

The Faces of Easter V

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 fifth in a series of seven—focuses on Christ as healer and parable-maker.

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:

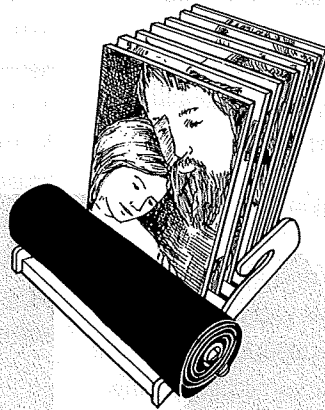
- I wonder what you can tell me about these pictures?
- I wonder what these pictures have to do with today's story?

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."

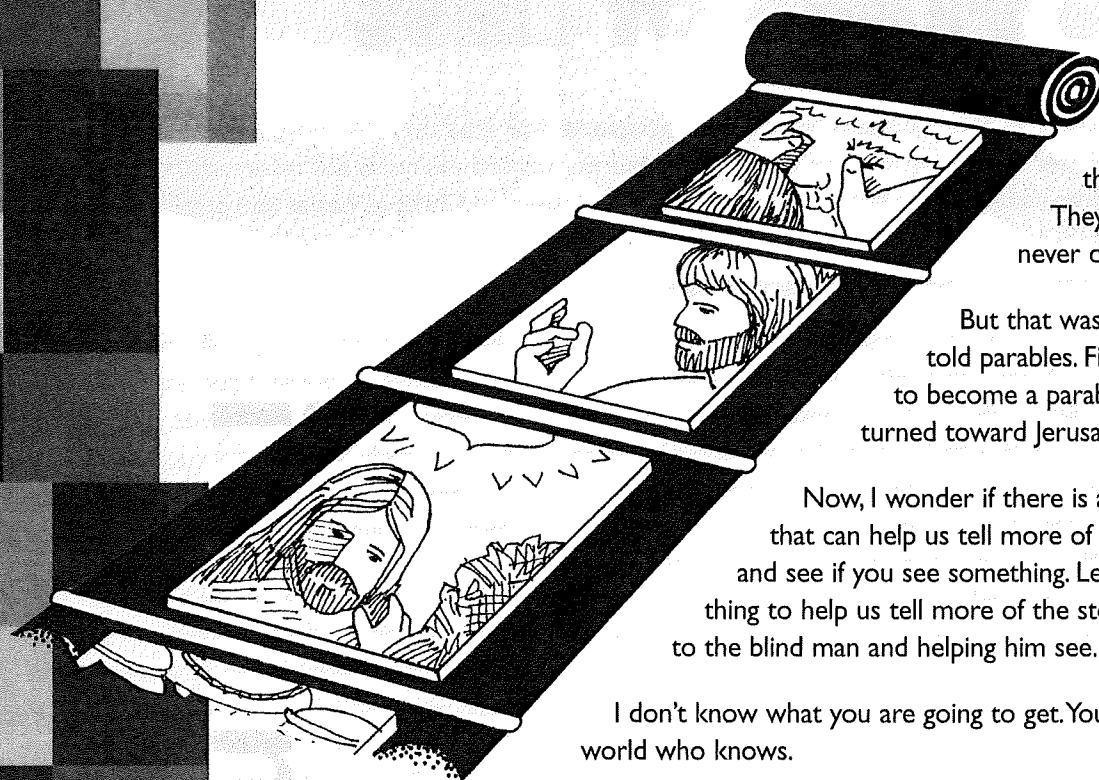
The Presentation



Jesus came back across the Jordan River and began to do his work...but what was his work? His work was to come close to people, especially the people no one else wanted to come close to.

Jesus traveled about the land with the Twelve. He was teaching and showing people how to be real human beings. As he taught, people came to him to be healed. If they were hurt or sick or upset in some way, they sensed that Jesus could help them be well.

See? He has come close to the blind man in the picture. He is even touching the blind man's eyes.



When Jesus came close to people, they changed. They could see things they never saw before. They could do things they never did before.

But that wasn't all Jesus did. Jesus also told parables. Finally, he knew that he had to become a parable, so he and the Twelve turned toward Jerusalem for the last time.

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' coming close to the blind man and helping him see.

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 3)

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.

Jerome W. Berryman tells this story:

In Houston, one setting for a Godly Play presentation for runaways was an auditorium. I walked in with a parable box under one arm, and said, "Hi. I've got something strange to show you, if you're interested."

Not many were! One or two came and looked at the box. I started telling the Parable of the Good Shepherd. Before I was done, about thirty out of forty teenagers in that room came and gathered around. Perhaps this is less surprising than it sounds. After all, if they weren't really scared and searching, they wouldn't have come into a religious shelter to start with. These kids were very involved in the wondering, because the existential questions were so close to their skin.