

Godly Play: The 10 Best Ways for Parents

One 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 “The 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.

Godly Play, Jerome Berryman’s interpretation of Montessori religious education, is an imaginative approach to working with children. This approach supports, challenges, nourishes and helps guide their spiritual quest.

Godly Play assumes that children have some experience of the mystery of the presence of God in their lives, but that they lack the language, the permission and the understanding to express and enjoy that spiritual experience. In Godly Play, we enter into our parables, sacred stories, and liturgy in order to discover God, ourselves, one another, and the world around us.

The Best Ways for Parents

- 1) Godly Play sessions take place on Sundays from 10:00 am until it’s time to join parents for the Eucharist.
- 2) There are two Godly Play classrooms: Grades JK-1 are downstairs in the Godly Play room, Grades 2-5 are upstairs in the Chapel Room. Sometimes the classes are combined or there are “Everybody Upstairs” celebrations, so please check the calendar or look for signage upon arrival.
- 3) Please help your children be on time. They won’t want to miss a minute!
- 4) 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 door person helps them get ready to join the circle.
- 5) Please say your goodbyes at the door, and know that the leaders are ready to make the time spent in Godly Play a safe and welcoming experience for every child.
- 6) When your child returns from Godly Play, keep in mind that young children will not always be able to tell you what they heard and experienced, because what they experienced was *how* to learn about the powerful language of the Christian people.
- 7) 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 experienced cannot be put into words even by adults. In Godly Play, we focus on our relationship with God and the depths of relationships in the community of children.
- 8) Please don’t come into the room during the session because we want the Godly Play room to be a special place for the community of children. Even the leaders keep their profiles low during a Godly Play session!
- 9) We would be happy to welcome you on a visit to the Godly Play room outside of session time. Please contact us at childrenandyouth@allsaintskingsway.ca to arrange a visit or ask any questions you might have about the program.
- 10) If you would like to be trained as a Godly Play doorperson or storyteller, please let us know. Contact us at childrenandyouth@allsaintskingsway.ca for more information.