

A Good Shepherd
Story of Jesus

Crucifixion and Resurrection

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INTRODUCTION TO LENT -- YEAR 2

The season of Lent is another "waiting time". The Good Shepherd program makes it easy for children to see the time pass as they prepare to experience Easter.

The stage is set for Lent by using a series of seven cards. The first six cards are purple with one side showing a blackened silhouette and the seventh card is white with one side showing a blackened silhouette. Each week the cards are removed from the Lent-2 basket and laid out in a straight line to your left with the solid side facing upward. As each week's story is shared, the card is turned over. The first week the purple card with the silhouette symbolizing the story of "Waving Palms" is revealed. The second week that card and the one with the silhouette symbolizing the story of "In Memory Of Her" are revealed. And so on. Each week we begin with card one, asking the children to mentally recall each part of the Lent story, before telling the current week's story.

During the story response time, the children are encouraged to take the Lent-2 basket and the story basket from the shelf and see if they can tell the story each week. By using the Lent cards and the story figures the children look ahead with great anticipation to the joy and wonder of Easter.

Each lesson in the Lent series tells you what story, story figures and Lent cards are to be used. During the "circle of light" be sure to place the appropriate bookmark representing each week's story in the Good Shepherd classroom Bible. This allows the children, non-readers as well as readers, to become familiar with where the Lent stories are found in the Bible.

An optional activity you may want to include at the start of the "circle of light" each week is the use of the church year puzzle. It illustrates the passage of the weeks of Lent as we move toward Easter. This is how you would do it the first week of Lent:

When the children return to the circle for the "circle of light", bring out the church puzzle.

ACTIONS

Hold up the church year puzzle.

Touch the first week of Lent.

Touch each purple piece as you count it.

WORDS

This is the circle of the church year. It helps us see how the time of God's people is divided.

We have just started Lent so we are right here on this first purple piece.

We will wait 1,2,3,4,5,6 weeks for a very special Easter celebration.

At this point begin the "circle of light" as usual. For weeks two through six simply move the markers on the church year puzzle before each circle of light and adapt your words accordingly. On week seven you will be at a white marker and it will be obvious the holy day of Easter has arrived.

During this time called Lent we learn a lot about Jesus, the stories he told and the things he did. We learn about his relationships with his friends and the people who followed him. The message of Lent is heard as we gradually begin to understand that Jesus showed himself to be the Messiah.

MATERIALS USED DURING LENT--YEAR 2

The medium Lent-2 basket on the shelf contains:

- a set of 7 cards are used each week in the following order:
 - a purple card with palm branch silhouette
 - a purple card with bottle silhouette
 - a purple card with man with withered hand silhouette
 - a purple card with table silhouette
 - a purple card with chalice and paten silhouette
 - a purple card with money pouch and coins silhouette
 - a white card with an empty tomb and cross silhouette

The story sets are used in the following order:

- Waving Palms basket
- In Memory Of Her basket
- Jesus Heals On The Sabbath basket
- Jesus Cleanses The Temple basket
- The Last Supper basket
- Judas Betrays Jesus basket
- Crucifixion and Resurrection basket

Items needed from the worship shelf for Lent:

- chalice (for use with the Last Supper basket)*
- paten (for use with the Last Supper basket)*

The church year puzzle used as an optional activity each week during the "circle of light" can be purchased separately from our Good Shepherd Accessories order form.

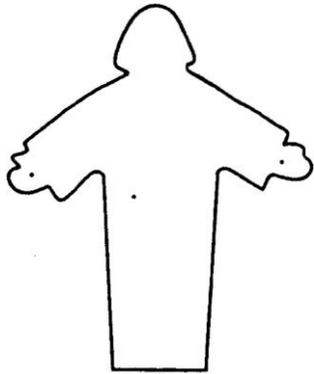
If communion is served during the "circle of light" the week The Last Supper story is presented you will need to purchase bread and grape juice.

* These items are not furnished for you. We recommend their use and hope you can acquire them locally.

CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION MATERIALS

- large wicker basket to hold:
 - papier-mache tomb with stone
 - wooden figure of Jesus with pierced hands and side
 - 2 wooden disciple figures
 - wooden figure of Mary
 - 2 wooden women figures
 - wooden angel figure (robe painted white)

- from worship shelf
 - Lent-2 basket containing 7 cards



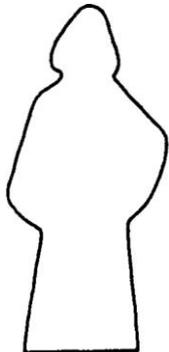
Jesus



Mary



Angel



Disciples



Women

**CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION LUKE 23:1-24, JOHN 20:1-18,
MATTHEW 28:1-10**

ACTIONS

After speaking, stand and get the Lent-Z basket from the worship shelf. Place it on the floor by your place in the circle. Go back to the shelf and pick up the Crucifixion and Resurrection basket. Set it to the right as you are seated.

Allow 10-15 seconds of silence as you reverently touch the Lent cards or wooden figures to center yourself and the children.

Lay the Lent card with the palm branch showing to your far left. Touch it reverently.

Lay the Lent card with the bottle showing to the right of the other card. Touch it reverently.

Lay the Lent card with the man with a withered hand showing to the right of the other cards. Touch it reverently.

Lay the Lent card with the table showing to the right of the other cards. Touch it reverently.

Lay the Lent card with the chalice and paten showing to the right of the other cards. Touch it reverently.

Lay the Lent card with the money pouch and coins showing to the right of the other cards. Touch it reverently.

WORDS

Watch carefully where I go to get these materials so you will know where to find them if you choose to make this your work today or another day.

All the words to this story are inside of me. Will you make silence with me so I can find all the words to this story?

We have spent six weeks learning the stories of Lent.

The first week of Lent we learned about Jesus coming into the city of Jerusalem while the people waved palms.

The second week of Lent we learned about a woman that Jesus said to remember.

The third week of Lent we learned about Jesus healing a man on the Sabbath.

The fourth week of Lent we learned how Jesus chased the money-changers from the temple.

The fifth week of Lent we shared the Last Supper with Jesus and his disciples.

The sixth week of Lent (last week) we heard how one of Jesus' disciples, Judas, betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

Touch each card as you count off the weeks.

Indicate the worship shelf.

Remove the white card from the basket and point to the picture on it.

Place the white card to the right of the six purple Lent cards.

WORDS ONLY are used for the crucifixion part of the story. Be sure your words are solemn and soft, but intense. Sadness is appropriate through this part of the story.

1,2,3,4,5,6. We have waited and made ourselves ready for six weeks.

Today we changed the worship shelf to white. It's Easter.

This is a tomb ... a grave where people who died were buried, but it is empty.

Make yourselves ready for the story of our very special holy day of Easter.

Jesus had been arrested.

The people wanted him crucified.

Even when Pilate said, "I do not find this man guilty of any of the charges you've said." The people still wanted him dead.

So Jesus was given a cross to carry up the hill to a place called Golgotha.

There they nailed Jesus' hands and feet to the cross.

On his head was a crown of thorns the soldiers had made to make fun of this "King of the Jews."

It hurt Jesus very much to die like that, hanging on a cross.

Finally, Jesus cried out, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

Then Jesus died.

His friends were very sad.

They went to get Jesus' body to bury it.

Place the tomb on green base to right center of the storytelling area, with the opening facing the children.

Bring Mary and the two women to left center.

Place an imaginary Jesus in the tomb and slowly cover the opening with the stone. Move the three women back to the basket.

Pause for 15-20 seconds following this statement.

Place Mary and the two women to left center.

Move the stone away, into the story basket, and place the women figures near the tomb.

Place the angel immediately in front of the tomb. Move them to look inside.

Shake your head and smile.

Move Mary and the two women to the story basket.

Bring two disciples and the Mary figure near the tomb.

A man named Joseph of Arimathea gave them a new tomb to put Jesus' body in.

The women worked putting oil and spices on Jesus' body until it was the beginning of the Sabbath. They couldn't do even that work on the Sabbath.

Jesus' body was put in the tomb and a huge stone was rolled in front of it.

That was on Friday. It was a very dark day for the people of God, a day with almost no light in it.

Sunday morning, very early, the three women came back to the tomb to finish making Jesus' body ready.

One of the women was Mary Magdalene. The women wondered how they would move the heavy stone from in front of the tomb.

But when they got to the garden, the stone was rolled a way .

They looked inside the tomb and saw an angel in shining clothes.

And the women were afraid.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen as he said.

Then the women ran to tell the disciples the good news.

Peter and one other disciple ran to see the empty tomb.

Move the disciple figures to look inside the tomb and then back to the basket.

Touch the Mary figure gently.

Place the Jesus figure behind Mary.

Turn Mary to face Jesus.

Touch the Jesus figure.

Smile as you touch the Jesus figure.

Move Mary back to the story basket.

After they saw the empty tomb, they believed; and then went back to their homes.

But Mary stood outside the tomb crying.

A man came up behind her.

She saw him and thought he was the gardener.

The man said, "Why are you crying?"

Mary said, "Because they have taken my Lord. Tell me where to find him."

Then the man said, "Mary."

And Mary knew at once that the man was Jesus.

She said, "Rabboni," which means teacher.

Then Jesus told her to go and tell the disciples what she had seen.

And Mary left to share the wonderful news again with the disciples.

WONDERING QUESTIONS:

I wonder how many people it would take to move the stone from the grave?

I wonder if the angel in the tomb was smiling?

I wonder if Jesus looked any different when Mary finally knew him?

Place the tomb and all the wooden figures into the story basket. Pick up the 7 cards and put them in the Lent-2 basket.

After speaking, stand and carry the story basket back to its shelf. Come back to the circle and carry the Lent-2 basket back to the worship shelf.

Be certain ALL children have had a chance to choose their work before dismissing the children.

Watch carefully how I put these materials away so you will know how to use them if you choose to make this story your work today or another day.

Watch carefully where I return this story so you will know where to find it if you choose to make this story your work today or another day.

I wonder what you will make your work today? Let's go around the circle and choose what each of us will do.

CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION TEACHER HELPS

This story has a slightly different format than all others I've included in this manual. In the decision to combine the crucifixion and resurrection story I've made some choices. The crucifixion piece of this story has no figures. I've used words only, very solemn and quiet words, to tell of the crucifixion and set the stage for the resurrection. I've done this primarily because I believe that we as Christians often make more of the crucifixion of Christ than we do of the resurrection. This is an attempt to say that what is important is not when or how or where Jesus died. It is not necessary to know who was there and who was not. Jesus did die. He was crucified. But what is important is the resurrection! The death of Christ was not the end, rather, it was the setting for the beginning.

Tell the first part of this story very simply. Use only a few body motions that come naturally to you. Then let your whole body come alive to tell the story of the resurrection. Let the difference in your body language as well as your voice celebrate the movement from death to life.

I've used three different readings of the crucifixion and resurrection story for the base of this lesson. I've done this to include several important aspects. Luke identifies three women, Matthew identifies two. John identifies one of the disciples who comes to the tomb as Peter, Luke and Matthew make no mention of the disciples coming to the tomb. Only John carries the story of the encounter between Mary Magdalene and Jesus. I've had to pick and choose those parts of the story I wanted to include and I know there are pieces I've left out. I think the story as it stands includes the basics of Jesus' death at the wishes of the people, his being laid in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, the visit of the women to the tomb to finish preparing the body, the empty tomb, the words of the angel, the news being given to the disciples and the appearance of Jesus to Mary Magdalene.

The center of the entire Easter story is the empty tomb. If there is one place to be joyful and filled with awe it's when you share the news of the empty tomb. This is common to all four gospels and is central to the theology of those who are called Christian.

The wondering questions begin with the thought that must have been on the minds of the three women who came to the tomb early that morning to finish anointing Jesus' body and making it ready for burial. Let the children wonder and guess. It would take at least two or three strong men, maybe more, to roll the heavy stone away from the front of the tomb.

The question about the angel smiling is a fun one to wonder about with children. I think YES!! The angel was bringing good news of new life, of hope in the face of death. There would not have been a sad demeanor, but one filled with joy and happiness. The powers of life had overcome the powers of evil and that is worth smiles and laughter and celebrations.

The final wondering question may bring silence for a bit. The children will process that in the story Mary first didn't recognize Jesus. Was it because he looked different? And yet if she thought he was a gardener, he must have looked like an ordinary person. Let the reflections and wonderment move through the circle, being supportive of each child as they comment.

You have the chance to share the central story of the faith of Christians. Prepare carefully and then let the joy of your own salvation move the words of this story into the lives of these children of God.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR OLDER CHILDREN:

Did anyone really believe Jesus would be raised from the dead?

In Matthew 28:4 there is reference made to Roman soldiers guarding Jesus' tomb. What would they have said about the happenings on Easter morning when they went home to their families? How might that have affected what they believed?

What was it about Jesus saying Mary's name that made her know who he was?

Why would Jesus choose to show himself to Mary and not his disciples?