

ENRICHMENT LESSON

THE CROSSES

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: EXPLORING A SACRED SYMBOL

- **LITURGICAL ACTION**
- **ENRICHMENT PRESENTATION**

THE MATERIAL

- **LOCATION: EASTER SHELVES**
- **PIECES: COLLECTION OF CROSSES IN A CONTAINER; OPTIONAL: CARDS TO NAME AND EXPLAIN THE CROSSES**
- **UNDERLAY: NONE (USE A RUG.)**

BACKGROUND

Save this lesson for the time when a child decides to "make a cross" for his or her art response. It's great fun to hold this in reserve for such an occasion, because when a child says, "I'm going to make a cross," you can say, "Which one?" The teachable moment has arrived!

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

The cross lesson can be started quickly and put away quickly. It can take as long as the child wants to work on it. You can present this to an individual child, without introducing it through a group lesson.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

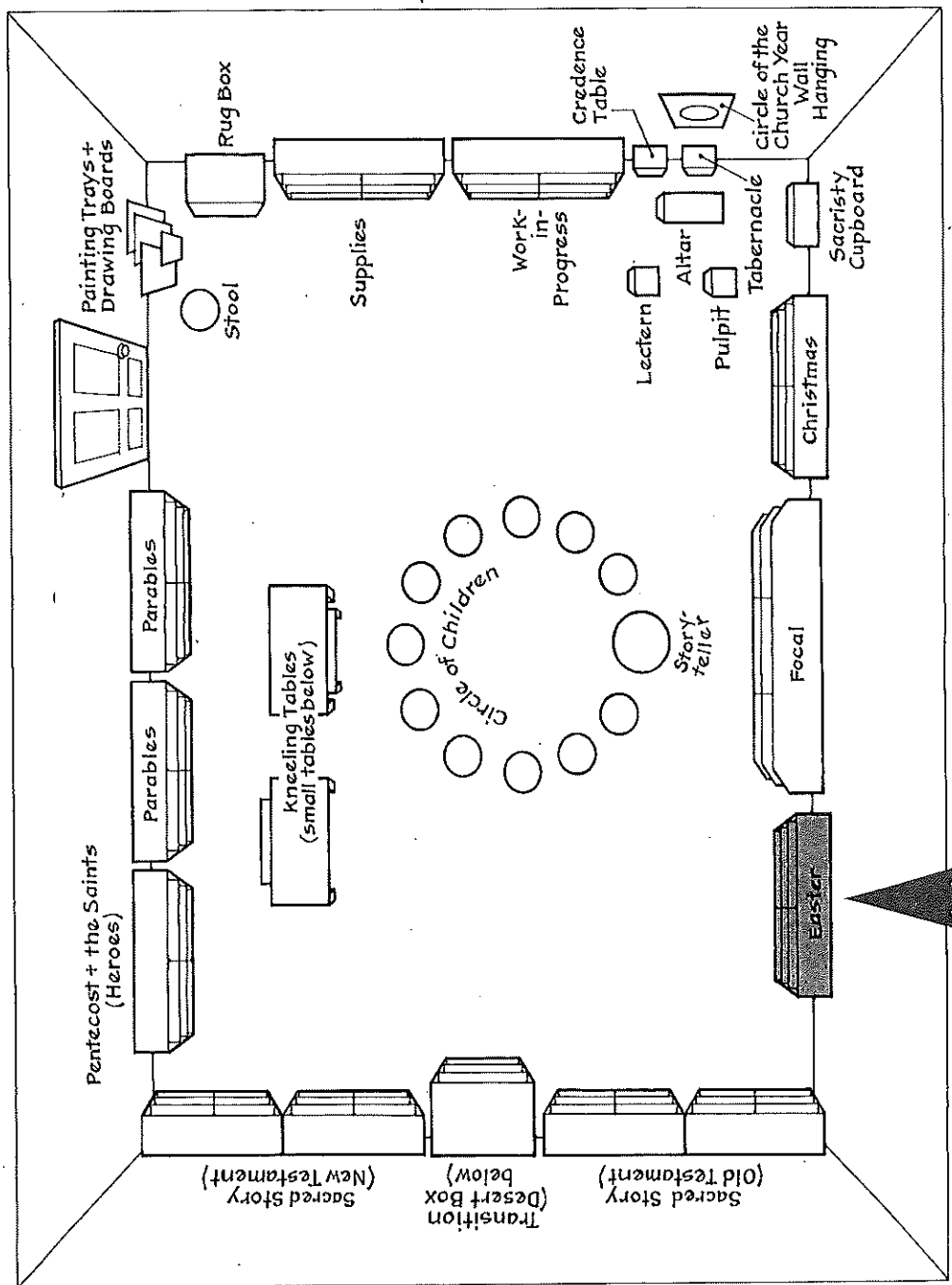
Find the materials for this presentation on the right-hand side of the bottom shelf of the Easter shelves, underneath the material for the Easter Egg presentation.

There are several ways to make this material. You could simply put all the three-dimensional, wooden crosses you collect into a basket and place it on the shelf. You could also draw or mount cross shapes on cards or wooden plaques, and create an additional set of cards with stories or explanations about each cross.

The best material combines the two approaches. In a beautiful container, place a set of wooden cross shapes. Make a set of cards with the names of each cross shape and an explanation of that shape to serve as identification and control cards for the children. (Control cards help children sort the material and make sure each item is present and named.) The collection offered through Godly Play Resources includes a Greek cross, a Latin cross, a Celtic cross, a budded cross, a St. Andrew's cross, an Egyptian (or Coptic) cross and an anchor cross.

SPECIAL NOTES

Classroom Management: Sometimes children make crosses because they can't think of anything else to make. If so, they might not go very deeply into the activity, because they are doing it for you and not out of personal interest. This lesson challenges them to think about what crosses really represent and how to work with crosses to find the cross that is just right for them. This can reveal important things about who they are or hope to be.



WHERE TO FIND MATERIALS

MOVEMENTS

When children cannot decide what to do, or when they say they are going to "make a cross," you can challenge them to discover more about crosses and about themselves.

Don't say too much about where the crosses in the classroom or the container of crosses might be. This can help a child or group search the room and become more familiar with all the materials that are there waiting for them to work with. As the children look, go and get a rug. Spread it out in just the right place. Then, if necessary, go find the basket of crosses.

Bring the basket back to the rug. Take out the crosses and line them up on the rug.

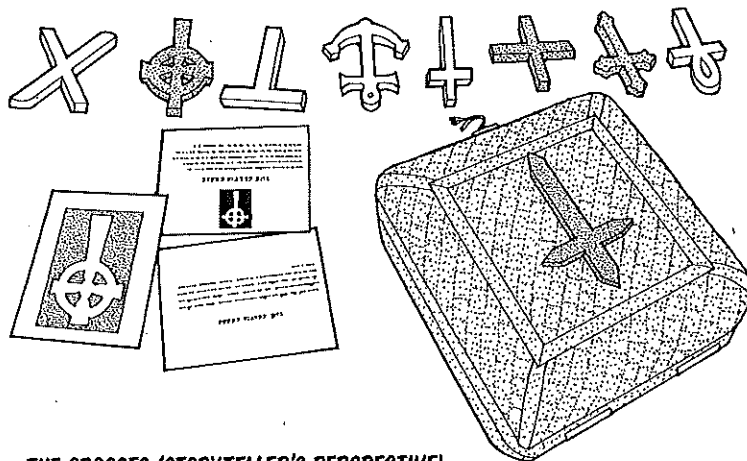
If there is a set of cards to use as a control, you can explain them to the children. Show the pictures of the crosses and the names for and explanations about them. Read them for the nonreaders.

WORDS

Oh, so you would like to make a cross? That will be wonderful work. Let's see now...which one are you going to make? There are so many kinds! How many? Oh, I don't know, but we have at least a dozen in our classroom. Why don't you see if you can find them? The cross has a lot to do with the Mystery of Easter.

Look at all these crosses. Do you see the differences between them? Each one has a name and a story. Is one of these just right for you? Would you like to make one? Which one will it be? What will you make it out of? Do you want to draw or paint them? Can you make one that is different from any in the basket? Maybe there is not one that is just right for you.

These cards are for you. You can use them when you have questions or are naming the crosses.



THE CROSSES (STORYTELLER'S PERSPECTIVE)

MOVEMENTS

Begin the wondering questions.

Put the crosses back into the container for the children to work with. As you put them back, hold them carefully and with respect. Don't hurry. Name each cross with wonder as you replace it.

WORDS

Now I wonder which cross you like best?

I wonder which is the most important cross?

I wonder which cross is especially for you?

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

Now I wonder if you would like to make something about how these crosses feel to you?