

LESSON 11

THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE UPPER ROOM

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: THE HOLY WORD AND THE HOLY TABLE

- LITURGICAL ACTION
- CORE PRESENTATION

THE MATERIAL

- LOCATION: EASTER SHELVES
- PIECES: MODEL OF A SYNAGOGUE, SCROLL, BASKET, LECTERN, FIGURE OF JESUS, MODEL OF THE UPPER ROOM, TABLE
- UNDERLAY: NONE

BACKGROUND

The first part of the presentation evokes the Liturgy of the Word, which the Christian Church developed from the readings of 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. The synagogue and upper room are joined together to form a model of Christian worship, the joining of the Old and New Testaments, and much more.

The event in the synagogue is based mainly on Luke 4:16-30, but there are overtones of Mark 6:1-6 and Matthew 13:53-58. Luke tells the larger story, but Matthew and Mark have the famous saying about a prophet being without honor in his own country and in his own house.

Note: This lesson was suggested by the work of Sofia Cavalletti. The reader should be aware, however, that both the teaching material and the lesson are substantially changed and put to a different use in *Godly Play* than in her work. Please see *The Complete Guide to Godly Play, Volume 1*, Chapter 6, pp. 86-107, "Entering the Tradition," for further information.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

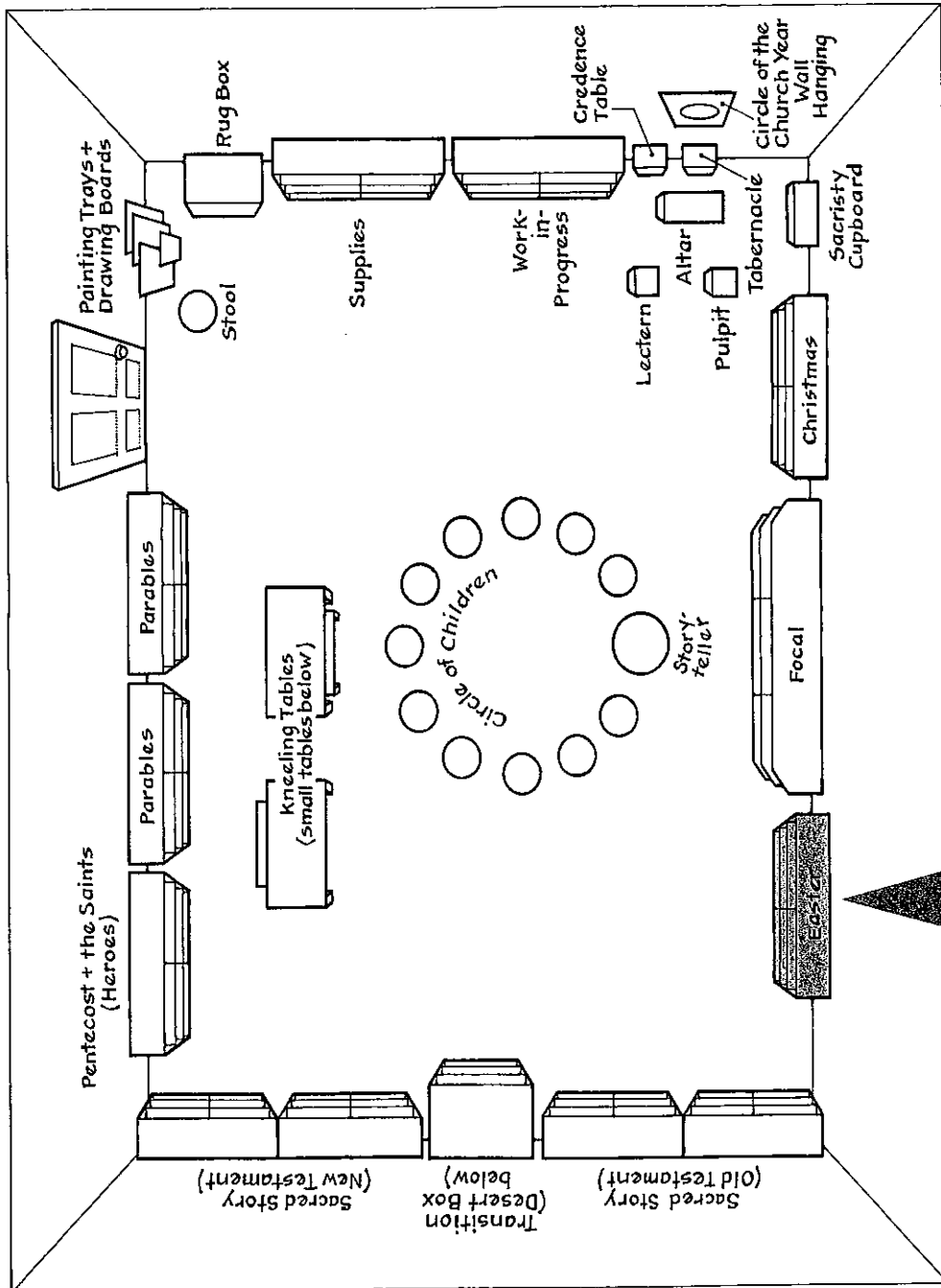
Find this material on the far right of the top shelf of the Easter shelves, to the right of the material for the Faces of Easter. The material has two main parts, a model of a synagogue and a model of the upper room.

The synagogue model includes a basket with a scroll in it and a lectern from which the scroll is read. On the scroll is written Isaiah 4:18-19. The back wall of the synagogue is made up of three pieces that can be removed. The outer piece of the back wall has a menorah on one side and a cross on the other. The two inner pieces of the back wall will form two walls of the finished building made by joining the synagogue to the upper room.

The model of the upper room has a table in it. There is also a cast metal figure of Jesus, used in both the synagogue and the upper room. On the shelf, this figure can be left standing in the upper room. There are no figures for the synagogue congregation or for the Twelve, because in this presentation the focus is entirely on Jesus.

SPECIAL NOTES

Storytelling Tip: When telling this story, be careful with your movements, especially when lifting the two back pieces from the synagogue wall. It's easy to knock them down with a loud clatter and disrupt the mood of the lesson.



WHERE TO FIND MATERIALS

MOVEMENTS

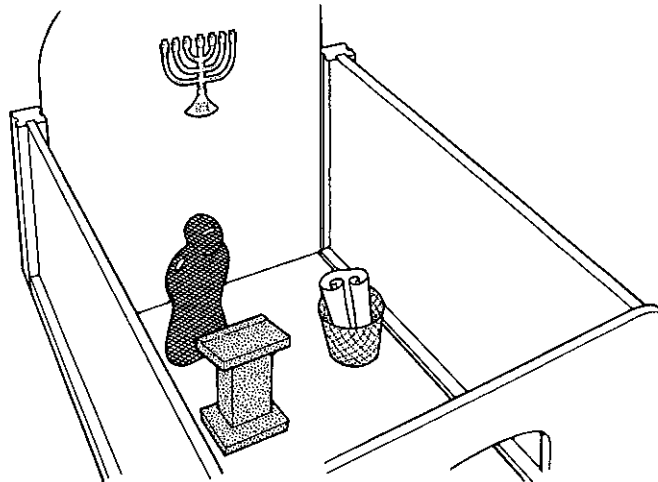
When the children are settled in the circle, get the model of the synagogue, the model of the upper room and the figure of Jesus. Move the synagogue into the circle of children. The cross on the back wall is hidden, facing you. The menorah on the back wall is toward the children.

WORDS

☛ This is the synagogue in the village of Nazareth, where Jesus grew up.

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

Place the Jesus figure in the model ☛ Jesus went to the synagogue as was his custom. He went to the reading place and unrolled the scroll of Isaiah.



THE SYNAGOGUE (CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVE)

Unroll the scroll that is in the basket ☛ This is what he read:
and read from it. This is Luke 4:18-19.

“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 recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Jesus rolled up the scroll and sat down. When they began to discuss the reading, he said something like, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing. It has come true.”

MOVEMENTS

Move the Jesus figure out from the synagogue to stand in front of it.

Remove the Jesus figure and place it beside you.

Move the upper room model into the middle of the circle of children and place it beside the synagogue model. Put the Jesus figure behind the table in the middle.

WORDS

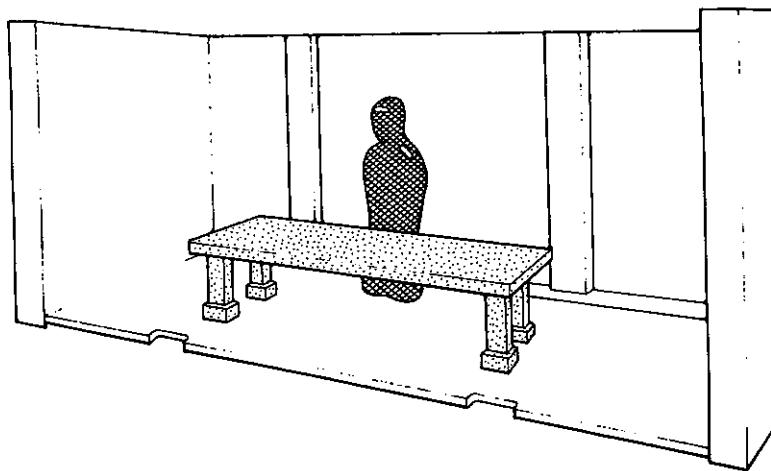
The people heard what Jesus said and became angry. He is not the Messiah! They knew who he was. He was Mary and Joseph's son.

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. He gathered the Twelve. He did his work. Then he turned to Jerusalem for the last time. Jesus and the Twelve came into the city on a Sunday. He taught in the Temple on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday, the temple guards could not find him.

That 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.



THE UPPER ROOM (CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVE)

After they had eaten everything they wanted to eat, Jesus did something very strange. He 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!

Note: This lesson was suggested by the work of Sofia Cavalletti. The reader should be aware, however, that both the teaching material and the lesson are substantially changed and put to a different use in Godly Play than in her work. Please see *The Complete Guide to Godly Play, Volume 1, Chapter 6, pp. 86-107*, "Entering the Tradition," for further information.

The event in the synagogue is based mainly on Luke 4:16-30, but there are overtones of Mark 6:1-6 and Matthew 13:53-58. Luke tells the larger story, but Matthew and Mark have the famous saying about a prophet being without honor in his own country and in his own house.

The first part of the presentation evokes the Liturgy of the Word, which the Christian Church developed from the readings of 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. The synagogue and upper room are joined together to form a model of Christian worship, the joining of the Old and New Testaments, and much more.

BACKGROUND

● UNDERLAY: NONE

JESUS, MODEL OF THE UPPER ROOM, TABLE

● PIECES: MODEL OF A SYNAGOGUE, SCROLL, BASKET, LECTERN, FIGURE OF

● LOCATION: EASTER SHELVES

THE MATERIAL

● CORE PRESENTATION

● LITURGICAL ACTION

FOCUS: THE HOLY WORD AND THE HOLY TABLE

LESSON NOTES

THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE UPPER ROOM

LESSON II

Find this material on the far right of the top shelf of the Easter shelves, to the right of the material for the Faces of Easter. The material has two main parts, a model of a synagogue and a model of the upper room.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

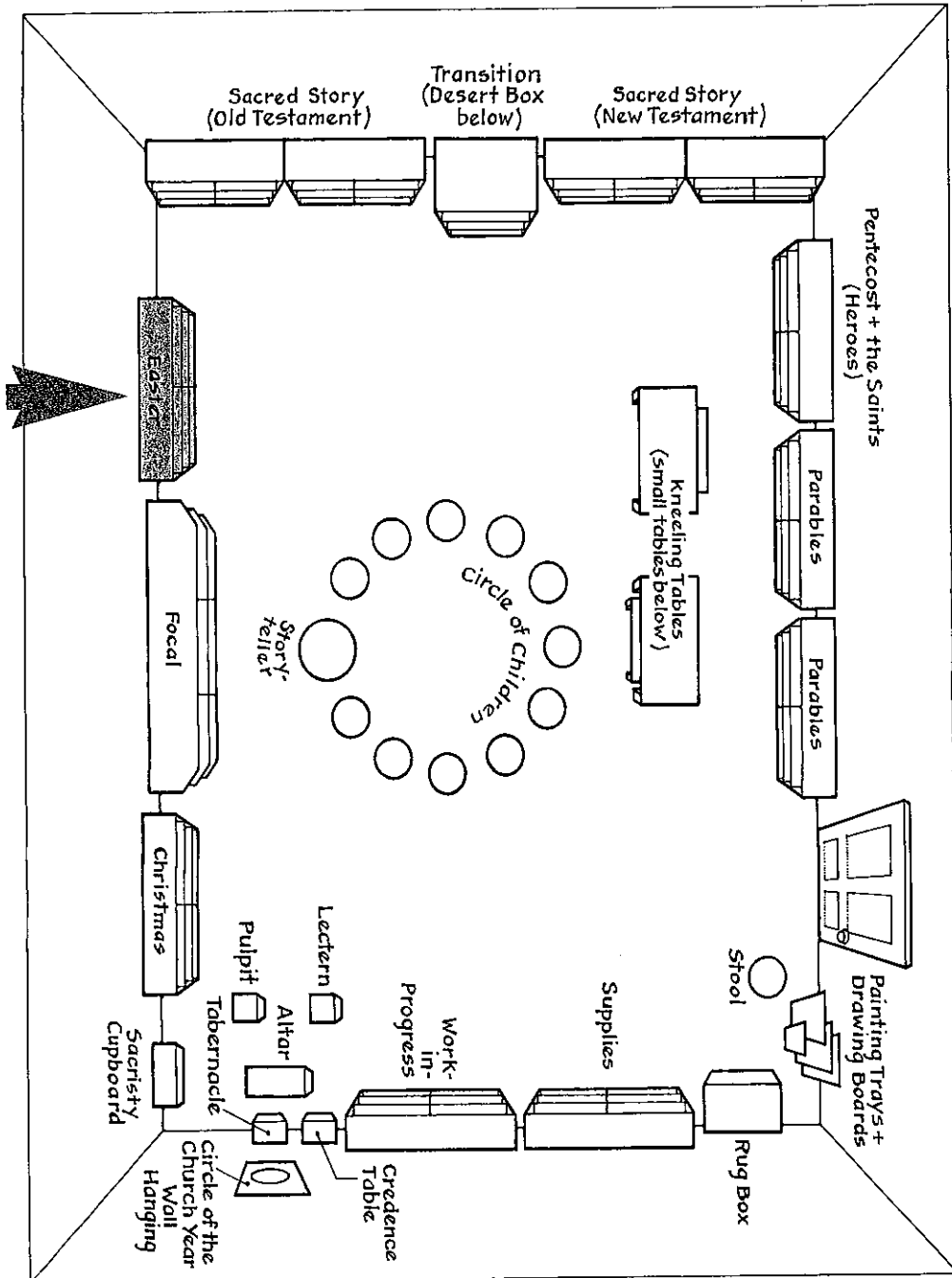
The synagogue model includes a basket with a scroll in it and a lectern from which the scroll is read. On the scroll is written Isaiah 4:18-19. The back wall of the synagogue is made up of three pieces that can be removed. The outer piece of the back wall has a menorah on one side and a cross on the other. The two inner pieces of the back wall will form two walls of the finished building made by joining the synagogue to the upper room.

The model of the upper room has a table in it. There is also a cast metal figure of Jesus, used in both the synagogue and the upper room. On the shelf, this figure can be left standing in the upper room. There are no figures for the synagogue congregation or for the Twelve, because in this presentation the focus is entirely on Jesus.

SPECIAL NOTES

Storytelling Tip: When telling this story, be careful with your movements, especially when lifting the two back pieces from the synagogue wall. It's easy to knock them down with a loud clatter and disrupt the mood of the lesson.

WHERE TO FIND MATERIALS



THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE UPPER ROOM

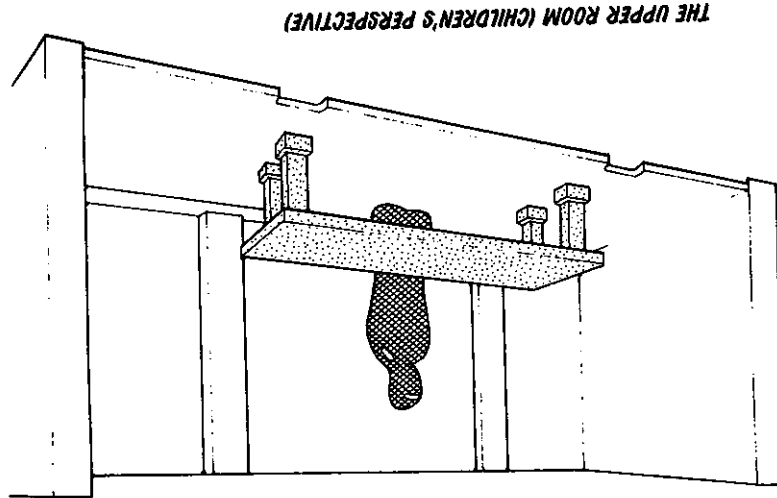
The people heard what Jesus said and became angry. He is not the Messiah! They knew who he was. He was Mary and Joseph's son.

☞ 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. Remove the Jesus figure and place it beside you.

Many days went by. He gathered the Twelve. He did his work. Then he turned to Jerusalem for the last time. Jesus and the Twelve came into the city on a Sunday. He taught in the Temple on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday, the temple guards could not find him.

☞ That 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. Move the upper room model into the middle of the circle of children and place it beside the synagogue model. Put the Jesus figure behind the table in the middle.



After they had eaten everything they wanted to eat, Jesus did something very strange. He took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God for it, broke it and shared it with the Twelve.

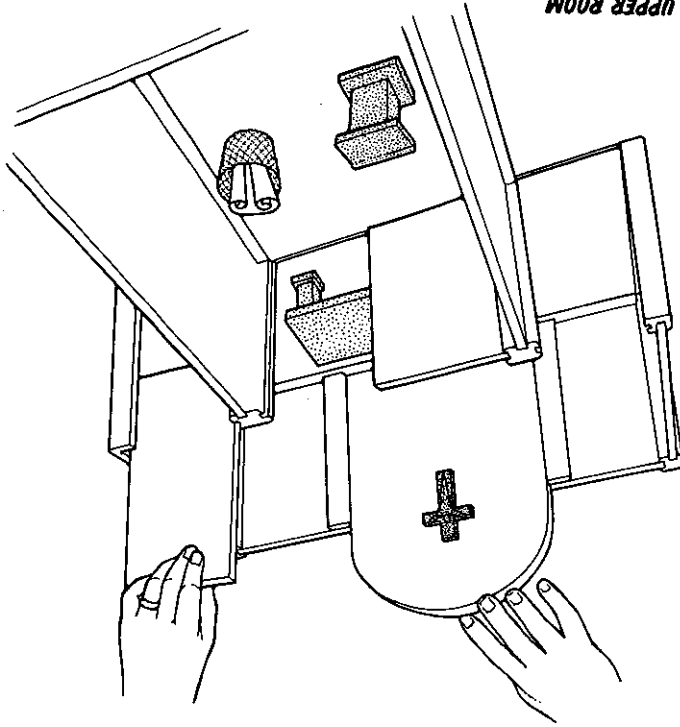
Then he said something like, "When you share the bread like this, I will be there."

But he was there!

WORDS

MOVEMENTS

CHANGING THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE UPPER ROOM INTO THE CHURCH (CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVE)



Take the two remaining panels that make up the inner back wall of the synagogue and slide one into each of the slots formed by the inner front edges of the upper room and the outer back edges of the synagogue. This makes two models into one model of a cross-shaped church.

Move the synagogue model around in front of the upper room, with its back wall touching the front edge of the upper room. Take the outer piece of the back wall of the synagogue off. Turn it around, so the cross faces the children. Slide it onto the center back wall of the upper room.

Now watch carefully.

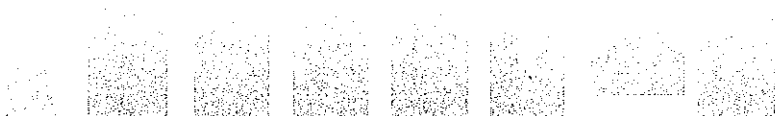
He was always saying things like that. What could he mean? They did not understand at first, but they did not forget. Later they would understand.

Then he said something like, "When you share the wine like this, I will be there."

Then he took a cup of wine, gave thanks to God for it and shared it with them.

WORDS

MOVEMENTS



MOVEMENTS

WORDS

Trace the structure with your finger. ☉ Look. I wonder what this could be?

Point to the reading lectern. Point to ☉ Hmm.

Trace the areas of the synagogue and the upper room and then trace the whole structure again. Do not say anything. Let the children make the discoveries.

If they do not say anything aloud, continue to wonder silently and then begin to put the material away. ☉ Now watch carefully where I go to put this away, so you will always know where to find it.

Return to the circle, then turn the children's attention toward getting out their own work.