

A Peek Into The Atrium



Biblical Geography

In our modern world of techno-you-name-it, virtual reality, and animation everywhere, we find it important in the Catechesis, to be as clear as we can about Jesus with the children. Jesus was a real person who lived in a real time and place. This leads us to presentations on Biblical Geography and the land of Israel.

First Year Our introduction to this topic is simple and essential, using a **Sandpaper Globe** of the earth with the land of Israel marked in red. We move on to the **Relief Map of the Land of Israel** and think about what this part of the earth is like, mountains, valleys, the desert, the coastline, the smaller waters, the larger waters and the River Jordan. This is a very tactile work and allows the child to contemplate something more of “who Jesus was” through the sense of touch.

Second Year In the second year we present another moment of the Relief Map that shares symbols on markers that highlight three significant places in Israel in Jesus’ life. These include Nazareth, where the Angel Gabriel visited Mary, Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, and Jerusalem, where Jesus died and rose again. We also introduce a **Puzzle Map of the Land of Israel** that shows the regions of the land of Israel and provides the names of those regions, which the child will hear often in the scriptures and in later levels of the Catechesis.

Third Year With the child’s expanding fine motor skills, there are many follow-on works that build from the previous work with the puzzle map, including **pin-pricking**. These are eagerly awaited works and completed with great satisfaction.

