

28 July 2019

The Sharing Page

Several times a term Liz Haffenden comes along to the Sunday's Alive service with her Godly Play materials. Not heard of Godly Play, here's an introduction:

What is Godly Play?

Children are encouraged to explore faith through story, to gain religious language and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play.

Godly Play developed from Montessori principles of child centred learning.

Godly Play is world-wide and is used in a variety of setting such as hospitals, residential care facilities, prisons, to groups of adults, the elderly as well as children.



The children gather round to see what today's story will be

What would I see if I came to a Godly Play session at Sunday's Alive?

Children would be sat at the front, on the floor, around a story-teller

There would be a box covered in gold. Gold is precious and what is in the box is something that is in the bible and is, therefore, precious too. All the figures and materials for the story are in the box.

On the floor would be placed a large circle of felt on which the story for that Sunday is acted out.

Small knitted figures are used to tell the Bible story and other resources which support the story being told.

As the Bible story is told the figures move around the green felt stage.

Finally, when the story is finished children are encouraged to reflect on what they have seen and heard, to ask questions and to think about (or wonder about) God and the people in the story.

Children help to pack everything up in the gold coloured box and are reminded that the story comes from the Bible.

At the end of the service the children go out to a craft table and do an activity (gluing, colouring, sticking etc.) that is relevant to the Bible story for that Sunday.



Paul and Barnabas on a journey

What do Sunday's Alive say about Godly Play?

"It's great when Liz comes with her special box - the children love to gather round & listen to a story from the Bible. They are fascinated by the knitted figures and keen to participate."

"It is always a joy to see the children crowd around Liz as she sets up and tells a bible story. The children love to help move the beautiful woollen characters around the handcrafted scenes that Liz has created. A very engaging experience for all."

"You know the children have listened to the story as they can answer Liz's questions at the end."

Heatherside Church's "not quite a magazine". A place to share news from mid-week groups, get updates from charities and encourage each other with reflections and recommendations.