



## **Outline of a typical Godly Play lesson**

The classroom or hall is set up to provide room for the whole group to sit in a circle on the floor but also to allow access to 'response' materials – paint, pastels, collage, modelling dough, books, computers, digital camera etc. It will not be necessary for all the children to have their own chair – many will be happy to stand or work on the floor, but a few tables would be useful.

A typical session of Godly Play lasts around 45 minutes to one hour, although sessions can last longer if sufficient time is available. Two adults, a story-teller and a doorperson should be present to facilitate the session, which typically proceeds through the following stages:

**At the threshold** - the children are welcomed by the doorperson and invited to sit in a circle with the story-teller. (5 mins)

**Building the circle** - the story-teller settles the group in preparation for the story (Jerome Berryman, following the Montessori tradition, uses the term 'lesson'). (5 mins)

**Presenting the lesson** - the story-teller focuses on the special materials used to present the story. These are usually three dimensional figures crafted in natural materials. (15 mins)

**Wondering** - the children are invited to wonder about the story and explore their connectedness to it. Some wonder aloud; others in silence. (10 mins)

**Response** - the children decide on their own response to the story, which may be through art work, or learning to retell the story with the original materials, or through games, maps, puzzles or books. (25 mins)

**The feast** - the work is put away and everyone returns to the circle. After a time of prayer the feast is shared (the feast is something to eat and drink). (15 mins)

**Saying goodbye** - the session ends and each child is spoken to, by the story-teller and by the doorperson, before they leave. (5 mins)

You can find out more about Godly Play at: [www.godlyplay.org.uk](http://www.godlyplay.org.uk)

Godly Play Session