

# The Mystery of Easter

**Lent is the season when we prepare for Easter.** These six weeks are a solemn time, overflowing with meaning, inviting us to explore both the limits of our humanity and the sacrifice of Christ. This Godly Play presentation introduces the relationship of Lent to the Mystery of Easter. This introductory lesson will be followed by a series of lessons on the Faces of Easter, lasting throughout Lent.

## 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 lesson. 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. Whether you read the lesson or simply listen as your child shares what was received in today’s presentation, ask the Wondering questions printed in the left column. Remember, there are many right answers! Be open to what these presentations can mean to you and your child. God will teach you new meanings every day. You could conclude by sitting quietly for a moment and then saying “Amen.”

## The Presentation

Now is the time for preparing for the coming of a King and his going and his coming again. We are preparing for the Mystery of Easter.

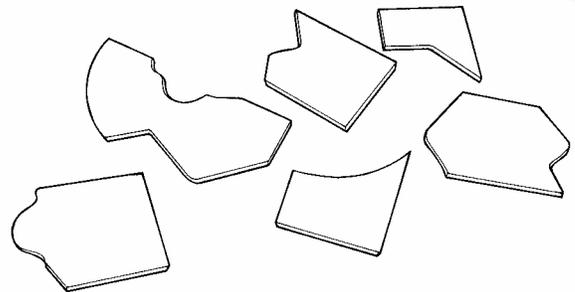
This is a serious time.

It takes many weeks to

get ready to enter the Mystery of Easter. Let’s look at the illustration to see how many weeks it takes and what Lent makes when it is all put together.

I wonder what this could be? (*Point to one of the puzzle pieces in the illustration above.*)

Here is a second piece. (*Point to a second puzzle piece.*) I wonder what this could be?



# Wondering

- **I wonder** what part of Lent you like best?
- **I wonder** what part of Lent is the most important?
- **I wonder** how sadness and happiness can make joy?

Here's a third piece. (*Point to a third piece.*) They are all so different.

Here is a fourth piece. (*Point to a fourth piece.*) One, two, three, four weeks in Lent? That's the same as the time for getting ready for Christmas. Perhaps that is all we need for Easter, too.

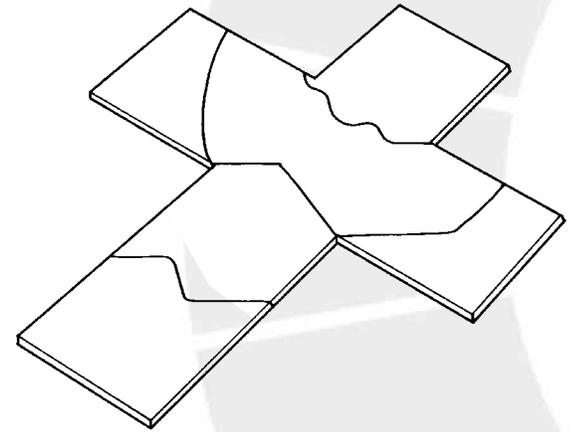
But here's another piece. (*Point to a fifth piece.*) Lent is longer than Advent. The Mystery of Easter is an even greater mystery than the Mystery of Christmas, so it must take longer to get ready.

Yes, there's another piece. (*Point to the sixth and final piece.*) The time of Lent is six weeks.

Easter is a huge mystery. Lent helps us to get ready. It is a time to know more about the One who is Easter. It is also a time to learn more about ourselves.

I wonder what all these pieces make when you put them all together? Oh, I see. It makes the cross. (*Point to the illustration of the assembled cross, above.*) It is also sad. Jesus grew up to be a man and died on the cross. That is sad, but it is also wonderful.

Jesus died on the cross, but somehow he is still with us. That is why Easter is more than happy. It is joyful. Easter turns everything inside out and upside down. The sad seriousness and happiness join together to make joy.



## Godly Play The Wondering

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

At the conclusion of most (though not all) Godly Play presentations, the storyteller invites the children to wonder together about the lesson. Each kind of Godly Play presentation (sacred stories, parables and liturgical actions) has its own type of wondering questions:

- *Sacred stories* are stories that invite us to claim our identity as one of God's People. An important wondering question

for sacred stories is, "I wonder where you are in this story, or what part of this story is about you?"

- *Parables* are brief narratives that challenge our everyday view of life. An important wondering question for parables is, "I wonder what this seed (pearl, tree, etc.) could really be?"
- *Liturgical action presentations* invite us to integrate our life with the worship of the Christian people. An important wondering question for liturgical actions is, "I wonder if you have ever come close to this color (water, light, etc.) in church?"