

The Synagogue and the Upper Room

The first part of this Godly Play presentation evokes the liturgy of the word, which the Christian church developed from the readings and the discussions about them in the Jewish synagogue. The second part of the presentation evokes the liturgy of the table, which Jesus instituted during the Last Supper in the upper room. In the Godly Play classroom, the synagogue and upper room are joined together to form a model of Christian worship and much more.

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. 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 presentation or simply listen as your child shares what was received in today’s lesson, ask the Wondering questions printed in the left column. Conclude by sitting quietly for a moment and then saying “Amen.”

The Presentation

This is like the synagogue in the village of Nazareth, where Jesus grew up. (*Indicate the illustration right.*)

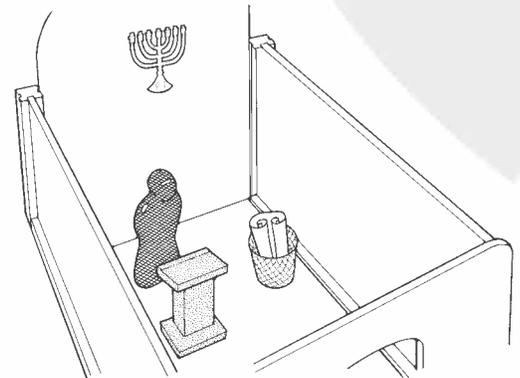
After Jesus came back from the desert and the river Jordan, he came home to Nazareth.

Jesus went to the synagogue as was his custom. He went to the reading place and unrolled the scroll of Isaiah.

This is what he read: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

Jesus rolled up the scroll and sat down. He said, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing. It has come true.”

The people heard what Jesus said and became angry. Wasn’t this Mary and Joseph’s son? He is not the Messiah!



Wondering

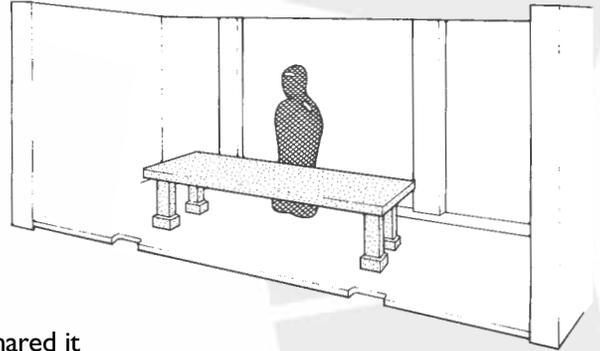
- **I wonder** if you have ever come close to a place like this?
- **I wonder** why people come here?
- **I wonder** how the words and the bread and wine come together?

They took Jesus to the edge of the village where there was a cliff. They wanted to throw him off, but he walked back through the crowd and into the hills.

Many days went by. Jesus gathered the Twelve. He did his work. Then he turned toward Jerusalem for the last time. He taught in the temple.

Thursday evening Jesus and the Twelve went through the dark and narrow streets. They climbed upstairs in a house. They went into the upper room and shared their last supper together.

After they had eaten everything they wanted to eat, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God for it, broke it and shared it

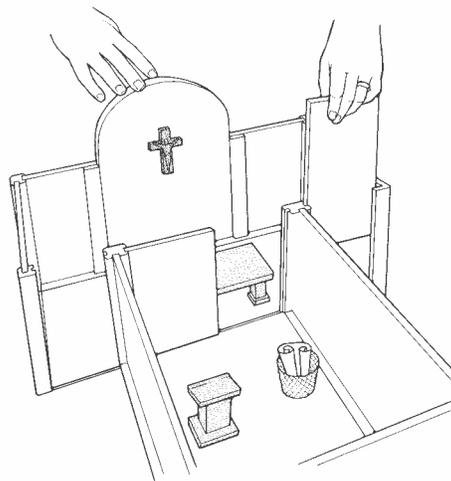


with the Twelve.

Then he said something like, “When you share the bread like this, I will be there.” But he was there!

Then he took a cup of wine, gave thanks to God for it and shared it with them. He said something like, “When you share the wine like this, I will be there.” He was always saying things like that. What could he mean? They did not understand at first, but they did not forget. Later they would understand. And we can too.

I wonder what this could be? (*Indicate the drawing of the assembled church, left.*)



Godly Play The Silent Child

In every Parent Page, we offer information about Godly Play to help you understand both its methodology and purpose. Today we look at the second of three key concepts that children teach us about God: in our journey of life and death, *nonverbal communication is crucial for knowing God*.

It is the silent child who teaches (Matthew 18:1-5; Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-48). Adults

learn from children, not from what children say, but from how they are. *A child teaches by being a child*. What adults need from children is the renewal of their nonverbal powers of communication. Since human spirituality is one of our nonverbal powers of communication, the appreciation of a child’s basic nature is deeply important for the development of adult maturity.