

Christ among us

Pop-up Puppets

Date: October, 2009 Readings: Mark 10:1-16; 17-31; 46-52
Enfolding love... what must I do?

In this part of Mark's gospel, Jesus affirms the place of children in God's kingdom, challenges a rich young man, and heals blind Bartimaeus.

Children can use these puppets to explore the reactions of the people in any or all of these stories.

Materials:

- ♦ construction paper
- ♦ disposable cup
- ♦ piece of dowel, drinking straw, pop-stick or satay stick
- ♦ fine felt pens
- ♦ masking tape or sticky tape
- ♦ wool
- ♦ scissors
- ♦ glue
- ♦ *Optional extras:* materials to "clothe" or decorate the upper body section.

Method:

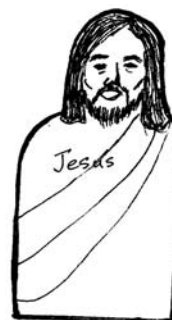
- Make a hole in the bottom of the cup large enough for the straw or dowel or pop-stick or satay stick to go through.
- Cut a head-sized circle and upper body shape from construction paper or draw the full head and shoulders figure. (see diagrams)
- Draw a face on the circle.
- Attach head to upper body with glue and/or tape.
- Glue wool on for hair.
- Children might like to decorate or "clothe" the upper body of the puppet according to the story you are illustrating.
- Tape straw or wooden stick to back of the figure.
- Push the straw/stick down through the hole till the figure is hiding in the cup.



Before and After: back-to-back faces

Who welcomed the children?

Who does Jesus love?



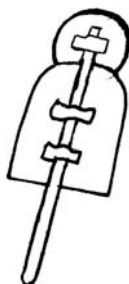
Write the name of the character on the body of the puppet, and a Bible verse, sentence or motto for the story on the outside of the cup.

Suggested uses:

- *Jesus with the children:* Write on the cup: Who welcomed the children? Write on the puppet: Jesus! Or: Who does Jesus love? Me!
- *Bartimaeus:* When he was blind it was like being in a dark hole; when Jesus made his eyes better it was like coming out into the light.

You can also make back-and-front puppets – before and after: e.g.

- *the rich young man:* happy when he first spoke to Jesus, sad when he realised he didn't want to give up all the things he loved more than God
- *Bartimaeus* and the man who was deaf and mute: Sad when he couldn't see/hear/speak, happy when Jesus healed him.



More stories to explore:

- *Esther:* She stayed hidden till it was time to speak to the king
- *Ruth:* going to speak to Boaz
- *Hannah (back/front):* sad when she wanted a baby, happy when Samuel was born
- *Samuel:* Who did God call? Samuel!

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