



Beloved Me, Beloved We **Godly Play** Equity Audit Toolkit

Circle of the Church Year

Volume 2

The Complete Guide to Godly Play
Revised & Expanded

Circle of the Church Year

Lesson 1, Volume 2, *The Complete Guide to Godly Play*, Revised and Expanded

The Material

The Material should match your context:

In general, this material must be contextualized. All are encouraged to use the colors and symbols you use in your tradition for this lesson. Godly Play resources has some options already available (blue or purple for Advent, orange blocks for the Season of Creation), but this lesson is easy to change to match your tradition with a bit of paint!

White blocks:

The material uses white blocks for the seasons of Christmas and Advent. The color white is not emphasized in this lesson, but it is called the color of “pure celebration” in some of the other Liturgical Lessons. To de-emphasize the idea that white equals celebration, we recommend adding a gold star to the Christmas block, and a gold cross to the Easter block. The felt wall hangings that match this lesson already have these gold touches. Many liturgical churches have white altar coverings and vestments for these seasons, but most of them also include gold accents.

In addition, all the white blocks (two for Christmas, seven for Easter) should be “lined” with gold. Godly Play Resources will begin doing this now, but if you already own this material, this can be done quite simply with gold paint markers.



As you encounter language about “pure celebration” in some of the other Liturgical Lessons, we suggest you consider saying, “a color of celebration.” You will find this language in:

- *The Complete Guide to Godly Play*, Vol. 3, Lesson 4 – Advent IV: Magi & Christmas
- *The Complete Guide to Godly Play*, Vol. 4, Lesson 1 – The Mystery of Easter
- *The Complete Guide to Godly Play*, Vol. 4, Lesson 8 – The Faces of Easter VII

The Language

Description of Advent

The language in the published lesson is:

Purple is the color of kings, and Jesus was King, but not the kind of king that people thought was coming.

This is such an important idea that we think it needs to be further emphasized by adding some of the language found in the Advent lessons (*The Complete Guide to Godly Play*, Vol. 3). You might say, for example:

This purple is for a king. But this King had no army, no palace, and no gold. This King was a baby who was born in a barn.

Description of the “green and growing season.”

The language in the published lesson is:

Here is the time when school is out. Summer comes, and the days get longer and longer. You can play outside later. People go swimming. Some go to camp. Many go on vacation. Then summer comes to an end.

Now you begin to get ready for school. You need new clothes and books. School begins and you often have a new teacher.

First, you must contextualize this description of the season to match your context. We recommend reminding the circle that the seasons are not the same everywhere by adding,

Here, in the Northern Hemisphere (or wherever you live)....

The published lesson has some suggestions for people using this lesson in the Southern Hemisphere. Judyth Roberts, a Godly Play Trainer in Australia, suggests this:

Think about where you live and what is happening at that time of the year. A sense of place is important. Are there signals in nature that can be noted? Do rains come or stop? Does it become lighter and the days get longer? Are there trees or flowers that are striking? Is it harvest time? Or summer school holidays? Using three or four sentences, summarize the changes that happen as Advent approaches.

Additional considerations:

The references to vacation and new clothes presume that every child has those privileges. We know that isn't true! Instead, we recommend saying:

*Summer comes, and the days get longer and longer. You can play outside later. People go swimming. Some go to camp or on trips. Then summer comes to an end.
Now you begin to get ready for school. You might gather clothes and books.*