

# The Faces of Easter II

**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 second in a series of seven—focuses on the face of Christ as the One who was lost and found.

## 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:

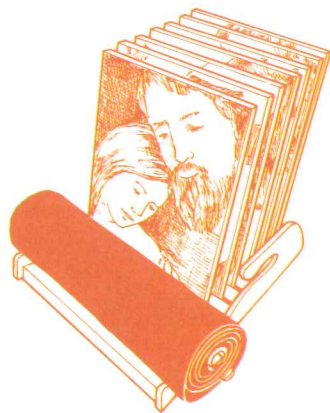
- I wonder what you can tell me about these pictures?
- I wonder what these pictures have to do with today's story?

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 Presentation



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 and 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.

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 the boy who was lost and found.

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 A Godly Play Moment

**In every Parent Page,** we offer information about Godly Play to help you understand both its methodology and purpose. Occasionally, as in today’s Paper, we share a “Godly Play moment.” Godly Play trainer Sharon Greeley tells this story:

One Sunday morning during Lent, I told a portion of the story the Faces of Christ to about sixteen children, ages three to eleven. At the wondering, I asked the children if there was anything in the room that we could bring to the story to help us tell the story more. The children brought several

objects from the stories on the shelves and placed them by the story on the floor:

Then one six-year-old boy said, “We could bring God to the story.” Amazed at his suggestion, I said, “I wonder how we could bring God to the story?” He said, “Well, we need to be very quiet and pray.” At his suggestion, all the children became quiet and bowed their heads. After a moment of silence, the little boy said, “Amen,” and then he said, “God is here.” I was simply a participant with the other children, under the inspired leadership of this child and amazed at the self-directed silence of these children.