

Godly Play - January and February 2026

As we begin the new church year, we first learn about Holy Baptism, and spend some time wondering about parables. In Godly Play, parables are presented in golden boxes, as presents given to us long ago, and as mysteries that are sometimes "hard to get into" - like the lid on the box. Parables often lead to wonderful wondering! We end February with learning about Holy Communion.

January 4th - Holy Baptism - The First Sunday after Epiphany is also known as the Baptism of Our Lord. Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into the Church. Because we baptize people in the traditional name of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—the material used in the Godly Play baptism presentation is three overlapping white circles, a symbol of the Trinity. We then place images on each of the white circles: the pouring of water for the Creator, the lighting of the Christ Candle for the Redeemer, and the image of the dove and the invisible scent of oil for the Sustainer. If your child has been baptized this is the perfect time to dig out the pictures and other mementos to share.

January 11th - Parable of the Great Pearl

In the Godly Play presentation of this brief parable (found in Matthew 13:45), a merchant gives away all he owns for the Great Pearl. The storyteller avoids the temptation to use the largest pearl for the great pearl. Greatness has to do with more than size. Children often regard big things as more important than small. Our culture often holds up big things for us to admire, from big houses to big cars to big bank accounts.

January 18th - Parable of the Mustard Seed

The Parable of the Mustard Seed is found in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew 24:32; Mark 4:30–32; Luke 13:18–19). Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a mustard seed, the tiniest of all the seeds. When planted, "the shrub grew up so big it was like a little tree, and the birds of the air came and they made their nests there."

(No Godly Play on January 25th (Fourth Sunday))

February 1st - Parable of the Good Samaritan

In this parable (Luke 10:30–35), the compassionate Samaritan cares for the person on the side of the road who is beset upon by robbers, even as others pass him by. Jesus tells the parable in response to a lawyer's question about the greatest commandment ("to love God and to love people just like they are your neighbors.") As part of our story, we wonder about the follow-up question: "But who is my neighbor?"

February 8th - Parable of the Good Shepherd

Jesus' story of the shepherd who searches for the one sheep that is lost and leaves the ninety-nine to do so provides the framework for all other references to Jesus as our shepherd. This story, found in both Matthew 18 and Luke 15, also incorporates Jesus' reference to himself as the Good Shepherd (from John 10) and elements of Psalm 23, perhaps the most familiar—and comforting—of all psalms: "The Lord is my shepherd..."

February 15th - The Good Shepherd and World Communion.

This presentation brings together the images of the Good Shepherd and Holy Communion, deepening each other's interpretation by setting them side-by-side.

(No Godly Play on February 22nd (Fourth Sunday, 1st Sunday in Lent))

**We will have parent pages for Godly Play stories available in Room 4 each Sunday. Be sure to pick one up when you sign your child(ren) in.*