

## Learning more

The best way to learn about Godly Play is “from the inside out,” by attending a workshop or training led by an accredited trainer.

There are several learning options:

- *Taster or Demonstration*—Usually a two- to four-hour session with stories and an introduction to the underlying principles and basics to get started.
- *Introductory*—A daylong event (sometimes including the evening before) with a story from each Godly Play genre (Sacred, Parable, Liturgical), underlying principles, basics to get started, and a hands-on opportunity to work with the materials and learn a story.
- *Core Training*—An intense three-day course in which participants learn and tell a story for supportive feedback and evaluation. Core Training includes three plenary sessions: The Environment, The Spirituality of the Child, and The Community of Children.
- *Make and Play Days*—Usually a daylong event that involves creating materials for a story and practising storytelling.
- *Going Further*—Two-day sessions for experienced Godly Play leaders who want to deepen their skills and understanding or experience stories from the Enrichment Volumes.

## Godly Play trainers

Trainers marked \* are available to travel nationally.

### Alberta

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### British Columbia

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# What is Godly Play?

wonder...

## Godly Play

... is a creative and imaginative approach to faith formation and spiritual development

... uses symbols, objects, silence, and words to explore biblical stories and Christian practices

... encourages people to make meaning for themselves

... values process, openness, and discovery

... is based on long-established, tried and tested approaches

... invites participants into stories and encourages them to connect the stories with personal experience

Although it was originally developed as a resource for children, Godly Play is now being used with a wide range of age groups in diverse settings.

Godly Play is one of several variations of the Montessori tradition of religious education; it has been developed in the United States by the Rev. Dr. Jerome Berryman and is now used around the world by many denominations.

View a two-part video at [www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada](http://www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada).



## Godly Play sessions

A Godly Play session includes a time to

- gather, centre, and get ready
- experience a faith story using beautifully created objects
- explore the story with open questions and conversation
- respond to the story by choosing from a variety of materials
- enjoy a simple feast and sharing
- receive a blessing

## Godly Play materials

In Godly Play, the materials for storytelling and response evokes something of the mystery of God and the beauty of God's creation. The use of finely crafted liturgical, story, and response materials draws attention to what might otherwise be considered ordinary. Beautiful materials can draw us into a faith experience that transcends words.

Volumes 2, 3, and 4 of *The Complete Guide to Godly Play* provide all of the foundational stories needed for a program. Additional volumes provide assistance in developing Godly Play and stories that enrich the learning for more experienced participants.

## Godly Play space

The Godly Play environment surrounds participants with the stories, symbols, and language of the Christian faith. The room is designed to support learning, creativity, and a sense of peace. Godly Play makes clear the connection between a supportive community, the language of faith, and sacred space.

## Godly Play leaders

Imagine someone who

- creates a space to experience the Divine
- learns as well as teaches
- doesn't always know the answer
- builds community
- enables participants to make connections and find meaning
- is open to the unexpected
- slows down the pace
- provides the tools and then allows for creativity

Godly Play sessions include a Storyteller who prepares and presents the story and a Doorperson who prepares for the response and feast.

## The Heart of Godly Play

Creating sacred space

Building and working in community

Nurturing spiritual development

Learning religious language

Using silence, story, and play to make meaning

