

What if my child doesn't connect with the story and just does his/her own thing? How does he/she then learn about the Christian faith?

Sometimes it can take a child time to adjust to having the freedom to choose their own activity. They are so used to being told what to do with their time at school and home that they take time to realise what this time can mean for them. If a parent has any concerns we encourage them to talk to us and work with us to find a solution.

Godly Play @ Home

In Sunday school we only have your child for maybe 45 minutes each week. You spend much more time with your child than this, so we encourage you to explore and talk about God at home.

One way is by going over stories at home. Ask the child what the lesson or story was about for the session. Read it in the Bible together. Perhaps come up with questions you wonder about together and help your child to use resources to find answers.

When they bring home an activity don't just say how wonderful it is but ask them if they would like to talk about it with you. Remember you can use any objects to retell the stories at home!



Who to contact:
Our facilitators are—
Karen Dennison (phone: 0418 408 596)
Verity Murray
Kylie Elliot

We are facilitators who...

- creates space to think big
 - respects children's spirituality
 - builds a safe community
 - enables children to make connections
 - is open to the unexpected
 - listens as much as talks
 - slows down the pace
- doesn't always know the answer

(All of our facilitators have working with children checks and police clearance)



 *St Nicholas Anglican Church
Australia*

Godly Play Australia

A Parent's Guide

**Godly Play is for
3—12 year olds**



What is Godly Play?

Godly Play is a Montessori method of telling Bible stories, developed by Jerome Berryman, using parables, sacred stories and liturgical lessons about religious traditions using simple materials.

Godly Play is used extensively with adults and children in many settings, from schools to hospitals, churches to aged care facilities.

Godly Play can be a way of preparing children to join the worship life of their congregations as they experience sacred stories, symbols and rites and encounter the religious language associated with worship within the context of our faith tradition.



A Godly Play session includes time to:

Get ready.

Experience a story.

Explore the story with questions "I wonder ...?"

Respond with a free choice of creative experience.

Enjoy a simple shared feast.



"In most religious education children are told what God did. In Godly Play children discover who God is."

Frequently Asked Questions

Since Godly Play is so different from 'traditional' Sunday school programs or other religious education programs, parents often have questions. Here are just a few of them to help. Please don't hesitate to ask us any more you might have.

What age is Godly Play for?

Godly Play was originally created for ages 3-11yrs but over the years it has been used more and more for other ages including adults in retirement homes and ministers retreats. Children under the age of 3 will need to be accompanied by an adult.

What about children that can't do or don't like craft? Or children who are older and too mature for playdough etc?

Godly Play does not have a set 'craft time'. Godly Play has an open 'response time' where the child may choose their own activity. It may be a craft project or it may be prayer, reading, playing with blocks or sand or other sensory materials. This freedom gives the child space to express themselves freely and openly to God. For this reason a child may not bring something physical home every session. Older children actually enjoy using materials that they don't usually get the use of any more.