

Godly Play Teacher Training Outline

For new and returning Godly Play Storytellers and Doorpersons

Welcome

Observe Godly Play Lesson

What is Godly Play?

Objectives

Participants will:

- Understand the philosophy behind Godly Play.
- Differentiate teaching from spiritual guidance.
- Understand why wonder is central.

Topics

- Montessori roots
- Jerome Berryman's vision
- Children's spirituality
- Respect for mystery
- Language of the Christian faith
- The spiral curriculum

Reflection

- When have you experienced God through story?
- What makes a lesson "holy" instead of merely educational?

The Prepared Environment

Objectives

Participants will:

- Identify the purpose of each area of the room.
- Find materials to use in future lessons

Activity

Walk through the room identifying:

- Materials
- Existing stories
- Layout
- Extra work activities

The Rhythm of a Godly Play Session

Teach the four movements: (THIS IS MODIFIED AT CHRIST CHURCH)

1. Entering the Space

- Greeting
- Threshold
- Building the circle

2. Hearing the Word

- Story
- Silence
- Wondering

3. Responding

- Child's work
- Art
- Story materials

4. Feast and Blessing

- Sharing
- Cleanup
- Goodbye

The Roles of Storyteller and Doorperson

Storyteller Responsibilities

- Prepare materials
- Tell stories from the heart
- Wonder
- Guide work

Doorperson Responsibilities

- Welcome children
- Manage transitions

- Support work
- Observe

Learning to Tell Stories

Learning by Heart

- Not memorization
- Internalizing the story
- Attention on materials

Wondering

Why don't we ask comprehension questions?

Difference between:

✗ What happened first?

Vs.

✓ I wonder what part you like best?

Practice writing wondering questions.

Supporting Children's Work

- Open responses
- Avoid praise
- Respect choices
- Long-term projects
- Child ownership

Practice responding to children's artwork.

Instead of: "That's beautiful!"

Practice: "I notice you used many shades of blue."

Handling Challenges

- Restlessness
- Disruptions
- Late arrivals
- New children

- Different ages

Practice neutral language.

Planning the Lesson

Topics— these are planned for you, generally following this plan.

- Core lessons first (Biblical story, etc)
- Liturgical calendar
- Holy Days
- Symbols & Ceremonies
- Additional Lessons (Saints, etc)

***We will email the lesson 2 weeks prior to your Sunday to both volunteers. Please let us know ASAP if you need lessons printed for you, or if you need us to purchase supplies. We have a limited budget so please be creative with what we have on hand!