

SOUL STATION

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ROTATION: PALM SUNDAY

WHAT IS "SOUL STATION"?:

"Soul Station" is a place where students travel back in time with their imagination as they create interactive dioramas to tell Bible stories. Dioramas are made with play figurines, paper, props, backdrops and other fun items students will discover in this highly creative and hands-on station.

LESSON FOCUS:

Students will build a diorama to help them imagine the actual events of Palm Sunday. Children will walk away with a deeper understanding of the story. Middle/Upper Elementary students will also learn the slight variations between each gospel's telling of the story.

WORKSHOP SUPPLIES:

- Diorama supplies (stocked in workshop room)
- Diorama supplies specific to this story: Donkey
- Pen & Paper
- Brown Paper Bags



HOW TO TEACH THROUGH DIORAMA'S

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WHAT IS A DIORAMA?

A three-dimensional miniature scene in which figures, toys, backdrops, or other objects are arranged to recreate a Bible story scene.

DIORAMAS FOR PRESCHOOL

YOU WILL NEED TO PREPARE A DIORAMA IN ADVANCE! Preschool students love to see the story take place through the use of visuals. Maybe you remember the days of flannel board stories in Sunday School? Consider dioramas for this age as a flannelboard meets 3D imaginative play.

Take some time to get to know the stocked supplies in Soul Station. Pre-select all of the pieces that you wish to use to create a diorama of the story. Have them set aside in a suitcase so that you can pull them out one at a time. You may wish to place individual items into numbered brown paper bags. Bags can be pulled out in order and students can take turns opening them to see what is inside.

Gather students together in a circle. Explain to students that you are going to be telling them a story by using toys. Tell them that it is very important for them to keep their hands in their laps and to watch very carefully. Let them know that after the story is all over they will have an opportunity to play with the toys.

You may choose to set up your story on a trunk or directly onto the floor.

As you pull items out of your suitcase/bags place them in the story scene and tell the Bible story. You may want to begin with setting up the background or location and then bring in the characters. Have figurines act out the story and make them talk. Consider using different voices for each character to keep kids interested in the story. Move figurines around the diorama as you tell the story.



DIORAMAS FOR EARLY ELEMENTARY

Students in the Early Elementary age will enjoy helping you to put together the diorama before you tell the story together. Before class, get familiar with a list of items/characters/backgrounds/props/etc that will be needed for your story. You will be assigning students the job of finding or creating each of these items to work together as a team to create a scene. Consider having students draw parts of the set such as trees, water, grass or any other item that isn't found in the pre-assembled collection.

Have students bring their found or created pieces to a central location where you will set up the story scene together. Set aside 15-25 minutes for students to create the scene.

After the scene has been created have students sit in a circle around the diorama. Tell the story together as a class. Assign students specific characters to move around as you tell the story. You can even give students simple lines to repeat as you "act out" the story on the diorama set.

DIORAMAS FOR MIDDLE/UPPER ELEMENTARY

Students in Middle/Upper Elementary are ready to create their own dioramas. Begin the class by reading through the selected scripture together. Have students grab a pen/paper to write down notes while you read the story. They will want to jot down items/characters that they will need to collect/create to build a diorama together. After the story, form teams of 4-6 students. As a team they will be responsible to work together to create a diorama of the story.

Your students may need help identifying what items they need, navigating through the stocked items/supplies, working as a team, coming to a consensus, adding/minimizing detail and keeping an eye on the clock.

After the dioramas are completed talk through all the elements included. If some pieces are not completed students can work on pieces at home throughout the week and bring them in the following Sunday to complete their diorama.

