

# The Faces of Easter I

**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 first in a series of seven—focuses on the face of Christ as a newborn child.

## 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:

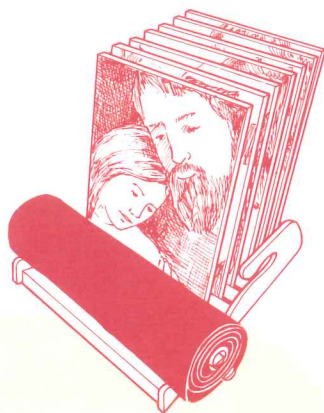
- I wonder what you can tell me about these pictures?
- I wonder what these pictures have to do with today's story?

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



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

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

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



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 show more of the story of the Christ Child.

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 More on the Faces of Easter

**In every Parent Page,** we offer information about Godly Play to help you understand both its methodology and purpose.

In the Godly Play classroom, at the end of each lesson of the Faces of Easter (presented throughout Lent), your child is invited to choose materials from the room that will help tell more of the story. For example, when we tell today's story of the Newborn Child, one child might bring crèche figures to place by the plaque.

Children often make surprising connections as they explore the sacred language embodied in the materials. This activity is especially important because it provides movement and action to these stories and integrates the whole Godly Play classroom with Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection.

This will happen at home too. Allow time for your child—and you!—to consider what items at home can be integrated into the story of Jesus each week as your journey together through Lent.