

Ideas for Creativity and Story Engagement

Gathering/Feeling Into (Ideas for experiencing the feeling(s) we want to highlight and evoke to prepare the stage for the story)

- worship table with bible and symbols/colours of season and of story
- lighting Christ candle
- gather on blanket/tiles/space set aside for the gathering and do quick group check-in
- simulation activity (hunger, chores,
- conversation from their own experience (broken promises, being sick and getting well, being lost and found, wanted/ received gifts and disappointment etc)
- video clip from current movie (Early Veggie Tales, Up, Inside Out, Finding Nemo Hunger Games, Glee etc)
- listen to selected music and talk about feelings each evokes
- guided meditation
- take a tour (church, Nazareth, food bank etc)
- scavenger hunt
- do/try/make an activity/item that is in the story but unfamiliar to kids today (taste Middle Eastern foods, make house hold items from bible times, wrap a turban, wear a cloak, make a lamp, tend a garden, swaddle a baby, herd sheep, write on wax etc.
- play a already known children's game that evokes emotion (Red light/green light, picking for teams, dodge ball, monopoly, sorry etc.)
- have a visitor talk briefly about their life (costumed biblical character, present day elder, missionary, volunteer, older person about their faith journey, young adult about making choices etc.)

Exploring/Meeting With (Ideas for presenting the story itself)

- tell the story in your own words without notes
- dramatize the story
- readers theatre
- tell the story with the kids doing repetitive actions
- tell the story with kids creating an easy puppet play as you go, or have kids re-tell story after telling using puppets
- have symbols/items from the story and ask the kids to show/use item when they hear their item mentioned in the story, or have them use items to retell story
- flannel graph - have kids put the figures on the flannel board
- guided meditation through story lying down silently with eyes closed
- walk-about story using simple preaching scarves
- have kids imitate actions as they occur in story
- sing a song about the story (The wise built his house upon the rock, The Lord told Noah, Love is something if you give it away etc.)
- replay activity of story after it has been presented (eat foods, play with items, dramatize story)
- kids write story with symbols for selected words after hearing the story and then retell story from this text

Responding To/Responding Out Of (Ideas for further engagement with the story and applying the story to our lives)

- make puppets and retell story (tennis balls with google eyes, wooden sticks, toilet paper tubes, socks etc.)
- finger-painting to mood music or guided story-telling
- painting, colouring, use craft materials for building, lego, mosaics, comic book frames, dioramas, wood working, murals etc.
- create a floor map with simple objects, pace out the size something big (ark, temple etc.)
- dramatize the story in present day, garbage bag skits, mime, tableaux,
- write the story as a readers theatre and prepare for use in worship
- write the story as a blog post, twitter message, news report etc.
- make banners, bulletin covers, bulletin board poster, power point slides for use in worship
- create a liturgical dance or movement to show emotions
- write a song to a familiar tune, play rhythm instruments, use boom whackers, flags, scarves etc.
- cook or bake
- create a seek-a-word, jig saw puzzle, etc.
- quietly read similar stories from classroom library centre
- maintain a church mission/justice project, go green

Closing Worship (Ideas for concluding with community worship)

- guided meditation
- bidding prayers
- praying in colour
- use music/pictures/writing/etc developed during morning's lesson
- one word/ popcorn prayers
- sing a song
- dance or creative movement
- extinguishing Christ candle