

LESSON 2

THE FACES OF EASTER I

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: JESUS' BIRTH AND GROWTH

- LITURGICAL ACTION
- CORE PRESENTATION

THE MATERIAL

- LOCATION: EASTER SHELVES
- PIECES: SEVEN PLAQUES ILLUSTRATED WITH FACES OF CHRIST, WITH RACK
- UNDERLAY: PURPLE AND WHITE

BACKGROUND

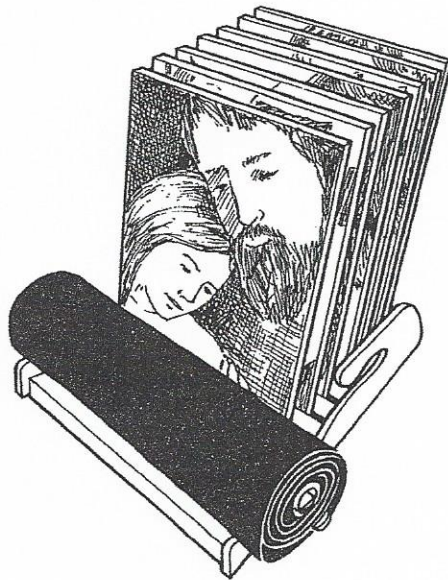
Lent is the season when we prepare for Easter. This lesson helps children prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We move toward the Mystery by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week's presentation focuses on the face of Christ as a newborn child. If you used the presentations of the Holy Family and the Mystery of Easter on the first week of Lent, then you might want to tell two of the Faces presentations today.

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 also holds the rolled-up underlay. If you do not use this stand, put the rolled-up underlay and plaques in a tray.



THE EASTER PLAQUES

SPECIAL NOTES

Storytelling Tip: At the end of each presentation of the Faces stories, you invite children to choose materials from the room that will help tell more of the story. For example, when you tell today's story of "Jesus' Birth and Growth," one child might bring crèche figures to place by the plaque. Another child might bring the desert box. Be open to the surprising connections children make as they explore the meaning embodied in the materials. This activity is especially important because it provides movement and action to these stories and integrates the whole room with Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection.

Be sure you unroll the underlay so that its roll is closest to you, not to the children. This keeps the roll from blocking some of the children's view of the Faces. (See the illustration, p. 36.) The underlay unrolls toward the storyteller, so you also need to pull the unrolled portion toward the children. It is as if the story is growing out of the rolled up underlay like a seed, the white part rolled up inside. It also is growing out of the storyteller's life and experience toward the children. The illustrations in these sessions make this clear. Each time you present any of the Faces of Easter, unroll the underlay, place the first plaque, unroll the underlay, place the second plaque, etc.

MOVEMENTS

When the children are ready, go to the shelf where the Lent and Easter materials are kept. Bring the plaques and rolled-up underlay "scroll" to the circle.

Put the cards at your side and place the scroll in front of you. Unroll the underlay toward the children to uncover the rectangle for the first plaque.

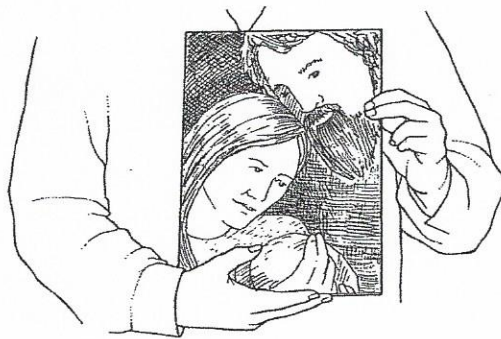
Pick up the first plaque, with the picture of the infant Jesus, and hold the face toward the children. Point to the figures as you identify them and trace around their faces.

WORDS

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

In the beginning, the baby was born. God chose Mary to be the Mother of God. Listen carefully! Listen to the words.

God chose Mary to be the Mother of God, and the Word was born a wordless child.



HOLDING THE FIRST PLAQUE (CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVE)

In Mary's face, trace the cross with your index finger along the line of the nose to the mouth, and then the line from eye to eye. Repeat for Joseph's face.

Trace a circle around the whole family.

When you have enjoyed for a moment the idea of the baby growing, put the plaque down on the underlay, facing the children.

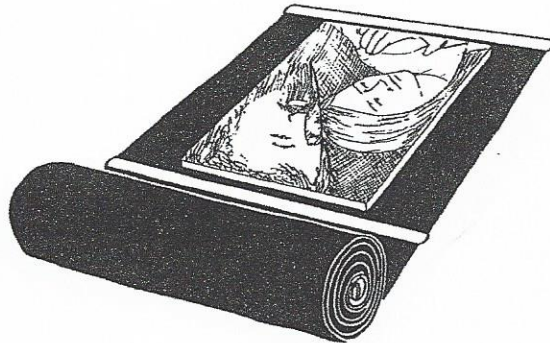
When the baby looked up into the face of the Mother Mary, he already saw the cross. When he looked into the face of the Father Joseph, the cross was there, too.

The Mother Mary and the Father Joseph held the baby close. They kept the baby warm. They gave the baby everything the baby needed to grow, and it began to grow.

Now I wonder if there is anything in this room that you can bring and put beside this picture to help us tell more about this part of the story. Look around and see. I will go around the circle and ask each one of you if you would like to go and get something to put beside the picture of the Christ Child to show more of the story.

MOVEMENTS

WORDS



THE FIRST PLAQUE ON THE UNDERLAY (STORYTELLER'S PERSPECTIVE)

Begin to go around the circle, asking each child if he or she would like to bring something to put by the plaque. Some children may not be able to think of anything, so move on if it looks as if they are stuck. You can come back to them later. If they are still stuck, that is okay. Many children learn by watching as well as by doing.

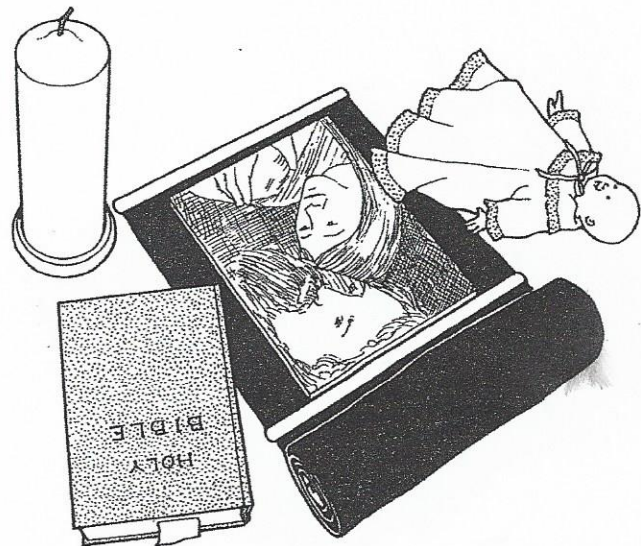
Sometimes children get up, wander for a moment and bring something at random, without knowing why. That's okay. Be amazed (which is easy) and wonder why with them, together coming up with something relevant. Everything in the room is connected in some way.

Enjoy the items that the children bring to help tell the story. When you have had time to enjoy the entire layout, invite children, one at a time, to return their materials to their places on the shelves. Then take the plaques and underlay back to the Easter shelves.

Help the children begin to get out their work.

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

If you don't feel like getting something, that's okay. Just enjoy what we make together.



THE FIRST PLAQUE WITH ITEMS CHOSEN BY THE CHILDREN (STORYTELLER'S PERSPECTIVE)

LESSON 3

THE FACES OF EASTER II

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: JESUS IS LOST AND FOUND

- **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 week's presentation focuses on the face of Christ as the One who was lost and found.

Begin this week's presentation by presenting a summary of the first plaque, the Face of "Jesus' Birth and Growth" (pp. 32-36). Then add the second plaque and tell the story found in this second lesson about the Faces of Easter.

Since there are seven Faces presentations and only six Sundays in Lent, you may want to combine presentations, telling two or even three stories on a Sunday. Arrange the presentations to fit your church's religious education schedule or other situations.

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.

SPECIAL NOTES

Storytelling Tip: At the end of each presentation of the Faces stories, you invite children to choose materials from the room that will help tell more of the story. This activity helps children perceive connections between the stories. Because you add a story each week, only invite children to bring materials for that week's story. For example, when you tell today's story of the Face of "Jesus Is Lost and Found," one child might bring Solomon's Temple to place by the plaque.

Be sure you unroll the underlay so that its roll is toward you, not toward the children. This keeps the roll from blocking some of the children's view of the Faces. The underlay unrolls toward the storyteller; each new plaque will be placed on the underlay closest to the storyteller. This means that you need to slide the underlay away from you to allow room to unroll the next section of the underlay. (See the illustration, p. 41.) A child seated across from you can help pull the underlay away from you.

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. 35-36). When you are finished, lay down the first plaque.

Unroll the underlay to uncover the second section. Pick up the second plaque and hold it so that the children can see it as you continue the story:

WORDS

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

The baby grew and became a boy. When he was about twelve years old, he went with the Mother Mary and the Father Joseph and with many other people from their village of Nazareth to the great city of Jerusalem to keep one of the high, holy days. When the celebration was over, the people from Nazareth went out through the great high gate and started on the road toward home.

Suddenly, Mary and Joseph discovered that Jesus was not there! They thought he had been playing with the other children from their village as they walked together. They hurried back into the great city of Jerusalem to find him.

Mary and Joseph looked in the dark and narrow streets. They looked in the marketplace where they had bought their food. They looked where they had spent the night. They looked everywhere!

Finally, they even looked in the Temple—and there he was. He was talking to the rabbis, the priests. When he spoke, they listened, because he knew so much. When they spoke, he listened, because he wanted to learn more.

Mary and Joseph then asked Jesus the question all parents ask their children, the question you can never answer: "Why did you do this?" And Jesus said something very strange. He said, "Didn't you know I would be in my Father's house?"

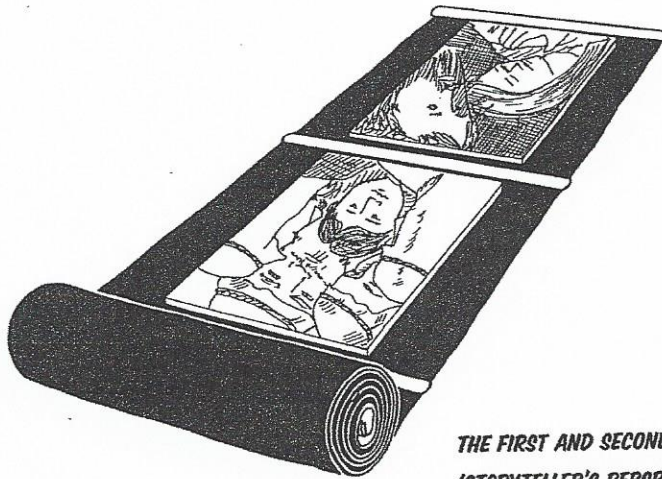
Mary and Joseph did not understand. Their house was in Nazareth, where Joseph's carpenter shop was. They did not understand, but they did not forget.

MOVEMENTS

Put the second plaque down on the second rectangle of the underlay, facing the children.

WORDS

Now I wonder what there is in our room that can help us tell more about this part of the story. Look around and see if you see something. I will go around the circle and invite you to go and get something to put by the picture of the boy who was lost and found to help us tell more.



THE FIRST AND SECOND PLAQUES ON THE UNDERLAY
(STORYTELLER'S PERSPECTIVE)

Begin to go around the circle, inviting each child to bring something to put by the plaque illustrating "Jesus Is Lost and Found." Some children may not be able to think of anything, so move on if it looks as if they are stuck. You can come back to them later. If they are still stuck, that is okay. Many children learn by watching as well as by doing.

Enjoy the items that the children bring to help tell more of the story. When you have had time to enjoy the entire layout, invite children, one at a time, to return their materials. Then take the plaques and underlay back to the Easter shelves.

Help the children begin to get out their work.

LESSON 4

THE FACES OF EASTER III

FOCUS: JESUS' BAPTISM AND BLESSING BY GOD

- **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 week's presentation focuses on the face of Christ as the One who was baptized and blessed.

You begin this week's presentation by presenting a summary of the first two plaques, the Face of "Jesus' Birth and Growth" (pp. 32-36) and the Face of "Jesus Is Lost and Found" (pp. 37-41). Begin with those two presentations before adding the third 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 also holds 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.

SPECIAL NOTES

At Home: The Faces of Easter also work well as a presentation for family storytelling around the table during Lent. Instead of inviting listeners to bring other materials to the story, finish by asking special wondering questions. For example, for these first three presentations, you could ask:

- I wonder if there was anyone here who was ever born?
- I wonder if anyone around this table was every lost? Found?
- I wonder if there is anyone in this family who was baptized?

This kind of storytelling gathers the family and its stories within the context of the Master Story of the Christian People.

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 third rectangle. Pick up the third plaque and hold it so that the children can see it as you tell this story:

Point to John. All you can see is his hair.

Cover Jesus' face with one of your hands. Remove your hand. Trace the outline of the dove at the top of the plaque.

WORDS

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

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.

Do you see John? You can just see the back of his head. He was a wild man!

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

John looked at Jesus as if for the first time. Now he 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. 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.

MOVEMENTS

Put the third plaque down on the third rectangle of the underlay, with the face of Jesus toward the children.

Begin to go around the circle, asking each child if he or she would like to bring something to put by the plaque illustrating "Jesus' Baptism and Blessing by God." Some children may not be able to think of anything, so move on, coming back to them later. If they are still stuck, that is okay. Many children learn by watching as well as by doing.

Enjoy the items that the children bring. When you have had time to enjoy the entire layout, invite children, one at a time, to return their materials. Then take the plaques and underlay back to the Easter shelves.

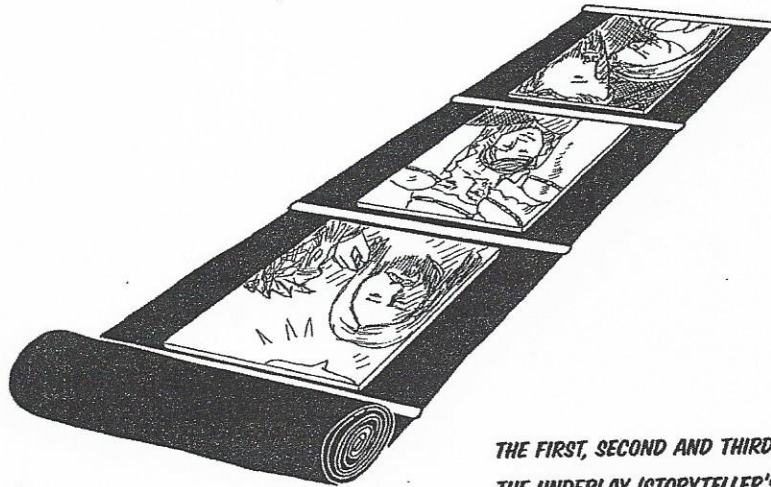
Help the children choose their work.

WORDS

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 what there is in this room that can help us tell more of the story. Look around and see if you see something. I will go around the circle and invite each one of you to go and get something to put by the picture to help us show more of the story.



THE FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD PLAQUES ON THE UNDERLAY (STORYTELLER'S PERSPECTIVE)

LESSON 5

THE FACES OF EASTER IV

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: JESUS' DESERT AND DISCOVERY EXPERIENCE

- **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 week's presentation focuses on Christ's temptations in the desert.

You will begin this week's presentation by presenting a summary of the first three 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)

Begin with those three presentations before adding the fourth 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.

SPECIAL NOTES

Storytelling Tips: Inviting children to bring materials to put next to the stories introduces a technique of “side by side” connections. You can tell two Godly Play stories together and invite children to make their own links. This works especially well with older children. For example, you could tell the creation story (see *The Complete Guide To Godly Play, Volume Two*, pp. 41-48) side by side with the Faces stories. Ask children, for example, “I wonder where this day (from the Creation) belongs in this story (the Faces)?”

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 fourth section. Pick up the fourth plaque and hold it so that the children can see it as you tell this story:

WORDS

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

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 just 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."

MOVEMENTS

Put the fourth plaque down on the fourth rectangle of the underlay.

Begin to go around the circle, asking each child if he or she would like to bring something to put by the plaque illustrating "Jesus' Desert and Discovery Experience." Some children may not be able to think of anything, so move on if it looks as if they are stuck. You can come back to them later. If they are still stuck, that is okay. Many children learn by watching as well as by doing.

Enjoy the items that the children bring to help tell the story. When you have had time to enjoy the entire layout, invite children, one at a time, to return their materials. Then take the plaques and underlay back to the Easter shelves.

Help the children begin to get out their work.

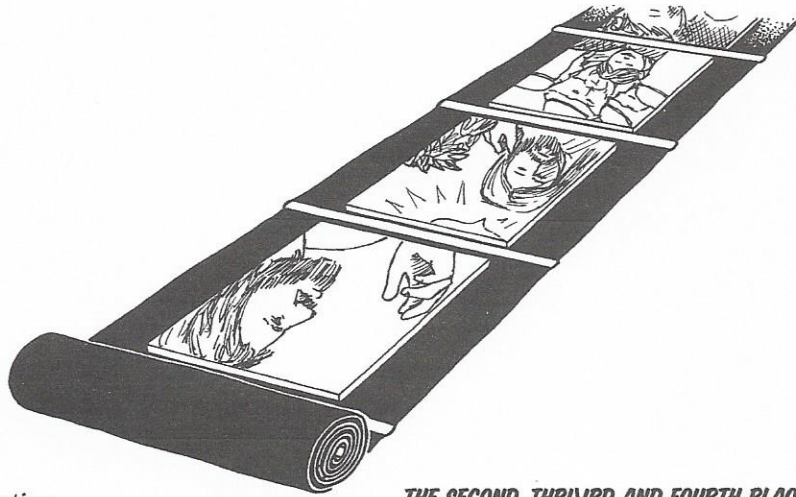
WORDS

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 and began to do his work. But what *was* his work?

Now I wonder what there is in this room that can help us tell more of this part of the story. Look around and see if you find something. I will go around the circle and invite each one of you to go and get something to put by this picture to help us show more of the story.



THE SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH PLAQUES ON THE UNDERLAY (STORYTELLER'S PERSPECTIVE)