

Godly Play - Children's worship during 11:00 worship service

Just as Jesus welcomed children, children are always welcome in worship. During the 11:00 service we offer a way for children ages three through second grade to worship in a way that is developmentally appropriate for them called **Godly Play**. Children are in the worship service until after the Children's Message when they can leave to go upstairs (room 307). They are always welcome to remain in worship with their parents.

In Godly Play, children enter a quiet room where they sing to get ready to hear a story from the Bible. The children listen and watch as the storyteller uses a variety of materials to tell the story. Materials such as hands-on-three dimensional wooden figures, desert boxes with sand, felt shapes, and models of Bible cities are commonly used.

After the story has been presented, the children interact with God's Word in various ways. First they share their thoughts and questions about the story. Then they might work quietly with the materials to re-tell the story themselves. Some also may choose to create a picture or sculpture that reminds them of the story with the art materials available in the room. Children may also write prayers, songs, or poems as an expression of their encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ.

When Godly Play is in progress, you can almost hear a pin drop as the children are absorbed in the wonder of God's Word. At the end, the children gather in the story circle again where they close their time listening to the story teller read the story from the Bible and taking turns in prayer.