

Schedule

The Christian Formation hour at Trinity is Sunday from 9:45 to 10:45 am.

A detailed schedule that includes the lessons for each week is available outside of each classroom and on the website at www.trinityic.org.

Unless noted below, Godly play will meet each Sunday from Sept. 7, 2008 through May 31, 2009.

2008-2009

- Sept. 7 Orientation in the Parish Hall
- Oct. 5 No Godly Play—Run for the Schools
- Nov. 30 Advent Wreath Making—Parish Hall
- Dec. 14 Cocoa and Carols—Parish Hall
- Dec. 21 No Godly Play
- Dec. 28 Intergenerational Event, "The Mystery of Christmas"—Parish Hall
- Jan. 4 No Godly Play
- Jan. 25 No Godly Play—Annual Meeting, Parish Hall
- Mar. 15 No Godly Play—Spring Break
- Mar. 22 No Godly Play—Spring Break
- April 12 No Godly Play—Easter Day
- May 24 No Godly Play—Memorial Day weekend
- June 7 Celebration of Christian Formation

If you have any questions about Godly Play or our other Christian Formation opportunities for children and youth, please contact:

Meg Wagner, Director of Christian Formation
319-337-3333
mwagner@trinityic.org



320 East College Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240
319-337-3333



Godly Play

Preschool-
Fifth Grade



Understanding Godly Play

What is Godly Play?

Godly Play is a method of Christian education and spiritual direction for children aged 3–11. The goal of Godly Play is to teach children the art of using religious language, parable, sacred story, silence, and liturgical action to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence around them and in their lives. Godly Play encourages children to consider and reflect upon Bible stories, religious parables, and lessons about religious traditions.

Godly Play opens up the Bible and our traditions for children in a way that allows them to explore and interact with our stories.

The Role of the Teachers

One teacher is the lead Storyteller while the other manages the more practical issues and needs, including greeting the children and encouraging them to collect themselves quietly so the group may begin. Both teachers act as spiritual supporters and guides and understand that each child has a unique and independent relationship with God.

What Happens During Godly Play?

Children are invited into a peaceful room, where adults model reflective behavior and where lessons can be explored. Religious stories or parables are shared with the children using three-dimensional materials that invite them into the stories and connect them to their personal experience. Open ended "I wonder..." questions and ample response time give the children the chance to consider their own questions and reflect on the story from their own perspective.

They then choose from a range of options to respond to the story. After they clean up from their response time, they enjoy a "feast" (snack and juice).

Each class parallels the experience of the Eucharist. Each session includes a period of Preparation (meeting and greeting), the Ministry of the Word (listening and responding to a Bible story), Communion (sharing food and drink), and a Blessing and Dismissal.

This is play. It is Godly. It is meeting God along with the children rather than teaching them what we, as adults, think they ought to know.

How Parents Can Help

- Please help your children be on time. They won't want to miss a minute!
- Please say your goodbyes at the door, and know that the teachers are ready to make the next hour a safe and welcoming time for each child.
- When you pick up your child, keep in mind that young children will not always be able to tell you what they learned, because often what they learned was how to learn about the powerful language of the Christian people. A **Parent Page** will be available for you each week that is filled with suggestions for talking about the stories and continuing the "play" at home.
- Parents are encouraged to support the classes by taking turns providing the weekly "feast".
- Parents should attend the Orientation session at the beginning of each school year.

