



# Godly Play Spoken Here

## The Godly Play Foundation

### About Us

A non-profit educational organization, The Godly Play Foundation was incorporated with the purpose of facilitating the practice of Godly Play® through research, training, and resources. These activities are carried out by the Foundation's various divisions, subsidiaries, and strategic alliances including The Center for the Theology of Childhood, Godly Play College of Training, and Godly Play Resources.

### *Our Vision Statement*

The Foundation's vision is to create a positive, long-term approach to religion in the world by teaching the Christian religion to children in a way that deeply centers them and keeps them open to others and the future in creative ways.

### *Our Mission Statement*

Our mission is to nourish the spiritual and moral development of children through training and educating teachers, conducting research, and writing about Godly Play®. We work with adults as well as children within churches, schools, hospitals, families, and varied faith communities. The result of our approach to spiritual formation is playful orthodoxy. The tradition of orthodoxy, when combined with the creativity of play, allows for the integration of what are often thought of as opposites and make room for God to become manifest in the community of children and adults.

### Center for the Theology of Childhood

The educational theory of Godly Play is rooted in the pre-history of our species with respect to the use of ritual, story, and the creative process. Unfortunately, postmodern children are losing their ability to be active participants in narrative and ritual, which impairs their use of their own natural creativity (imago dei). The use of Montessori's approach to education has been adapted to Godly Play in order to stimulate children's active participation in story and ritual and to awaken their creativity for the learning of the language, sacred stories, parables, liturgical action and silence of the Christian tradition. This is the most appropriate kind of language to cope with the existential limits to our being and knowing.

The above combination of factors enables children (and adults) to become playfully orthodox. They become rooted in their own tradition and at the same time open to others, to new ideas and the future in creative ways.

### Godly Play Resources

Godly Play Resources was created by Rev. Dr. Jerome Berryman to supply materials that provide elegant support to the story-telling of the Godly Play method. All of the stories from the Godly Play teaching method require specific visual, tactile objects that draw listeners more deeply into the story. Located in Dr. Berryman's hometown of Ashland, Kansas, Godly Play Resources provides work for numerous artisans, carpenters, and craftspeople living in the area.

Godly Play Resources handcrafts many of the artifacts from solid wood. In a world of disposable plastic toys and virtual video-gaming, children delight in the heft and touch of these authentic objects and forms. For most, the warmth of real wood deepens the Godly Play experience. Bronze and various other casting materials add other visual, tactile, and emotional dimensions to play. From watercolor to tempera to computer-aided graphics, a variety of artistic media supports the Godly Play stories.

### Contact

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