

The Ten Best Ways for Parents

Our Godly Play lesson tells children about the “Ten Best Ways” to live. This is the story of the Ten Commandments that God gave to God’s People.

Here we offer “Ten Best Ways” for parents; not commandments, but ways we invite you, the parent, to share more fully in your child’s Godly Play experience.

1. Godly Play sessions take place on Sunday mornings at 9:30 and 11:00. Please drop off your child in room 222 and pick them up in room 220.
2. Please help your child be on time. They won’t want to miss a minute!
3. The Godly Play Circle is built slowly and lovingly, to welcome each child, one at a time. When children arrive, they wait outside the door while the teacher helps them get ready to join the circle.
4. Please say your goodbyes at the door, and know that the teachers are ready to make the next hour a safe and welcoming time for every child.
5. When you pick up your child, keep in mind that young children will not always be able to tell you what they learned, because what they learned was *how* to learn about the powerful language of the Christian people.

(over)

6. Also keep in mind that children will not always be able to show you a physical product for their “work” that day, because some of what they’ve learned cannot be put into words even by adults. In Godly Play, we focus on relationship with God and the depths of relationships in the community of children.

7. Please don’t come into the room during class because we want the Godly Play room to be a special place for the community of children. Even the teachers keep their profiles low during a Godly Play session!

8. We would be happy to welcome you on a visit to the Godly Play room outside of session time. Call us at 472-3111 to arrange a visit or to ask any questions you might have about the program.

9. We welcome volunteers to support the teachers and the community of children by preparing the weekly “feast”, by taking care of the classrooms and materials, and by making materials for teachers to use. Call 472-3111 for more information.

10. We are excited about welcoming your child each week. If you or someone you know is interested in being trained as a Godly Play storyteller and/or doorkeeper, please call 472-3111.



Godly Play offers a creative, child-honoring way of entering into and experiencing the biblical story. In Godly Play, we play with the language of God and God’s People: our sacred stories, parables, liturgical actions and silence. Through this powerful language, through our wondering, through the community of players gathered together, we hear the deepest invitation of all: an invitation to *come play with God.*



Frequently Asked Questions...

Who developed Godly Play?

This approach was developed and classroom tested for over 25 years by Dr. Jerome Berryman, teacher, author and Episcopal priest. It is currently being used in churches of many denominations throughout the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

What makes Godly Play distinctive?

In Godly Play, we tell Bible stories to encourage children to enter the stories and relate them to their personal experience. It is concerned with the spiritual development of each child as an individual.

Each session follows the pattern of the service for Holy Communion, so children develop a deep understanding and enjoy fuller participation when they attend corporate worship. The class follows the Order of Worship: Getting ready, listening and responding to the Word (lesson), the Feast (Holy Communion) and Blessing and Dismissal (saying goodbye).

What kinds of projects will my child do in Godly Play?

After the lesson, the teacher and children wonder together about the story. Then, each child chooses how to respond to the lesson with art or lesson materials. Every child has a personal folder that serves as a spiritual journal. This folder stays in the room to hold their work. We encourage children to take time on their projects.

What are on the shelves in the classrooms?

These objects are the lesson materials that make the images of religious language come alive. In Godly Play, the teacher (storyteller) sits in the circle with the children on the floor, literally surrounded by our religious language system. The materials help us tell the story of the day and are placed in the middle

of the circle, symbolizing the fact that God is present and accessible to all, children and adults alike. Working in the circle also helps us emphasize many aspects of being together in a Christian community.

Will my child bring home craft projects?

The classroom has a good selection of quality art materials. Children bring different perspectives and responses to the stories they hear and so they choose the art medium they wish to use. Some students may work on one story for several weeks.

Will my child enjoy Godly Play?

One of the goals of Godly Play is to create a safe space for children a place where their ideas, opinions, and gifts are deeply respected. Because everything in the classroom is designed for children to use and enjoy, most children look forward to coming to Godly Play.



Important Information

Godly Play Times

9:30 & 11:00

Godly Play Rooms

Drop off in Room 222 and
pick up in Room 220

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