

The Faces of Easter VI

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 sixth in a series of seven—focuses on Christ as he goes to Jerusalem to become a parable and shows the Twelve—and us—the sacrament of bread and wine.

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 lesson. Invite your child to respond to the drawings. You might say, for example:

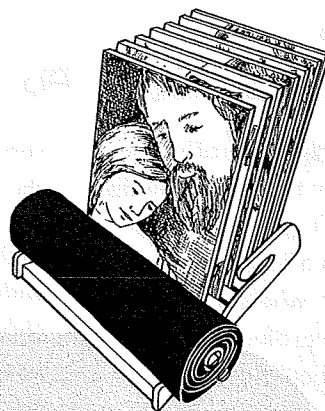
- I wonder what you can tell me about these pictures?
- I wonder what these pictures have to do with today's story?

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

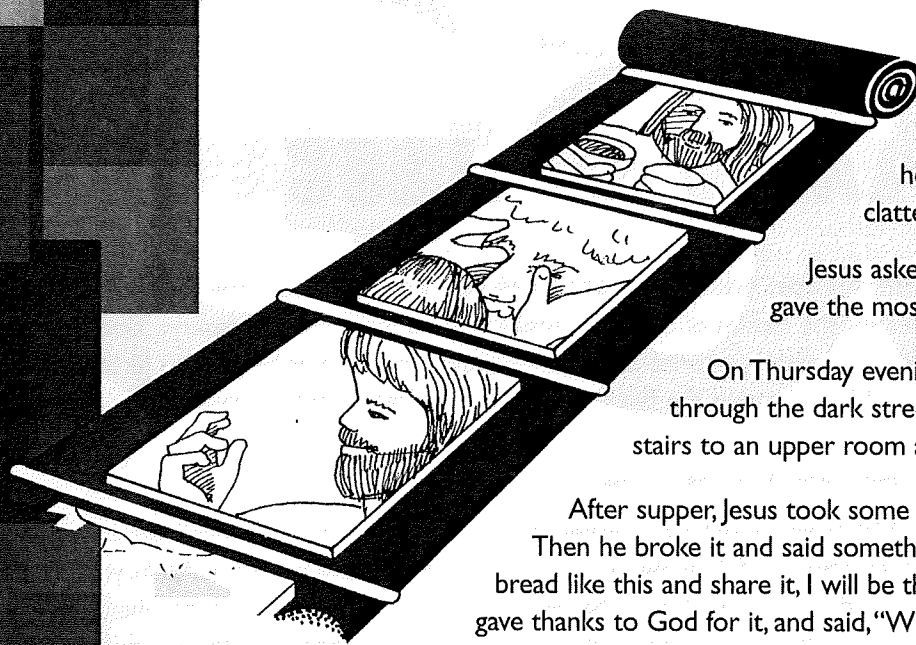


Jesus went to Jerusalem for the last time. It was the time of the Passover, and the city was full of people from many different lands. The people thought he was coming to be king, but they weren't paying attention.

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

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. One day when he was there, 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 tiniest of all the coins in the box. That was all the money she had."



Now, here comes a rich man. He has so much money to put in, he brought friends with him to help him carry it. His money clangs and clatters as they pour it into the box.

Jesus asked, "Now I wonder which one really gave the most?" That was how he taught.

On Thursday 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 supper, 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.

Suddenly Judas got up and left. The rest went to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus wanted to pray. When he was finished, he joined the rest, but Judas came out of the dark and greeted him. This was a signal for the temple guards to come out of the shadows and take Jesus away with them.

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 to get something to help us tell more of the story of Jesus' showing us the sacrament of the bread and wine.

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 4)

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.

Trainer Laura McGuire helped Beth McNamara, an Episcopal priest, carry out a Godly Play ministry on the streets of Baltimore. Beth said, "The trick is to find the right spot to tell the stories. We were blessed in having a small bit of green space

surrounding a library across the street from the church."

Beth and her helpers loaded up a cart with a Godly Play story, bath towels for the children to sit on, drawing boards with paper attached, juice and markers. They marched out of their church to the grassy space, like where Jesus shared bread and fish with many people. Soon dozens of children had joined the circle to share the story, engage in expressive art and enjoy a feast in this unusual Godly Play space.