

# A Good Shepherd Story of Jesus

## Herod, Meet Jesus

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## INTRODUCTION TO LENT

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 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 "The Tax Collector and the Pharisee" 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 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 which 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.

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 THREE

The medium Lent basket on the shelf contains:

- a set of 7 cards are used each week in the following order: .
  - a purple card with a palm branch silhouette
  - a purple card with a praying hands silhouette
  - a purple card with chalice and paten silhouette
  - a purple card with a gavel silhouette
  - a purple card with a robe silhouette
  - a purple card with a pitcher and basin silhouette
  - a white card with an empty tomb and cross silhouette

The story sets are used in the following order:

- Waving Palms basket
- The Tax Collector and the Pharisee basket
- The Last Supper basket
- Jesus is Put on Trial basket
- Herod, Meet Jesus basket
- Jesus Before Pilate basket
- Crucifixion and Resurrection basket

Items needed from the worship shelf for Lent:

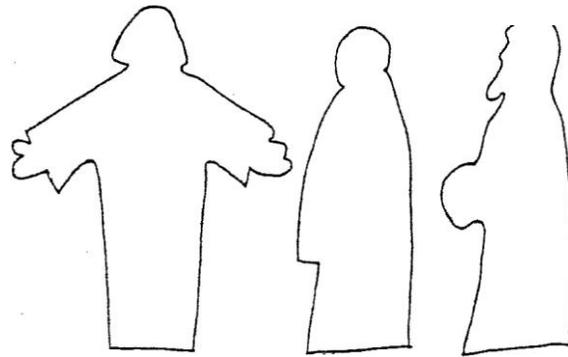
- chalice (for use with the Last Supper basket)\*
- paten (for use with the Last Supper basket)\*

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.

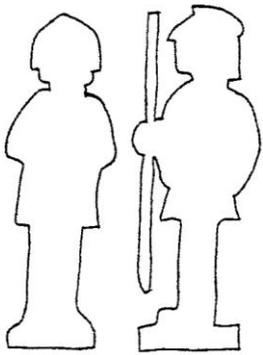
## HEROD, MEET JESUS .•• MATERIALS

- medium round wicker basket to hold:
  - wooden figure of Jesus
  - 2 wooden church leader figures
  - 2 wooden figures of Roman soldier
  - wooden Pilate figure
  - wooden Herod figure
  
- from worship shelf
  - Lent basket containing 7 cards



Jesus

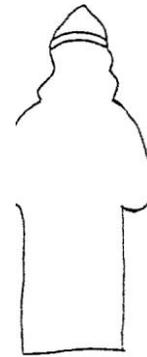
Church Leaders



Soldiers



Pilate



Herod

## HEROD, MEET JESUS ...

Luke 23:5-12

### ACTIONS

Without speaking, stand and get the story from its shelf. Return to the circle and sit down, placing the story basket next to you.

Reverently stroke one or more of the wooden figures to center yourself and the children.

Remove the six purple cards from the Lent-3 basket and lay them out in a straight line with the plain purple side showing, starting to your outer left.

Remove the white card from the Lent-3 basket and lay it next to the purple card closest to you with the plain white side showing.

Turn the first purple card over so the silhouette of the palm branch shows. Touch it reverently.

Turn the second purple card over so the silhouette of the praying hands shows. Touch it reverently.

Turn the third purple card over so the silhouette of the chalice and paten shows. Touch it reverently.

Turn the fourth purple card over so the silhouette of the gavel shows. Touch it reverently.

Turn the fifth purple card over to show the silhouette of the robe. Place the Jesus figure and the church leaders figures to one side.

### WORDS

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

All of the words to this story are inside of me. If you will make silence I will find all the words to this story of God's people.

These are Lent cards.

They will help us understand the stories we hear during Lent and make us ready for the time for which we are waiting ... Easter.

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 heard the parable of the tax collector and the Pharisee as they prayed.

The third week of Lent we heard how Jesus shared his last supper with his disciples.

The fourth week of Lent we learned about Jesus' trial at the home of the high priest.

This fifth week of Lent we will hear the story of how Jesus met Herod and what happened there.

Place the Pilate figure next to Jesus.

Touch the Pilate figure as you speak.

Rest your hand briefly on the church leaders.

Tap the Pilate figure gently, once or twice.

Touch the Jesus figure as you speak.

Place the Herod figure to the other side of the story telling area.

With an open hand, palm up, indicate the area to show that it is all Jerusalem.

Move the church leaders and Jesus closer to Herod.

Touch the Herod figure as you speak.

Lean forward and emphasize the word "miracle".

Place the Jesus figure and the church leaders figures next to Herod.

Move the Herod figure closer to Jesus.

Touch the Jesus figure briefly.

Touch the Herod figure, and make your voice more intense.

After the church leaders decided they wanted to kill Jesus, they brought him to Pilate, who was from Rome.

Pilate would decide if Jesus would live or die.

When Pilate couldn't find anything wrong with what Jesus had done, the leaders got angry.

They said. "He has been teaching and causing trouble everywhere. He started when he was in Galilee, and now he's causing trouble here."

When Pilate heard that Jesus was from Galilee, he decided to send him to another ruler.

Jesus wasn't from Jerusalem, which was Pilate's place to be in charge.

He was from Galilee. And Herod was in charge of Galilee.

Since it was Passover, Herod was in Jerusalem for the feast and celebration.

So Pilate told the priests and other church leaders to take Jesus to Herod.

Herod had heard a lot about Jesus. He wanted to meet him.

He thought perhaps Jesus would do a miracle for him.

Herod was glad when Jesus was brought to his house.

He started asking Jesus many questions.

Each time Herod asked a question, Jesus said nothing.

When Jesus wouldn't speak or do any miracles, Herod became angry.

Move the church leaders closer to Herod.

Place a soldier next to Herod.

Shake your head and speak sadly.

Pantomime putting a robe on the Jesus figure.

Hold one hand out slightly, palm down, and wave the figures back toward Pilate.

Move the Jesus figure and church leader figures back toward Pilate.

Place Pilate and Herod close together in the center of the story telling area.

Carefully place the figures one at a time in the basket.

Without speaking, stand and return the story to the shelf.

Return to the circle and sit down. Be sure to give every child an opportunity to choose his or her work before dismissing the group.

Then the church leaders stood up and told Herod that Jesus had done many bad things.

So Herod and his soldiers made fun of Jesus.

They said terrible things to him.

Then they took a beautiful robe and put it on Jesus and laughed at him

After that Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate.

Up until that time Herod and Pilate had been enemies.

But after they both judged Jesus, they became friends.

### **WONDERING QUESTIONS:**

I wonder why Pilate wanted Herod to decide what should happen to Jesus?

I wonder what Herod thought Jesus would do'?

I wonder how Jesus felt when Herod and the soldiers made fun of him?

I wonder why Pilate and Herod became friends after they met with Jesus?

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

Watch carefully where I return this story. That way you will be able to find it if you choose to make it your work today or another day.

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

## HEROD, MEET JESUS ... TEACHER HELPS

Only in the gospel of Luke do we find the story of Jesus being brought before Herod. At first, it makes sense to us as readers. Pilate was uncomfortable making the decision that Jesus was not guilty because so many opposed his decision. Therefore he was probably happy to think about sending Jesus to Herod. After all, Herod was the tetrarch who ruled over the northern area, including Galilee. Yet Pilate, in truth, would probably have been unwilling to give up such power to another ruler. There is some speculation that this story was added later to fulfill the prophecy of Psalm 2:2, "kings ... set themselves, and the rulers take counsel against the Lord and his anointed." (Interpreters, p. 703)

There is, however, probably a good deal of truth in the statement that Herod was anxious to meet Jesus. He had heard a great deal about the radical young man from Galilee. He had heard tales of miracles and was curious. He probably believed that his position of power would allow him to demand a miracle of Jesus, or at the very least, answers to the many questions Herod wanted to ask Jesus. Imagine Herod's anger when Jesus not only did not perform on command, but refused to even answer the questions put to him by Herod.

Herod's response was that of someone who is used to having power over others. When he failed to get what he wanted from Jesus, he resorted to trying to make Jesus look foolish. The Bible tells us that Herod and the soldiers mocked Jesus, poking fun at him. No doubt they wished to make him angry enough to say something. Finally they put a beautiful robe on him. They were treating him, mockingly, like a king. If Herod could not control Jesus, then he would try to demean him.

Finally Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate. But notice, there is no guilty verdict that accompanied Jesus back to Pilate. Scholars believe that Herod agreed with Pilate that there was no guilt in Jesus. Perhaps that is the reason the two of them became friends. They recognized that the other person had authority, and the response of each was the same.

Our first wondering question asks why Pilate wanted Herod to judge Jesus. The children will probably figure out that it would be hard to be Pilate. Some of them will say that Pilate wanted Herod to judge Jesus so nobody would get angry with Pilate. Others may say that Pilate didn't know what to do.

The second wondering question asks the children what they think Herod thought Jesus would do. Would he provide food, like he did when he fed 5000 people? Or would he turn the water to wine? The children will probably come up with something fantastic. Miracles hold special meaning for children who still believe that anything is possible. Remember that when they respond, and be open to whatever comes into their minds.

When we wonder how Jesus felt as the others were making fun of him, most children will respond from their own experiences. Nearly every child has had someone make fun of him or her at some time in their life. It is always a hurtful experience. So I believe most of the children will say that

Jesus felt sad or hurt or angry. Some of the older children may say that Jesus understood that this would happen when he knew he would die. Be especially aware of hurt in the children's lives through this question.

Our final wondering question asks why Herod and Pilate became friends after the trial. Some children will say it's because they both thought the same thing. Others may say that it's because the church leaders got a bit angry with both of them. And still others may say that it's because they were nice to each other. But don't be surprised if they struggle with this one. There's so little information that we really can't build the groundwork for much speculation. But that's part of the fun, and learning, that happens with wondering questions.

### **SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR OLDER CHILDREN:**

Think of the last time you had a job you really didn't want to do. What would you have done to pass that job off to someone else?

Think of a time that you and someone you knew only slightly worked together on something unpleasant. Did it change your relationship? Why is it that doing hard work brings people closer together?

Imagine that you were God watching what happened to Jesus. What would you have been thinking?