

SACRED STORY

THE STORY OF THE PROPHET EZEKIEL

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: EZEKIEL, A PROPHET TO THE EXILES (THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL)

- **SACRED STORY**
- **ENRICHMENT PRESENTATION**

THE MATERIAL

- **LOCATION: OLD TESTAMENT SACRED STORY SHELVES, MIDDLE SHELF, BESIDE JEREMIAH**
- **PIECES: 10" CHAIN, IMAGE OF EZEKIEL'S VISION OF GOD (THE WHEEL, ETC.) MOUNTED ON WOOD, SCROLL, BRICK, GOOD SHEPHERD AND ORDINARY SHEPHERD (IDENTICAL TO THOSE IN "THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD"), SMALL PITCHER, COLLECTION OF "DRY" BONES, PICTURE OF JERUSALEM RESTORED**
- **CONTROL**
- **UNDERLAY: DARK BROWN FELT STRIP, 42" X 11"**

BACKGROUND

The story of Ezekiel enriches the presentations on the Exile and Return and the Prophets. Ezekiel was deported from Jerusalem in 598 with some 10,000 elite of the city. He was a contemporary of Jeremiah, but his call to be a prophet came on the banks of the Chebar in Babylon (Ezekiel 1:1). With the exception of 1:2-3, this book is almost completely made up of his personal visions. They were shared with others and written down in his own house.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

Ezekiel's story sits in a deep wooden or wicker tray (12" x 8" x 3"). The story icon (5" x 2.5") is an image of Ezekiel's vision, a "wheel within a wheel." It can be attached to the end or the side of the tray depending on the size of the shelves, the classroom

or other considerations. The underlay is a strip of dark brown felt, 42" x 11". Each object in the story is approximately the same size (no more than 4" high and 4" wide). The story calls for the following objects: a 10" piece of chain, an image of Ezekiel's Vision of God (the wheel, etc.), a scroll, a brick, a Good Shepherd and an ordinary shepherd (just like what is used in the Parable of the Good Shepherd), a small pitcher, a collection "dry bones" and a picture of Jerusalem restored.

A control for the lesson is folded and placed in the tray for the children to use to check their work. The sequence of the story is important because when you change the sequence, you change the story.

SPECIAL NOTES

The core stories about the People of God are placed on the top of the sacred story shelves. The enrichment stories about the key people in the core stories are placed on the lower shelves of the sacred story section in the room, under the core stories they enrich and extend (see diagram below).

This lesson on Ezekiel enriches the lesson on the Exile and Return and the Prophets. When you introduce the story of Ezekiel, take care to set it in the larger context of the sacred story of which it is a part.

As you tell the story of Ezekiel and his prophetic visions, place objects on the underlay to remind you of each important prophetic vision. Unroll the underlay slowly, just enough for each object, as if you are unrolling a life. At the end of the wondering, show the children the control card and carefully place each object back in the tray saying something about each event like, "Here is the Good Shepherd and the Ordinary Shepherd," and so forth. Lastly, model how to roll the underlay back up and place it in the tray.



STORY ICON FOR THE STORY OF THE PROPHET EZEKIEL