



## Godly Play at St Martin's

For grades K-6

Every Sunday but 4th

Sunday at the 10:00 am  
service



### What is Godly Play?

Godly Play is our way of entering religious education with children. Inspired by Montessori principles, Godly Play uses storytelling and hands-on activities to help children explore their spirituality and develop a relationship with God. Our classroom is a sacred space where children hear a story told using simple materials. The children are then invited into the story - to "wonder" about what the story means.

### Why does St. Martin's use Godly Play in our Church School Program?

Godly Play is a distinctive approach to Christian ministry with children, both innovative and deeply grounded in spiritual tradition. It engages the whole child - heart, mind, hands, and intuition. It is not as concerned with rote learning as it is about children's discovery of our rich stories and traditions. We use Godly Play to develop a place of belonging and community for children within our larger St. Martin's Community.

### What Will My Child Learn in Godly Play?

Godly Play teaches children respect for all things and each other. It teaches reliance on a gracious God who is real and accessible in all the mystery of life, both sad and joyful. The curriculum follows the church calendar, beginning in the Fall with sacred stories from the Old Testament, moving to Advent, Saints' stories, Parables and Jesus' work, then to the mystery of Easter in the Spring. The structure of Godly Play corresponds somewhat with the structure of our service. Each week we (a) gather together, (b) listen to a story told by a Godly Play storyteller, (c) wonder about the story, (d) "work" with classroom materials, and (e) gather to close and pray for the week ahead. We bring the children back into church in time for communion.

### Can I bring Godly Play teachings into my home?

Yes! We encourage families to talk about the stories we wonder about in Godly Play. We can provide handouts so that you can continue wondering at home together.

### Can I/we visit to see what Godly Play is like?

Yes. If you are new to Godly Play or are wondering what it is like, see a teacher to arrange a visit. We do ask that adults sit quietly in the back of the room to observe as the program is centered on children's perspectives and voices.

### Does my child have to come every time?

Children must be registered but they do not need to attend every week. We welcome children to join us at any time during the church year.