

STEP BY STEP:

A SAMPLE FORMAT FOR A GODLY PLAY CLASS

Storyteller: The Lord be with you.

Children: And also with you

It's wonderful to see you here today. I know a lot of you, and you know my name. I will get to know some of you today. My name is _____, and this is our Godly Play classroom.

A special place to be with God

Our Godly Play room is a very special place. **It is a special place to be together, and to be with God.** In this place we have all the time we need. So we can walk more slowly. And we talk softly in this place, because someone might be talking with God, and we don't want to disturb them.

We need a way to get ready

This is a special place to be with God, to talk with God, to listen to God, and to hear the stories of God. So **we need a way to get ready** to be in such a special place to be with God. You can get ready all by yourself. You don't need me to tell you to get ready. But I can show you how to get ready to be with God.

We walk more slowly

When we come into this room, we have all the time we need. So **we can walk more slowly.** *Ask a child to walk to the door and back.*

We sit in the circle

Another way to get ready to hear the stories of God is to **sit in our circle.** When you come in here, you will always find me (or another teacher) in my place in the circle, and I will help you find your place. We have a special way to sit. We cross our legs and keep our hands very still. *Ask a child to show how we sit.*

We speak more softly

Another way to get ready is to **speak with a soft voice.** We speak softly because we do not want to disturb someone who may be talking with God. I can say my name softly. Listen. My name is _____. *Ask each child to say his or her name softly.* We have another teacher in our classroom, too, and he/she will tell us his/her name.

We greet one another

Another way we get ready is to greet one another. Each time we come to our classroom, I will say, "The Lord be with you," like I did this morning. And you will say, "And also with you." Let's greet each other now: **The Lord be with you.** *Wait for response.*

We become very quiet inside

We get ready to listen to God by becoming very quiet. **Quietness comes from inside you**, not from someone telling you to be quiet. You **can get quiet all by yourself**. Some people like to sing to help them get quiet we can sing, “Be still and know, that I am God.” (*or another quiet song of your choice*). Listen. *Sing once*. This time you can sing with me. *Sing again*.

Some people like to **make their bodies very quiet**. This is how. Close your eyes and listen to the quietness...Now see if you can make your feet get very still...See if you can make your legs get very still...Feel your body getting very still...Now your arms are getting very still...Now your head is very still...Now you breathing is very still...You can't hear it at all...Breathe in ...and out...in...and out. **Now we are ready to listen to God, to hear one of God's stories.**

We listen to one of God's stories

Present sacred story, parable or liturgical lesson, and lead wondering.

The Christ candle (*I find best to present Christ candle and prayers before craft time while they are still sitting and settled*) Turn to the liturgical shelf behind you and get the Christ candle and place it in the center of the circle. Sit quietly while everyone settles down then say:

Once there was someone who said such amazing things and did such wonderful things that people began to follow him. But they didn't know who he was. So one day they simply had to ask him. And he said, “I am...the Light.” *When the word “light” is said, strike the match and light the Christ candle.* Let's enjoy the Light.

After looking at the light for a bit say a prayer of your own, mentioning anything important to you, (thanks for family and friends, the beautiful day; ask for blessings for someone you know who is sick;) end with asking God to bless each of the children there today, mentioning each by name if you are able.

There are all kinds of prayers. Some are quiet, and some are out loud. If you pray silently, in your head, God can hear you. Either way, you need to say “Amen” when you are finished so the next person knows it's their turn.

Let's all say the Lord's Prayer now, together. You may not all know it, but if we say it together each week you will soon learn it. *Lead in The Lord's Prayer.*

When the Lord's Prayer is complete and all the children have had their chance to pray retrieve the candle snuffer and say: There came a time when the light changed. It was no longer in one place and one time. The people could no longer see the light, but they knew that it was there. As we change the light (*lower snuffer over flame*) we may not be able to see it, (*lift snuffer to show smoke*) but as it spreads out through the room getting thinner and thinner it fills our pockets and clings to our skin. It heads out under the door and down the hall and stays with us wherever we may go.

Responding to God's word

Now, I wonder what you would like to do for your work, to show how you feel about this story. You may want to make something with the art materials, or you may want to work with the story we heard today (*or other stories in the room, to which they have been introduced*).