

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to schedule an “observation” time in their child’s class sometime throughout the year. Godly Play is not easily explained, but can be recognized and experienced easily. Observing will give you a better understanding of your child’s experience in Godly Play.

### Observation Guidelines

Welcome!

Dr. Jerome Berryman, an Episcopal priest, has spent almost forty years observing and interacting with church school children in a “Montessori” way. Godly Play is the result of that research. Observation is the most valuable tool to learn about the program and we are glad that you are here.

As an observer, please:

1. Sit quietly in the chair offered and do not move around the classroom.
2. Do not engage the teacher or children in conversation during the class. This is the children’s work time. (If a child approaches you, please explain that you are watching and redirect them to a teacher if they are seeking help.)
3. Even if it seems like your immediate help is necessary, like the spilling of the water tray, please allow the children to have complete ownership of this work. They are learning how to interact ethically in community.
4. We are always around before class ; we would love to answer questions and hear your thoughts then. If you have negative feelings, please share them with the Godly Play teacher. We do not have the ability to cast an objective eye on our own work and welcome all feedback.

Thank you very much for your cooperation. These guidelines are suggested to help ensure the least amount of disruption during an observation. We want you to see the children in their routine.

Schedule:

- Getting ready and Gathering
- The Story
- The Response Time
- The Feast and Sharing Time
- Dismissal

Please do not be offended when you are not offered “the Feast.” You will see that the focus stays within the circle. Breaking the circle distracts the children and can be confusing for them. By staying apart, you can truly be a “fly on the wall.”

*Remember: Children are oriented to process, not product. It is important to appreciate and watch what they are doing, NOT the finished product.*