

The Crosses

Godly Play teachers save this lesson for the time when a child decides to “make a cross” for his or her art response. When a child says, “I’m going to make a cross,” a teacher responds, “Which one?” A teachable moment has arrived!

This lesson is also useful when a child cannot think of anything at all to make, even “a cross.” A teacher will get the basket of crosses and begin to wonder with him or her about what they all mean and who made them. This can lead to the child making a cross that is just right for his or her life.

You’ll note that the presentation below not only invites children to respond to the crosses in the illustrations, but also to crosses you may have at home (artwork, jewelry, etc.). Many of these may not at first be obvious—on the front of a family Bible, incorporated into other artwork, the back of a chair, a windowpane, etc.

Your child will also have created his or her own cross following the Godly Play presentation. You will invite your child to tell you about that cross as well.

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:

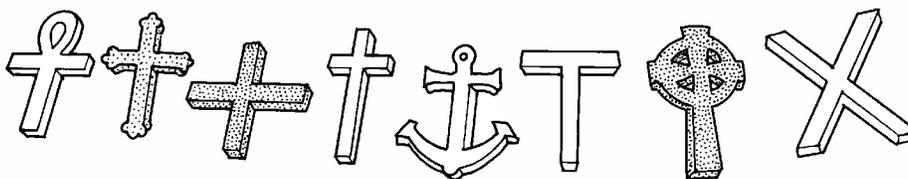
- I wonder what you can tell me about these pictures?
- I wonder what these pictures have to do with today’s story?

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 to the presentation. Again, your role is not to correct or supplement what your child tells you, but simply to *listen*. 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 the presentation can mean to you and your child. God will teach you new meanings every day. Conclude by sitting quietly for a moment and then saying “Amen.”

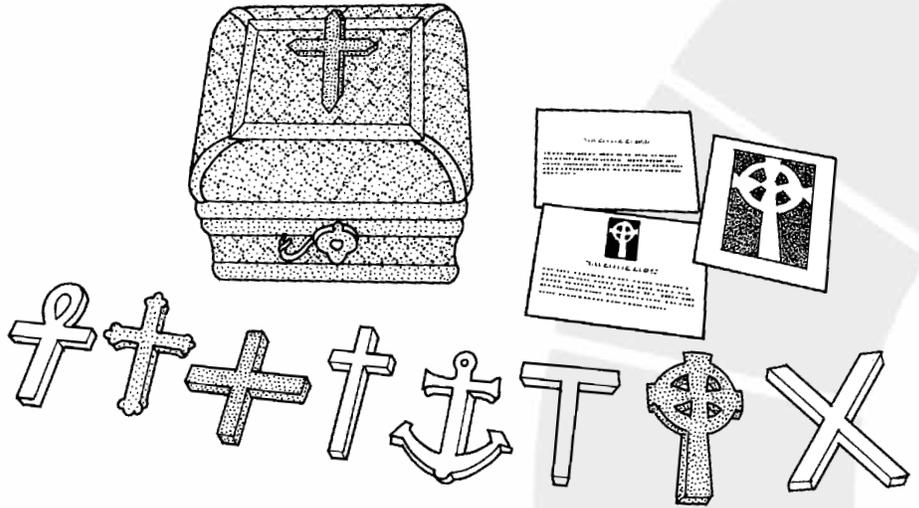
The Presentation



Look at all these crosses. Do you see the differences between them? I wonder what the differences mean? I wonder if there is a story behind each cross?

Wondering

- **I wonder** which cross you like best?
- **I wonder** which is the most important cross?
- **I wonder** which cross is specially for you?



I wonder what those stories might be? The cross has a lot to do with the Mystery of Easter.

Did you make a cross in your Godly Play classroom? What you can tell me about the cross you made?

What crosses do we have here at home? Shall we look for them together? Why don't we see how many we can find.

Godly Play Maria Montessori

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

Godly Play uses play, ritual and stories to invite children into the presence of God to create meaning and direction for their lives. It is more like ancient storytelling around a campfire than modern schooling. Sadly, modern children are losing their ability to be good listeners because they are taught to listen passively by television and other means.

The Montessori method has been adopted and adapted to teach children how to be more active, creative and self-directed in their listening, and how to do this while participating in a community of wondering children in the circle.

Maria Montessori (1870-1952) revolutionized the education of young children by her commitment to creating appropriate educational environments, materials and methods that honor the natural development of the child.