

The Complete Guide to Godly Play

Volume 4, Revised and Expanded

Jerome W. Berryman

An imaginative method for nurturing the spiritual lives of children

The Part That Hasn't Been Written Yet

Sacred Story



Introduction

This Godly Play presentation is part of *The Complete Guide to Godly Play*, a collection of over one hundred Godly Play stories and Godly Play support materials available from Church Publishing Incorporated. It is part of a comprehensive approach to Christian formation that consists of eight volumes. Together the lessons form a spiral curriculum that enables children to move into adolescence with an inner working knowledge of the classical Christian language system to sustain them all their lives.

Developed by Jerome Berryman, God Play® is an interpretation of Montessori religious education. It is an imaginative approach for working with children, an approach that supports, challenges, nourishes, and guides their spiritual quest. It is more akin to spiritual guidance than to what we generally think of as children's education. It involves children and adults, as mentors, moving together toward fluency in the art of knowing how to use Christian language to nourish their moral and spiritual development.

Godly Play assumes that children have some experience of the mystery of the presence of God in their lives, but that they lack the language, permission, and understanding to express and enjoy that in our culture. In Godly Play, we enter into parables, silence, sacred stories, and liturgical action in order to discover the depths of God, ourselves, one another, and the world around us.

If you are not an experienced Godly Play mentor, we strongly encourage you to first download and digest *How to Lead Godly Play Lessons*, available at: www.churchpublishing.org/godlyplaydigital. *How to Lead Godly Play Lessons* will explain the background of Godly Play, its methodology, and clear guidelines for its use. You will need this grounding before attempting to lead a Godly Play presentation, such as this one, or establish a Godly Play program in your church.

There are additional Godly Play resources available from Church Publishing Incorporated at the site from which this lesson was downloaded. You will find these at: www.churchpublishing.org/godlyplaydigital. All of the stories can also be found within the printed eight volumes of *The Complete Guide to Godly Play* found at: www.churchpublishing.org/godlyplayprint. You will also find a number of books by Jerome Berryman about the spirituality of children as well as the Godly Play method at www.churchpublishing.org.

In addition, you can learn more about Godly Play at the website of the Godly Play Foundation, found here: www.godlyplayfoundation.org. The Godly Play Foundation also offers Godly Play training for those interested in

Play

becoming Godly Play mentors and/or starting Godly Play programs in local congregations.

Beautifully crafted materials for telling Godly Play stories are available from Godly Play Resources. Visit them at www.godlyplayresources.com.

Enjoy the wonder of Godly Play, and blessings on you and the ones you lead in this transformative experience!

Wonder

Sacred Story

The Part That Hasn't Been Written Yet

What will happen next?

How to Use This Lesson

- Extension Presentation
- Sacred Story: The stories of how God and people meet
- As the twentieth lesson in Volume 4 of *The Complete Guide to Godly Play*, it is usually presented to children who are familiar with the Core Sacred Stories in a Godly Play Room.
- “Extensions” extend the Core Lessons. They extend not only Sacred Stories but also the Liturgical Action and Parable lessons. Extension Lessons generally sit on the shelves below the Core Lessons, which are displayed on the top shelf in the Godly Play room. This lesson extends the Books of the Bible (Volume 2, pages 47–54) and really all of the Sacred Stories so it is placed at the very end of the New Testament shelves.
- It is part of a comprehensive approach to Christian formation that consists of eight volumes. Together the lessons form a spiral curriculum that enables children to move into adolescence with an inner working knowledge of the classical Christian language system to sustain them all their lives.

The Material

- Location: Sacred Story (New Testament Shelves)
- Pieces: Book stand, blank book (or journal)
- Underlay: None

Background

Even though the Bible is officially complete, the journey with the elusive presence of God continues. We are not sure what will happen in our lifetime. The future is the time of the children.

Notes on the Material

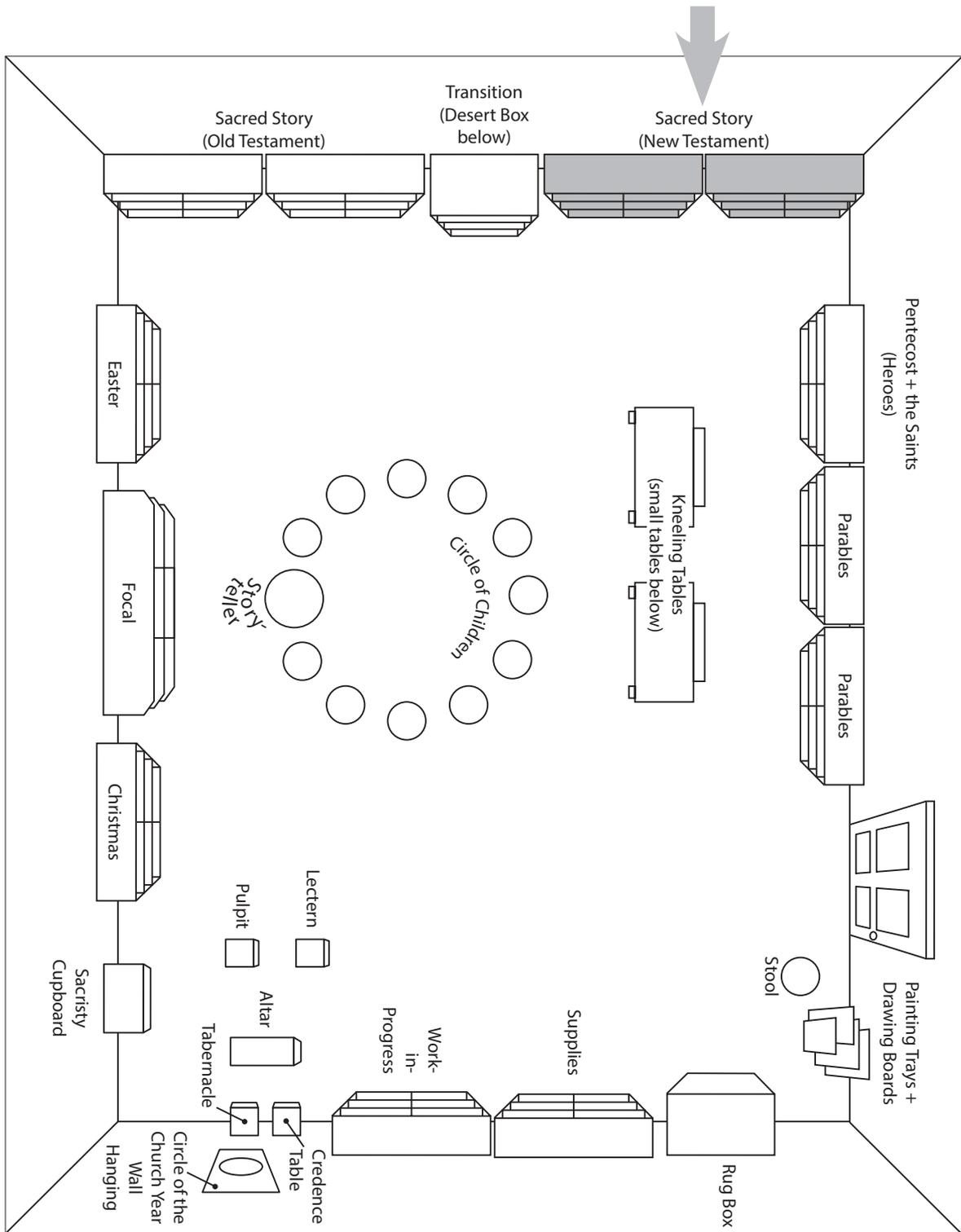
Find this material on the far right of the top shelf of the New Testament Sacred Story Shelves.

The material is a blank book or journal on a book stand. Find or buy a journal and stand that are beautiful, mysterious, and intriguing. You do not plan a time for this presentation. You wait until children ask you about the material before offering this presentation.

Special Notes

Your favorite book store is a good source for beautiful blank journals.

Another possibility would be to borrow a book from the library on making books and to create your own journal.



Where to Find Materials

Movements

This presentation begins when a child or a group of children come to you to ask about this strange material, i.e., the book stand and book. They might ask, “What is this for?”

Now you can respond. The italicized questions that follow in this column of movement directions are questions that the children might ask—or that you might suggest yourself.

Who will write it?

What will we do?

Words

This is the part that hasn't been written yet.

You will. I might not be there.

I don't know. That is up to you. What will you do? What will you write in the book about the journey of the People of God with God?

You may write something now or wait until later. When you are finished, remember to put the material back.