



Tips for Leading a Work Day

1. Maintain the basic structure of a Godly Play Session.

- build the circle
- gently guide the conversation during circle building time towards wondering about the room (best part, most important, about or for you, what could be left out) then explain that the story for today is the story of our work with God, so we need to take a moment to really get ready to choose that work
- dismiss children one by one from the circle with intention (they have communicated to you what they are going to choose)
- provide a 3 minute "time to wrap things up for today" warning, reminding the children that they can always go back to their work next week
- clean up, reserving at least 10 minutes for the feast
- select snack helpers, distribute napkins, food, and water
- provide an opportunity for each child to pray, giving them the choice to pray silently or aloud
- pass the trash can around the circle so that clean up does not require the children to leave the circle
- dismiss children one by one as the doorkeeper calls them to the door, with the storyteller giving each child a blessing as they leave.

2. Don't fall into the trap of having your least experienced storyteller lead a work day!

Holding the space for the children and facilitating a work day is serious business, and you the storyteller should be familiar enough with the stories in the room to be able to share a story with a child during the work time if they choose a story they haven't heard or need help returning to.

3. Pay attention to what the children have been very interested in leading up to the work day, and consider what supplies you could add to the response shelves that might deepen or extend that interest.

4. A work day may be a good time to introduce a new "complicated" response material to a small group of children by giving them a lesson on how to use it (e.g. oil pastels, glue gun, stamps, hammer and nails, etc).

5. A work day is a good time to have a more complicated feast (e.g. apples that need cutting) so that there is a meaningful job available should a child have trouble entering the work period deeply.

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