

Feedback received from someone who attended a Godly play workshop

I found the day really beneficial and it definitely inspired me to look into Godly play as part of my ministry.

Since visiting we've actually created our own version of Godly Play which we call 'Bible Story Boxes'. The Godly Play equipment, although brilliant, was quite expensive. We had a local church offer to lend us their Godly Play resources when we needed them and gave us some scripts to get us going, however around the same time we set up a knitting group and our knitters began knitting Bible Characters... Over 100 knitted figures later we now have a fantastic collection of characters which we use in our Story Boxes and they're loved by the parents and children we work with. We also have some very creative people who have been able to come up with props for the stories too, so we've managed to build our own resources inspired by Godly Play.

We use the boxes in a similar way to Godly Play, often using Godly Play scripts but also using Margaret Cooling's 'Bible Story Bag' resource and coming up with our own scripts too. We have a Breakfast Church which meets once a month which always has a Bible Story Box, once a month our Sunday School also has one. We've also been using them at our Holiday Clubs, Messy Church and all age services. We have also set up a new Christian Tot's Group in two locations, where we use them with our own scripts which we make specifically for 0-5yrs. We've got frequent slots within a local primary school to take in our boxes and just this past week we've had another School ask for us to come in with them. I also took one on our church weekend away (where there were no children) and the adults loved it!

I also led a training session on them just after Easter for the churches in our circuit and as a result one of our other churches has already started with some more knitting! I'm planning on running a script writing workshop too in the near future so I can pass on the skills and techniques to help others write scripts. I've found that the Godly Play scripts and the Margaret Cooling scripts are sometimes too abstract or embellish the original Bible story too much, or don't exist on the story I want to do, but I've found writing my own has been a real joy and gives me the flexibility to emphasise different parts of different stories depending on my group or teaching point.

Thank you very much for such a useful day which has inspired so much. Seeing the Godly Play in action was really beneficial and gave me the confidence to go ahead and give it a go.