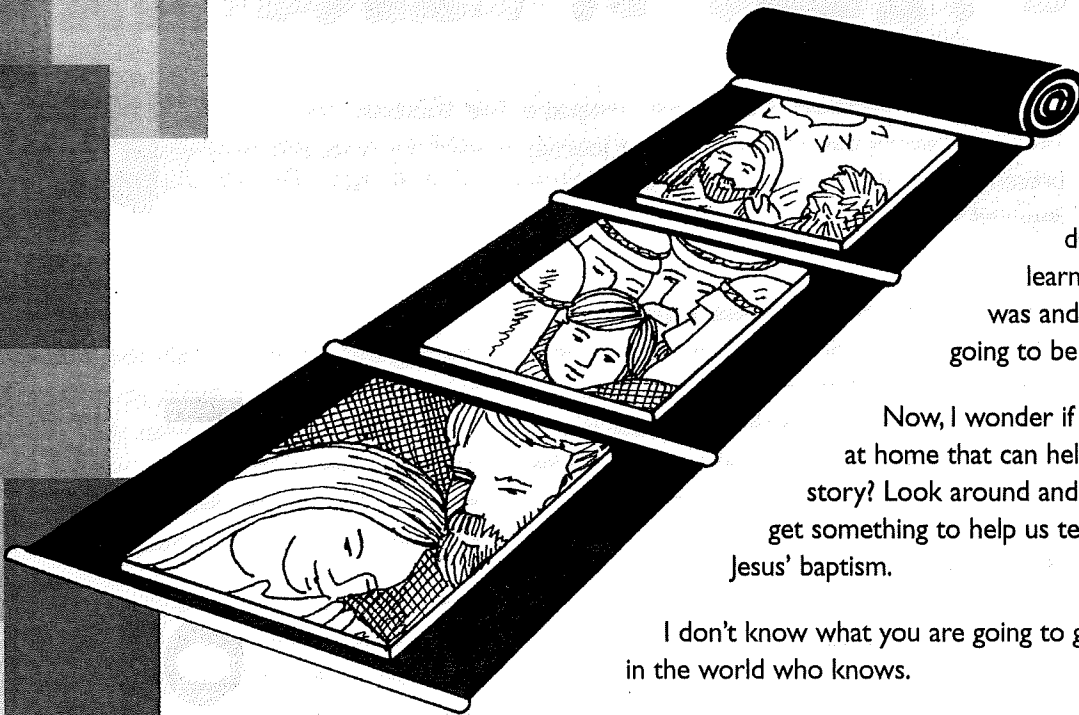
Jesus waded into the river until he was face to face with John. He said, "Baptize me."

John looked at Jesus and, for the first time, saw who he really was. "How can I baptize you? You are the Messiah, the one we have been waiting for. You must baptize me."

"No. It is written that you will come before me and prepare the way. You must baptize me."

Jesus went down into the darkness and chaos of the water. When John lifted him back up into the light, there were people there who said they saw a dove come down from heaven and come close to him.

There were also people there that day who heard a voice. The voice said, "This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased."



After Jesus was baptized, he went on across the River Jordan into the desert. He stayed there for forty days and forty nights to learn more about who he was and what his work was going to be.

Now, I wonder if there is anything here at home that can help us tell more of the story? Look around and see. Let's each go and get something to help us tell more of the story of Jesus' baptism.

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

If you don't feel like getting something, that's okay. Let's just sit here and look at the picture a moment more.

Godly Play Godly Play in Other Settings (Part 1)

In every Parent Page, we offer information about Godly Play to help you understand both its methodology and purpose. Godly Play is more than a Sunday school program. It finds a home wherever people want to play deeply and profoundly with the language of God's People.

Dr. Courtney Cowart presented Godly Play at a meeting in England and found special interest from the African bishops, restless from being treated so long as colonials by

the church. Dr. Cowart acknowledged how much more they knew about this than we do. Africa is still filled with storytelling people, and Godly Play provides a bridge between their religious traditions and ours.

One young priest from Africa wasn't sure that he *could* be that kind of storyteller yet, because he was young. In his culture, you have to earn the right to be a storyteller, by the wisdom and experience of old age.