

LESSON 6

MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS (LUKE 1:26-34, LUKE 2:1-20, MATTHEW 1:18-25, LUKE 2:21-52, LUKE 4:16-30, JOHN 2:1-12, MATTHEW 12:46-50, JOHN 19:25-27)

- SACRED STORY
- EXTENSION OF "THE GREATEST PARABLE" AND "FACES OF EASTER, PART 1"

THE MATERIAL

- LOCATION: NEW TESTAMENT SACRED STORY SHELF, SECOND SHELF, UNDER THE GREATEST PARABLE
- PIECES: ANGEL PLAQUE, WOODEN CHRIST CHILD IN A MANGER, CRUCIFIX, TOMB, WOODEN FIRE IMAGE, SILK FORGET-ME-NOTS
- UNDERLAY: STRIP OF BLUE FELT

BACKGROUND

God chose Mary to be the Mother of God when she was a young teenager. Joseph and Mary raised the baby and Mary was present during Jesus' life and death. Legends beginning about the second century tell us that her mother's name was Anne and her father's name was Joachim. Mary's story parallels the stories of divine intervention in the birth of Isaac to Sarah, and Samuel to Hannah (a Hebrew form of Anne).

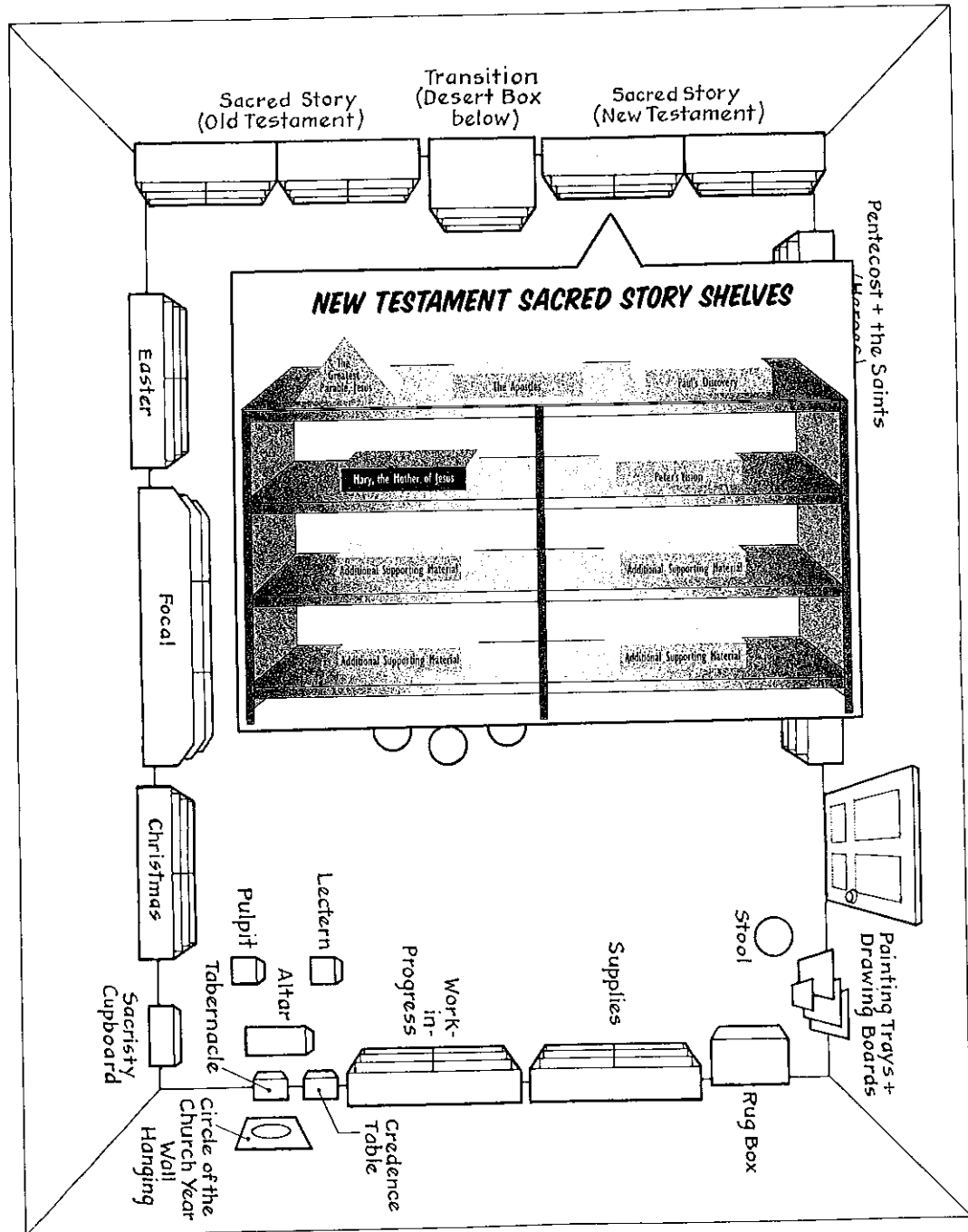
NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

This lesson is kept in a wooden tray, like other stories that are extensions of Core stories. The story icon is an image of Mary holding the infant Jesus. The underlay is a strip of blue felt. Each object in the story is approximately the same size (no more than 4 inches high and wide). The story calls for the following objects: an angel image, a wooden Christ child in a manger (like in "The Holy Family"), a scroll of Isaiah (like in "The Synagogue and the Upper Room"), a crucifix, an empty tomb, a red flame made of wood to represent the Holy Spirit, and silk forget-me-nots. The control for the lesson is placed in the bottom of the tray for the children to use to check their work to be sure that the sequence of the story is right, because when you change the sequence, you change the story.

SPECIAL NOTES

This story can be told any time during the church year, but is especially appropriate during the seasons of Advent or Lent.

WHERE TO FIND MATERIALS



MOVEMENTS

Move slowly with deliberation to the shelf where the material waits.

Pick up the tray containing the materials and return to the circle. You may need to say, depending on the day:

Remove the underlay from the tray. Unroll it from your right to left, leaving enough room for the first object to be placed on it. (Continue to unroll the underlay a little at a time, as each subsequent object is laid on it.)

WORDS

Watch. Watch where I go.

When Mary was a little girl, she wondered what it would be like when she was all grown up. The years went by and one day something happened that no one could explain.

Object #1: angel image

The angel Gabriel came to her and said, "God has chosen you to be the Mother of God."
But what did that mean?
She was about to be married to a wonderful man, who was a carpenter in Nazareth.
His name was Joseph.

Object #2: the baby Jesus in a manger

Then, the angel came to Joseph and said that Mary was going to have a baby, and that the baby was God.
Now Joseph was confused, too.
But Joseph and Mary were married anyway, and the baby was born.
They named him *Jesus*.

Many more things happened that were hard to understand. When Jesus was just eight days old they took him to the Temple in Jerusalem to present him to God, as was the custom.

Old Simeon was there waiting.

When he saw Jesus he said something like this, "Now I can die. I have seen the Messiah."

When Jesus was about twelve, Mary and Joseph lost him in Jerusalem, but found him in the Temple. He said, "Didn't you know that I would be in my father's house?" But Joseph's house was in Nazareth, where the carpenter's shop was. The boy became more confusing as he grew to be a man.

MOVEMENTS

Object #3: the Scroll of Isaiah

Object #4: the crucifix

Object #5: the empty tomb

Object #6: the flames

WORDS

When he began to teach, he returned to his home synagogue and read from the scroll of Isaiah about the coming of the Messiah.

He then said that he was the One.

Mary must have remembered the angel Gabriel, but the people of Nazareth were angry. They tried to throw him off a cliff.

At a wedding he changed the water into wine and another time Mary and his brothers came to see him when he was teaching. He said that those who followed him were his family, not them. Now his brothers were confused, too.

- ❖ Then Jesus went to Jerusalem for the last time, and Mary was there. When they put him on the cross, she stood watching, probably standing near John. People have written beautiful and sad music about this. It is called the *Stabat Mater*, because the Mother was just standing there. What was she thinking?

Then, Jesus lifted his head and spoke to her. "Woman, behold your son!" He then said to a disciple, "Behold, your mother!"

The disciple, who was probably John, took her into his own home and cared for her in her old age.

When they took Jesus down from the cross, Mary was still there. Sometimes you will see a statue or a painting of Mary holding Jesus in her lap. It is called a *Pieta*, which means pity and a kind devotion. That is how she felt.

- ❖ The next day was very quiet and empty for Mary. Then, on Sunday, the first Easter, she and the other women walked slowly back to the place where Jesus had been put in the tomb. She needed to be close to him. They found that the stone had been rolled away and that somehow Jesus was still with them, as he is with us today.

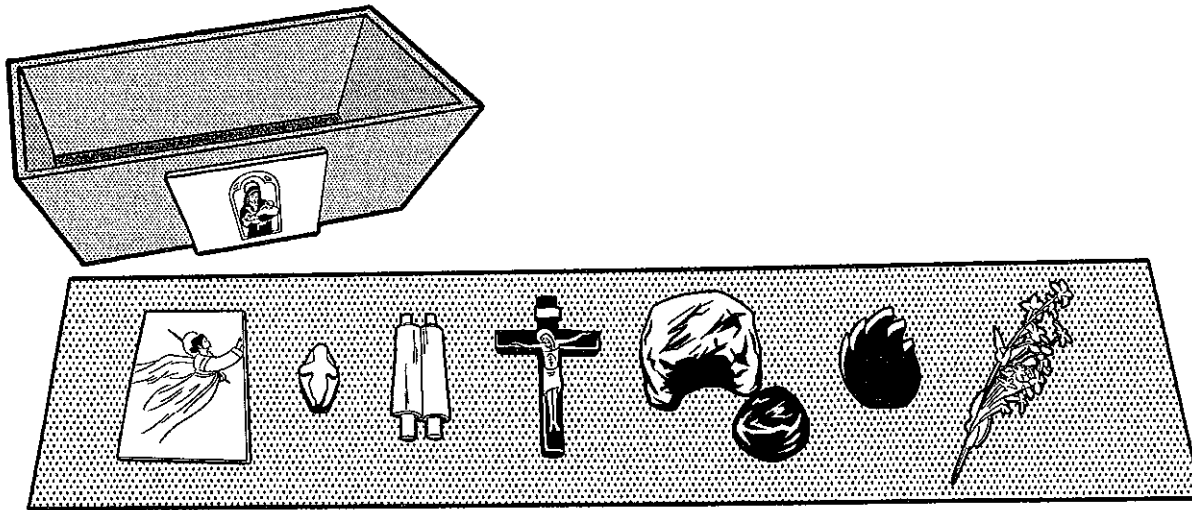
- ❖ When the disciples returned from Mount Olivet after Jesus ascended, Mary and his brothers were with them. They waited in the upper room with the others. Mary was there a week later when the sound of the mighty wind filled the room and the Holy Spirit came like fire.

No one knows when Mary died or was buried, but she was truly the Mother of God. When she was all grown up, she kept on growing. People still feel close to her. They name churches after her and make pilgrimages to places where she seems especially close.

MOVEMENTS

WORDS

Object #7: *The blue, silk forget-me-nots* This is one of those stories, then, that never ends, so instead of ending it we will put down some of Mary's flowers. They are called forget-me-nots. She will never be forgotten.



COMPLETE LAYOUT OF THE STORY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS

I wonder what part of this story you liked the best?

I wonder what part of this story is the most important?

I wonder what part is about you, or is especially for you?

I wonder if we can leave out any of the story and still have all that we need?

Name each object and say a brief word about it as you place it back on the tray. For example: "Here is the red flame that reminds us that Mary was there when the Holy Spirit came." Roll up the underlay carefully and place it on the tray, then return the story to its place on the shelf.

Return to the circle and begin to guide the children as they choose their work.