

Exploring the development of Sacred Play at Moot

What did you & your children value from the sacred play event you attended?

- The inclusive nature of the adult & childrens participation (that children & adults take part at the same time).
- The appeal to a wide range of childrens ages.
- The relaxed atmosphere which in particular means that younger children can run around and parents are more relaxed.
- The mix of adults with no kids being there in particular is fantastic.
- The open nature of the story telling which frees the stories from any specific interpretation or dogma.
- The safety of being able to question.
- Something very positive about gathering a mixed group of people together around an activity/story.
- Chance of everyone having an equal voice
- Even though there was a 'script' the sessions had an open-ended quality in terms of outcome which was very much a product of participation and response.
- Refreshing to reconsider stories in a new way that are often rather well trodden
- Good that it allowed new people/people on Moot edges to be included.
- ok, i have no kids, but I thought both services were a great opportunity for families to worship together, and to promote conversation with the kids which could later be followed up, generally enhancing parent-kid relationships. great idea.

Have there been any lasting benefits to you and your family from participating in sacred play?

- Possibly too early to tell, but it has provided a great and important context for us to talk and share with one another around biblical stories.
- Don't have a 'family' in this context –I'm not sure I could identify any lasting benefits to myself personally if I was being absolutely honest.
- I am pretty sure the answer would be yes, but alas, i couldn't be sure.

Of what we did, what elements of Sacred Play worked, and what elements need development?

- The storytelling works really well.
- The interaction, questions and answers perhaps could be developed to encourage more participation from adults and kids.
- Wonderment, worked really well in the first session.
- The food could become more a part of the sessions. At the moment it appears as something of an afterthought, that takes place once the play has finished. The food would work better I think if it was more a part of the whole event (which I think was the idea at the second session) The meal could become therefore liturgical (not in the sense of any written or recited liturgy but in the sense that it is something that is part of the whole session, part of the sharing, and part of the story that people have heard and continue to explore.
- Beginnings of sessions seems to work ok. Endings tended to get a bit mixed up. Tricky to take people from session through food to getting coats, etc on to go to park .
- Even participation – first session seemed to work quite well. Second session was child dominated. Sessions depend upon participation to work well. Not sure how to remedy this: Partly adults need to be more active in participation, partly whoever is facilitating needs to stress and re-stress that it's for everyone. The adults may need more coaxing than children to get a response.
- the story telling has been good, but perhaps more child friendly language and cadences could be used.

- the visuals definitely need more money, as you already know. I also think there could be more opportunities for kids to contribute without talking (painting/drawing) and more things for them to get their hands on.

If Moot was to commit to doing some form of Sacred Play each month, is this something you would support regarding attendance & possible involvement in Moot? (This has implications on needing a team of trained Godly Play storytellers & equipment).

- I would not be able to commit to involvement in Moot, but would be willing to commit to regularly attending and involve myself in preparing and taking the events.
- Yes
- I'd definitely offer my support and would be willing to take on a degree of responsibility for it.
- My family cannot commit to leading and sorting out sacred play events – but we will attend.
- I have only been to one session – so do not feel I completely get it, but will attend with my family when I can.

If Moot was to commit to running monthly Sacred Play events, would you be prepared to financially support this endeavour regarding food, refreshments and materials?

- Yes.
- Yes
- cant see it right now, but I would consider it again in the future. In principle, yes.
- In principle Yes
- I am not well paid – so cannot promise this.

Are there any other comments or considerations you would like us to know?

- I think the idea is a fantastic one. Well done!
- I think that some adults could do with having the Godly play ethos spelt out a bit more fully so for example, they can get past the mentality that (i) This is just about kids (ii) There needs to be a 'message' or 'moral' to the sessions (iii) That is the adults who need to teach the children (iv) That this is a teacher-pupil scenario. (which as I understand it are all wrong ideas of Godly play, but ones which some attenders seem to hold about the sessions)
- I also feel that the name 'sacred' play works against an inclusive environment, and reinforces a sacred-secular division amongst both adults and children. The label 'Godly' play I think is far more appropriate, and doesn't carry with it the same theological assumptions or baggage from Christendom, allowing for a more creative and broad agenda to develop. The 'sacred-secular' division is perhaps something that the children and adults need to decide about themselves, but calling it 'sacred' play implies a specific perspective on this and perhaps therefore goes against the Godly play ethos.
- The idea of going to the playground afterwards is a great idea which provides the opportunity to develop relationships – will work better after winter!
- The timings of the sessions are good in terms of kids having had lunch but able to get home in time for tea!
- This is a super thing to be doing. We should continue to explore it if possible.
- As someone without children, and only some experience of them, this is both something that fills me with terror and something I want to embrace. That in mind there are probably some social hurdles that need to be addressed in terms of parents, singles, couples and kids relating to one another. This will probably happen over time but might also be addressed through social activities such as trips to the park, etc.
- PLEASE consider the diary carefully when planning – need to consider school hols half term, and avoiding London Festivals such as Lonfon Marathon, Mothers & Fathers day.

- Please consider doing monthly – it helps our children get into a pattern & rhythm.
- Children need to learn about Godly Play – so need some regularity to learn how to worship God through it.
- Would be good to mix in some social events too to enable families and mooters to interact.