TELLING THE STORY

How we tell Bible stories in Sunday school

When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the Lord our God has commanded you?' then you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.'
DEUTERONOMY 6:20–21

When we tell the story, we are…

- **Our story-based curriculum**
  - In the fall, we tell stories from the Old Testament. During Advent, we tell the stories of those waiting for Christ's birth. In the new year, we tell the stories from Jesus's life, death, resurrection, ascension. We finish the school year learning about the early church.
  - We teach the whole Bible to proclaim the whole work of God and His mighty arm of salvation.
  - When we tell the stories of the people of God, the children learn that the people in the Bible are flawed and real, like us. But they are the people God has chosen to use to communicate true things about us and how God choses to relate to us.
  - We learn that we are the people of God and through our study of the people in the Bible, we can benefit from their experiences as though they were our own. The story is a very real way to pass down the family heritage of our faith.
- **Letting children enter the story**
  - Children sit in a circle on the floor, and we sing a "getting ready to listen song"
  - Stories are told with wooden figures and felt backgrounds. The materials are ordinary and multi-sensory, but not common. They hold the children's attention without distracting from the story.
  - Afterward, the materials go back on the shelves, where children can take them down and retell the story themselves.
- **Wondering together**
  - After the story, the storyteller asks open ended questions. The questions lead to deeper wondering and allow the children the chance to interact with the story on a new level.
  - We take children's questions seriously…they are an opening for the Holy Spirit to move.
  - We then take our wonderings (questions) to God in prayer, and to trusted spiritual advisors for insight.
- **Responding with our hands**
  - Children choose how to respond: drawing, painting, building, or working again with the story materials.
  - We give them open-ended time to process in order to teach them to listen to God using the unique gifts and leanings He has given them.