

Introducing Godly Play



Children have an innate sense of the presence of God. The Godly Play approach helps them to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language, and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. Based on Montessori principles and developed using a spiral curriculum, the Godly Play method serves children through early, middle, late childhood and beyond.

As the summer comes to an end, a new school year begins. Endings and beginnings make up the circle of the church year and our lives. Starting in September we will have a new curriculum and a new approach to Sunday school. We are calling it “Children’s Church” using the Godly Play curriculum. Godly Play is more than a curriculum. It’s an invitation to play with the language of God and God’s people through sacred stories, parables, liturgical actions and silence.

Godly Play provides a prepared environment where learning occurs through discovery. Godly Play leaders approach children knowing that children have an innate sense of God and a child’s profound need is to be in contact with the wonder and love of God so the child can find their identity. Godly Play is a Montessori type environment with child-sized items that children can touch. Did you know that Maria Montessori had the first known children’s chapel as early as 1922? Montessori’s children’s chapel was a child-sized version of a larger church.

Classroom #1 in the education wing will be a dedicated children’s space where children will listen to Bible stories, learn about sacraments and liturgy and respond to what they have heard. Children’s Church will be held during the 10:15am service on the second, third and fourth Sundays. Parents are asked to bring their children to Classroom #1 at 10:10am, and the children will return to their families at the time of the Peace. On the first Sunday of the month, “Family Sunday” the entire family will worship together in the sanctuary and the children and youth will participate as Lay Ministers.

Godly Play requires materials to set up the space and tell the stories, and it requires adult dedication. A special thank-you to Dan Kachur for creating the child-sized podium and our desert box; Linda Goble for the candles, large cross and kneelers; and to all the adults who have been practicing the stories and setting up the Children’s Church: Fiona Kinning, Cindy Bell, Salena and Steve Anderson, Curt Van Allen, Derek Graf, Missy Parks, and Fr. Roger. Want to learn more about Godly Play or help to support this ministry? Contact Bernie Hartsough at 718-4643 or bhartsough@comcast.net.

SCHEDULE OF LESSONS 2014-2015

September	14-Intro to the sacraments 21-Circle of the church
year	28-Holy Family
October	12-Sacrament-Eucharist 19-Days of Creation 26-Flood and the Ark
November	9-Sacrament-Uncion 16-Ten best Ways-10 com- mandments
	23-The ark and the tent 30-Advent 1
December	14-Advent 3 21-Advent 4

January	11- Sacrament-Baptism 18-Parable of the good shepherd 25-Parable of the great pearl
February	8-Sacrament-marriage 15-Good Samaritan 22-Faces of Easter
March	8-Sacrament-Reconciliation 15-Faces of Easter 22-Faces of Easter 29-Faces of Easter
April	12-Sacrament- confirmation 19-Good shepherd and world communion 26-The synagogue and the upper room
May	10-Sacrament-ordination 17-The prophets