



Godly Play Ten Best Ways *for Parents*

One of our Godly Play lessons introduces children to the “Ten Best Ways” to live. This is the story of the Ten Commandments. The following ten best ways are not commandments, but the ways we invite you, the parent/grown-up, to support your child’s Godly Play experience at St. Barnabas.

1. Please help the children to be on time and ready – they won’t want to miss a minute! Godly Play sessions take place on Sunday mornings from 10:30 until we rejoin the congregation in the Sanctuary for communion. The ideal arrival time is between 10:15-10:25 to give children time to get ready before the story begins. Teachers need time to prepare, so please do not bring children to the Youth Room prior to 10:15. Encourage children to go to the restroom before class.
2. Please be patient, knowing that part of what we are teaching the children is the importance of slowing down and being ready to be with God. The Godly Play circle is built slowly and lovingly, to welcome each child, one at a time. When children arrive, they wait outside the door while the teacher helps them get ready to join the circle. Children are always welcomed into the circle, but it is best if everyone is settled before the story and wondering starts.
3. Please say goodbye at the door, knowing that the teachers are ready to make the next hour a safe and welcoming time for every child. Even if your child is not ready to join the circle, you may leave them to get ready with the doorkeeper.
4. Please do not come into the room during drop off or during a Godly Play session. The Godly Play room is a sacred space for children, and having additional adults in the room can be distracting and sometimes disruptive to the flow of the class.
5. Please attend our upcoming Open Session for parents on October 4 when we’ll have our lesson on the Ten Best Ways (Ten Commandments). The classroom environment is a critical part of the curriculum, and knowing more about the way things are set up will help you connect with your child about what happens here.
6. Please try not to be discouraged if children do not have the words to tell you about their experience in the classroom. Young children, in particular, may not be able to tell you what they learned, because what they learned was how to learn about God and the powerful language of the Christian people.



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7. Please know that there may not be a physical product for their “work” each Sunday, because some of what they are learning cannot be put into words—even by adults. In Godly Play, we focus on our relationships with God, the depth of relationships in the community of children, and learning how to use the Christian language to make meaning of our experiences.
8. Please understand that some days we will choose not to include all parts of the lesson. In Godly Play we believe that we have “all the time we need,” and it is more important to respond to the needs of the children than to stick to a strict schedule. Skipping a particular piece of the lesson is an intentional decision made for the benefit of the entire group based on the time available.
9. Please support the program by learning more about Godly Play. Introductory materials are available to borrow from the Godly Play room. Just ask!
10. Stay connected with the Godly Play teachers, volunteers, and our church clergy. Always email or call if you have questions or concerns!

Contact Information

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
1187 Wyatt Way NW
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
stbbi.org | 206-842-5601 | info@stbbi.org

Rev. Dianne Andrews
Interim
revdianne@stbbi.org

Etienna Wright
Parish Administrator & Family Ministries Coordinator
etienna@stbbi.org