

## Godly Play Script

Godly Play is a creative, innovative and experiential way of helping both children and adults engage with the stories in the Bible. Before using a Godly Play script for the first time read the document [How to Use Godly Play](#) which also tells how to find more help if Godly Play is new to you. You will need to allow time to gather the materials and objects needed for the script and also to practice telling the Godly Play story.

This first week of Preach Exodus! is unusual in that there are two Godly Play scripts. Godly Play part 1 (Creation: God's Gift Box) reflects on the richness of creation; Part 2 (Exodus: Desert Slaves Box) reflects on the experiences of the slaves in Egypt. Leaders will need to look carefully at the [Warming Up, Warming Down activities for Week One](#) before making a decision. It is important to reflect in this first week not only on the creation story but also the captivity element from Exodus chapter 1. Some options to consider are:

- Simply present both Godly Play scripts as set out below.
- Use Godly Play part 1 (Creation) and then follow it with the [Action Scene](#) picture which focuses on the captivity theme from Exodus. Use the [Action Scene instructions](#) for guidance in using the Action Scene further.
- Use the Creation Collage exercise in Warming Up, Warming Down for Week One as a reflection on creation and then use the Godly Play script Part 2 (Exodus Desert Slaves Box) possibly followed by the Action Scene if time is available.

### Godly Play part 1 (Creation)      God's Gift Box

#### You will need

- Small shoebox with loose lid, gift wrapped, labelled 'God's Gift Box'.
- Piece of dark material, approx 60x25 cm
- Copies of the [Days of Creation](#) sheet for each child.
- A prepared set of the Days of Creation pictures, enlarged, coloured and attached to each other in order to make a 'concertina' that you can stand up to display
- One copy of the Days of Creation sheet, on card, coloured and completed and cut into individual days for the box
- Colouring pens/crayons
- An envelope for each child
- Sticky tape

*Invite the children to sit in a circle. Bring out the box and place it before the children. Give each child a copy of the Days of Creation sheet.*

**Leader: What could this box be? Does it look like a present? I wonder who this present is from? I wonder who it is for? It is a wonderful present from God. And it is for all of us. Shall we see what's inside?**

*Open the box. Slowly take out the dark material. Spread it on the floor in front of you, smoothing it and inviting the children to respond by asking 'I wonder what this could be?' Accept all possible answers with 'Yes, it could be that.'*

**Leader: In the beginning there was NOTHING.**

*Take the Day 1 card from the box and show it to the children. Place it on the dark material.*

**Leader: God set to work and said, 'I would like some light' and there was light, to go with the darkness. And so God made the light and the light was amazing.**

*Present the smiley card and place it below the Day 1 card.*

**Leader: God smiled because he was so pleased.**

# Preach Exodus! **Week One**

*Invite the children to find Day 1 on the sheet and colour the shaded half in a dark colour.*

*Take the Day 2 card from the box and show it to the children. Place it on the dark material beside the other card.*

**Leader: On the second day, God said, 'I would like some water, with a dome, to separate the waters below from the waters above. And the dome shall be called the sky.' And so God made the water. And God smiled because he was so pleased.**

*Move the smiley card along to rest below the Day 2 card.*

*Invite the children to find and colour Day 2 on their sheets.*

*Take the Day 3 card from the box and show it to the children. Place it on the dark material beside the Day 2 card.*

**Leader: On the third day, God said 'I would like some dry land, with all kinds of plants.' And it was so. And God smiled because he was so pleased.**

*Move the smiley card along to rest below the Day 3 card.*

*Invite the children to find, colour and make additions to Day 3 on their sheets.*

*Take the Day 4 card from the box and show it to the children. Place it on the dark material beside the Day 3 card.*

**Leader: On the fourth day, God said, 'I will make day and night, to count the time.' So God made the sun to rule over the day, and the moon to rule over the night. He also made the stars. And God smiled because he was so pleased.**

*Move the smiley card along to rest below the Day 4 card.*

*Invite the children to find, colour and make additions to Day 4 on their sheets.*

*Take the Day 5 card from the box and show it to the children. Place it on the dark material beside the Day 4 card.*

**Leader: On the fifth day, God said 'I would like some waters to be filled with all kinds of creatures, and the air to be filled with birds.' And it was so. And God smiled because he was so pleased.**

*Move the smiley card along to rest below the Day 5 card.*

*Invite the children to find, colour and make additions to Day 5 on their sheets.*

*Take the Day 6 card from the box and show it to the children. Place it on the dark material beside the Day 5 card.*

**Leader: On the sixth day, God gave us all the animals and human beings. He blessed each of them and then the whole universe was complete. And God smiled because he was so pleased.**

*Move the smiley card along to rest below the Day 6 card.*

*Invite the children to find, colour and make additions to Day 6 on their sheets.*

*Present, from the box, the Day 7 card. Place it beside the Day 6 card on the dark material.*

**Leader: On the seventh day, God rested. He gave us a day to remember all the gifts of the other days, which he had made just for us.**

*Move the smiley card along to rest below Day 7 card.*

*Invite the children to respond to some 'wondering' questions. As each response will be an individual one, allow the children time to write or draw on their Day 7 card, if they wish to.*

- Leader:**
- I wonder which day we are in now.
  - I wonder if God found one of the day's harder work than any of the others.
  - I wonder what the world would be like if God missed out one of the days.
  - I wonder what God did when he rested.
  - I wonder if all the things God made are still living.
  - I wonder how we can thank God for his gift to us.

*Now display the prepared 'concertina' version of the Days of Creation pictures. This will start a **TABLETOP TABLEAU** to which an addition will be made each week. Place the dark material on the table with the **GOD'S***

## Preach Exodus! **Week One**

***GIFT BOX** on its side, lid off. Stand the days of creation alongside, on the dark material. The children could place their creation sheets in envelopes.*

### **Godly Play part 2 (Exodus) Desert Slaves Box**

#### **You will need:**

- Small shoe box with loose lid, wrapped in dull paper labelled “*desert slaves box*”.
- Piece of yellow material to represent the desert.
- Many small figures to represent the Israelites, e.g. Lego or Play People figures – or jelly babies
- Small crown for one of the figures – a king
- One small figure representing a baby boy
- Small stick
- Building bricks/blocks to represent houses and cities
- Small beach spade or garden trowel
- 4-6 bean bags

Invite the children to sit in a circle. Bring out the box and place it in front of them.

**Leader:** **Look at this box. It isn't as bright or cheerful as God's Gift Box. This is a sad box. I wonder why it is a sad box. Shall we see what's inside?**

*Open the box and slowly take out the yellow material. Spread it out on the floor in front of you, smoothing it and inviting the children to respond as you say, 'I wonder what this could be?' Accept all possible answers with, 'Yes, it could be that.'*

**Leader:** **Long, long ago the Israelite people went to live in the land of Egypt. Over the years they grew in number so that at last there were thousands of them.**

*Present, from the box, one small figure at a time, standing them together, as a group.*

**Leader:** **They had many, many children and grew to be a strong body of people.**

*Keep bringing out the figures to emphasise numbers. Leave a few for the last part of the story. Now show the crowned figure.*

**Leader:** **Then, a new king in Egypt became worried that so many Israelites were living in Egypt. What if they turned against the king and the Egyptian people? He thought of a plan to keep the Israelites under control.**

*Place the king on the yellow material at the opposite end to the Israelite people. Take the stick from the box and wave it menacingly over the Israelite people as you continue.*

**Leader:** **The Egyptians put slave-drivers over the Israelite people. These were men who made them work very, very hard. They gave them very little food and told them when to sleep, when to work, when to do everything.**

*Take the building blocks from the box and place them on the yellow material, between the king and the Israelite people.*

**Leader:** **The Israelites were made to build whole cities. They were also made to work in the fields.**

*Take the spade/trowel from the box. Make digging actions. Place it on the yellow material beside the building blocks.*

## Preach Exodus! **Week One**

**Leader:** **The Israelites built the cities where all the food supplies for the Egyptians were stored.**

*Present, from the box, the bean bags, one at a time, placing each one on top of the other, near the building blocks, until they fall over, showing how abundant the Egyptian supplies were. Lift the stick again, and wave menacingly over the Israelite people.*

**Leader:** **The supplies grew and grew because the Egyptians made the Israelites work so hard. But even though the Israelites were miserable and sad, because they were slaves, they still grew in numbers and became an even bigger body of people. The Egyptians became afraid of so many Israelites, and showed even more cruelty to them. But still the Israelites grew in numbers.**

*Bring out the last few figures and place with the group of Israelite figures on the yellow material. Raise the king from the yellow material as you say.....*

**Leader:** **Finally, the king was so worried about the growing number of Israelites that he ordered that every newborn Israelite boy should be thrown into the River Nile!**

*Take the baby boy figure and make a throwing-away gesture. Place it on the edge of the yellow material. Invite the children to respond to some 'wondering' statements. Be positive with all responses.*

**Leader:**

- I wonder how it felt to be a slave.
- I wonder how the Egyptian slave-drivers felt to be in charge.
- I wonder what the Egyptians were really afraid of.
- I wonder if the Israelite people had anything good to thank God for at this time.
- I wonder where you would choose to be on this yellow material.

*Add the **DESERT SLAVE BOX** to the **TABLETOP TABLEAU** by turning the box on its side and displaying some of the figures and story symbols on the yellow material. Make a 'sad face' sheet, in contrast to the 'smiley card' used with Part 1. Place the sad face sheet inside the Desert Slave Box. Encourage the children to see that on the one side we have images of God's generous provision, but that, on the other, we have people struggling with poverty and unfair treatment.*