

# The Faces of Easter IV

**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 fourth in a series of seven—focuses on Christ's temptations in the desert.

## 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:

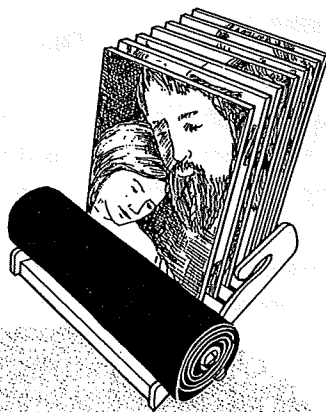
- I wonder what you can tell me about these pictures?
- I wonder what these pictures have to do with today's story?

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](http://www.godlyplay.com)). Conclude by sitting quietly for a moment and then saying "Amen."

## The Temptation



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.

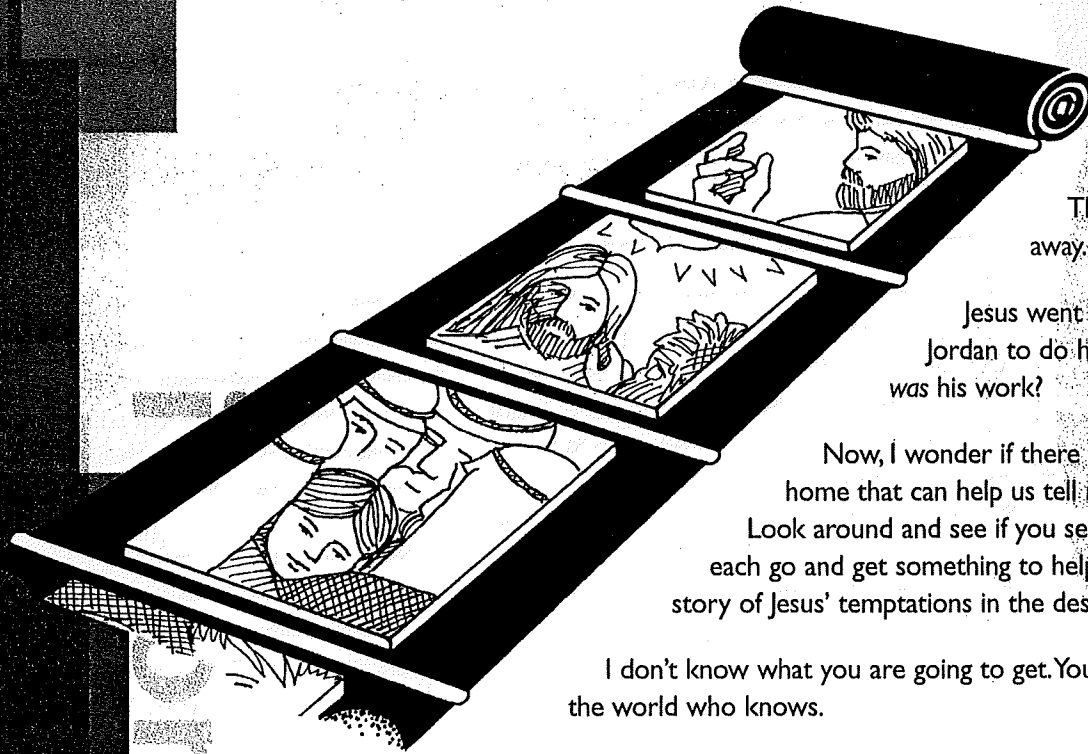
One day he heard a voice. It said, "Why don't you turn one of those stones over there into bread and have something to eat?"

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



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 to do his work. But what was his work?

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

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 2)

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.

The Godly Play approach to religious education has found expression in religious traditions other than Christianity. In these cases, care has been taken to use the appropriate language and symbols of that tradition.

In London, for example, Rabbi Michael Shire is director of the Centre for Jewish Education and one of the leaders of Godly Play in England. He calls Godly Play "Doing Midrash with Jerome." (*Midrash* is Jewish commentary on the Hebrew scripture, an ancient, on-going tradition in Judaism.) Rabbi Shire's perspective reminds us that the sacred stories of what we call the Old Testament are stories we receive with respect from our Jewish teachers.