

## **‘Godly Play’ and ‘Young Children and Worship’**

‘Young Children and Worship’ supports a different programme to ‘Godly Play’. There are some similarities as they share some common roots, but please be aware of the difference when choosing which approach to follow (and buy!)

Each has quite different sets of resources (and a different style of resource often).

Each is supported by quite different books . Godly Play can be followed using Vols 1–6 of The Complete Guide to Godly Play of which Vols 2,3 & 4 provide the core scripts. Young Children and Worship requires a series of books entitled ‘Young Children and Worship’, and ‘Following Jesus’.

- In ‘Young Children and Worship’ the materials operate more like the teacher’s visual aids, rather than being designed to support the child’s own play and response. Some of the materials in Young Children and Worship are more 2 dimensional – eg the ark is a flat outline of a boat, whereas in Godly Play it is something which the creatures can actually get inside.
- In ‘Young Children and Worship’ there is sometimes an attempt to represent everything in the story visually, which may distract the children’s focus from the core of the story. Young Children and Worship’ aims in this way for reproduction of the story, whereas in Godly Play the aim is for a spiritually engaging experience through the story.
- In ‘Young Children and Worship’ the approach to wondering is less open, and often builds to lead the children to particular pre-determined understandings.
- The ‘Young Children and Worship’ series offers a greater number of Gospel stories, But, unlike the ‘Godly Play stories’, few of these have benefitted from careful research amongst children. The core Gospel stories of Jesus birth, life, death and resurrection are available in Godly Play versions, as are key parables told by Jesus. Research over many years with children suggests that they benefit greatly from opportunities to ‘go back’ again and again to experience the heart of these stories which are in turn the heart of the Christian faith.
- ‘Young Children and Worship’ encourages taking children through many stories over time –with the goal that they will come to ‘know a lot’. This contrasts with ‘Godly Play’ which deliberately chooses to repeat core stories with children year after year, with the goal that they discover the possibilities of ‘going deeper’.
- In the UK Godly Play is supported by accredited training courses led by a team of accredited trainers in this approach (see [www.godlyplay.org.uk](http://www.godlyplay.org.uk)). Young Children and Worship training courses are only available in the USA.