

Connecting Children and Families

During times of Anxiety

From the staff and Advisory Board of SSFM: We are continuing to do what we have always done, to love, teach, and heal in the name and power of Jesus Christ and offer resources to encourage the spiritual practices of the household. We offer these resources as a guide to online opportunities and virtual experiences.

One incredible way to serve children and families in the household is sharing Godly Play

During this time of sheltering at home, it seems as if we are in exile. For these past months, we have been away from our normal face to face gatherings. To help us discover where our children are in their spirituality, we offer the Godly Play story of “The Exile and Return” provided by Jerome Berryman from the Godly Play Foundation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RG6E2SaVGeE>

For more resources, check out Godly Play for the Household

- Godly Play for the household—Making meaning in Exile <https://www.godlyplayfoundation.org/>
Godly Play® is a registered trademark of the Godly Play Foundation
- Additional Godly Play offerings-- Eastertide Godly Play stories (The Faces of Easter) provided by St. Luke’s Lebanon with stories told by The Rev. Mary Kisner.

Children have an innate sense of the presence of God. The Godly Play approach helps them to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language, and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and Play.



Stories of God at Home Series

<https://www.godlyplayresources.com/?cn=Making+Meaning+in+Exile+&c=87>

From Virginia Theological Seminary: “Build Faith” Coronavirus, Anxiety, Children and The Church

Learn more about speaking with children in the household and gathering their experiences and feelings. Check out Coronavirus, Anxiety, Children, and The Church as a resource for families.

<https://buildfaith.org/coronavirus-anxiety-children-and-the-church/>

Share a Bible story with the Diocese of Central PA through video and send it to rszoke@diocesepa.org
Check out this example:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUDoRDJfR3A&list=PL69H4zS8aAoLBExpDa5enVkJhIJ-FHYt6>

From Vibrant Faith, learn more about how families can thrive when children and youth spend time on tech. Tips for tech at home: <http://vibrantfaithathome.org/item/screen-time-family-time-2#.XpSvi8hKg2w>

Illustrated Ministry is supporting local congregations and families at home by providing free, weekly faith formation resources for all ages. [HTTPS://www.illustratedministry.com/flattenthecurve/](https://www.illustratedministry.com/flattenthecurve/)

A cartoonist guide to the Bible: <https://www.stevethomason.net/studies/the-bible-bookshelf/>
from Steve Thomason, "Following the Cloud."

Going for Growth from the Church of England: <http://www.going4growth.com/home>

Transformation for children, young people, and the church Resources for worship and prayers for the home.

From **Vibrant Faith**; Bible App for Kids: <https://bibleappforkids.com>

The Bible App for Kids is a free app for Android, Apple, and Kindle devices, available in over 50 languages. The app introduces children to 41 of the "big" Bible stories and helps them understand the overall story that the Bible is telling. Throughout each story, fun, interactive animations keep children engaged, and select stories even include games designed to help them learn, understand, and retain important Bible story concepts.