

SCHEDULING FOR A **GODLY PLAY YEAR**

You have all the time you need. . .





THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE YOU START SCHEDULING

Take Inventory

Consider the Children You Have

Understand the Spiral

Be Intentional

Getting Ready: Get it on the Calendar!

Work in Work Days

Leverage Technology

Ask for Help

TAKE INVENTORY

WHICH SACRED STORIES, PARABLES, AND
LITURGICAL ACTION STORIES DO YOU HAVE? ARE
THE MATERIALS COMPLETE AND READY TO USE?
DO YOU HAVE WHAT YOU NEED FOR SILENCE
EMERGE?

Story Genres

SACRED STORIES

A Sacred Story is one in which God has the primary role. The people of God meet God in Creation, with the patriarchs, in the Exodus, at Sinai, in the Temple, in the Prophets' visions, by encountering Jesus, and in other ways.

LITURGICAL ACTION

Liturgy means literally, "the work of the people." Liturgy helps express inner and outer existential realities in a way that others can participate in.

PARABLES

A parable is a kind of metaphor that uses short narrative fiction to reference a transcendent symbol, which in the Gospels is generally the Kingdom of heaven or Jesus. The materials are generally flat to keep them more "open" than the three-dimensional materials used for the Sacred Stories.

SILCENCE

This genre of classical Christian language is found in the way the lessons are presented. The mindfulness, measured pace, and leaving pauses contribute to this. The Prayers and reflection during the feast are also examples.



What do these particular children need?

What do you know about the children in this classroom? Are there school breaks or special events that you need to consider? What insights can the guides in this room offer?

3-6

The Holy Family, The Holy Bible, Creation, The Ark and the Flood, The Great Family, Exodus, The Ten Best Ways, The Ark and the Tent, The Ark and the Temple, The Exile and Return, The Prophets, The Greatest Parable, Jesus and the Twelve, Saul Changes, The Circle of the Church Year, Advent, Epiphany, Baptism, Faces of Easter, Knowing Jesus in a New Way, The Good Shepherd and World Communion, The Synagogue and the Upper Room, The Circle of the Holy Eucharist, The Guiding Parables The Part that Hasn't Been Written Yet, The Crosses, The Church, Intro to the Saints

Core
100%

Enrichment
8%

4: The Mystery of Christmas
5: The Parable of Parables

6-9

Extension
28%

1: The Falling Apart
2: Sarah, Joseph, Moses
3: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Jonah
6: The Mystery of Easter
7: The Mystery of Pentecost

1: Creation
2: The Great Family
3: The Exile and Return,
The Prophets

4: Advent, Christmas,
Epiphany
5: The Guiding Parables
6: Faces of Easter
7: Knowing Jesus in a New Way

Core
64%

UNDERSTAND THE SPIRAL

STAY GROUNDED IN THE CORE STORIES

As you create a three year plan for each age group or classroom, be sure to constantly circle back to the core stories. These essential stories have something to teach us every time we return to them.





THE GOAL OF GODLY PLAY

The goal of Godly Play is for children to move through the spiral curriculum during early, middle, and late childhood in such a way that they will enter adolescence with an inner working model of the classical Christian language system to root them deeply in the tradition and at the same time allow them to be open to the future.

THE UNSPOKEN LESSON

How does your schedule reflect the values of your parish, program, or families? Are the unspoken lessons of your program doing good work for you?

Be Intentional

SPECIAL EVENTS

How much of the scheduled Sunday School time is shifted to special events? Are you factoring in the opportunity cost of what happens in a Godly Play room in addition to the cost of changing the schedule and disrupting the routine when scheduling special events? How will you handle Godly Play when an event is scheduled for part of a class period?

THINK OUTSIDE THE ROOM

What could you schedule outside of Sunday morning Godly Play that would extend and enrich experiences of your children and guides? How can you incorporate the language and practices of Godly Play into other parts of your program?

GETTING READY

GET IT ON THE CALENDAR!



Do your 2 - 3 year olds have the tools they need to fully participate in Godly Play?

Is there a plan for at least one Sunday of orientation?

Do you have a "Ten Best Ways for Parents" that gives families clear expectations and directions for helping their child get ready?

Are there scheduled opportunities for guides to collectively reflect on their practice? To pray, feast, and play

When can guides find time to engage deeply with the response materials they are offering to children?

WORK IN WORK DAYS

Empower guides to be flexible and responsive to the children's needs and interests.



Work Day Extras



ARE THERE ANY
MATERIALS THAT
COULD EXTEND AN
INTEREST YOU HAVE
OBSERVED?



DO ANY CHILDREN
NEED LESSONS ON
USING SPECIFIC ART
MATERIALS?



COULD YOU INCLUDE
FEAST PREP IN YOUR
WORK DAY?

NERD BREAK: LET'S TALK

SPREADSHEETS

AND OTHER USEFUL TECHNOLOGY

What tools can you use to make scheduling easier?

Ask for help!



MISSIONERS



TRAINERS



SOCIAL MEDIA