

Children Worship & Wonder

A Summer Alternative

By Randy Kuss

Users of Children Worship & Wonder, aka Godly Play, may find it refreshing for all to take a break from the regular WW story rotation over the summer by simply substituting a good children's picture storybook into the routine as the weekly story.

See below a set of storybooks I have used and a set of Wondering Questions to go with each.

Stories & Wondering Questions

Stories by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

Adam & Eve's First Sunset

- I wonder what Adam & Eve were thinking when they saw the Sun sliding lower and lower in the sky?
- I wonder how Adam & Eve felt when they could not stop the Sun from going down?
- I wonder how Adam & Eve felt when the Sun disappeared from the sky?
- I wonder how Adam & Eve made that first fire?
- I wonder what Adam & Eve thought sitting by that fire with the dark all around them?
- I wonder how Adam & Eve felt when the Sun came up again?
- I wonder what Adam & Eve learned?

Butterflies Under Our Hats

- I wonder what it was like living in Chelm where "if something could go wrong, it did"?
- I wonder how the people felt when they just could not find any luck anywhere?
- I wonder how the people felt when that strange and beautiful woman came to town?
- I wonder what the people thought when they heard about butterflies of hope?
- I wonder how the people felt when they saw the butterflies?
- I wonder how the people felt when they caught the butterflies under their hats?
- I wonder how the people felt when they saw the butterflies fly away?
- I wonder how the people felt when they found just a little trace of the butterflies in their hats?
- I wonder how the people were different when they found hope?
- I wonder how we might be different when we have hope?

Cain & Abel: Finding the Fruits of Peace

- I wonder what it was like when the world was new?
- I wonder how Cain & Abel felt walking around in that new world?
- I wonder how Cain felt about being the farmer?
- I wonder how Abel felt about being the shepherd?
- I wonder how Cain & Abel felt about being brothers?
- I wonder what Cain & Abel were so angry about with each other?
- I wonder how Cain felt after he hit Abel with the rock?
- I wonder how God felt about Cain & Abel?
- I wonder how God felt when people kept using rocks and swords and guns and bombs to hurt each other?
- I wonder how it might be different?

For Heaven's Sake

- I wonder why Isaiah loved blueberries so much?
- I wonder what you love as much as Isaiah loved blueberries?
- I wonder what heaven taste's like?
- I wonder where heaven is?
- I wonder what heaven is?
- I wonder what Isaiah learned about heaven from his grandmother?
- I wonder where you would look for heaven?

God In Between

- I wonder how the people in the town felt with no roads and no windows?
- I wonder how that woman and man felt when they went looking for God out in the wide world?
- I wonder how that woman and man felt when they could not find God out in the wide world?
- I wonder how the people felt when the woman and man came back and told them they could not find God out in the wide world?
- I wonder how the people felt when the woman and man told them God helped them?
- I wonder how the people felt when the woman and man told them was right there between all of them?
- I wonder where you find God?

God Said Amen

- I wonder how the people in the Kingdom of Midnight felt when it got dark and there was no oil to light their lamps?
- I wonder how the people in the Kingdom of the Desert felt when there was no water to grow gardens?
- I wonder how the Grand Prince felt when he mounted his royal crane and set out for the Kingdom of the Desert?
- I wonder how the Grand Princess felt when she mounted her royal ostrich to go to the Kingdom of the Desert?
- I wonder what the Grand Prince thought when he neared the Kingdom of the Desert and first saw a little light and saw the Princess?
- I wonder what the Grand Princess thought when she neared the Kingdom of Midnight and first saw some water and saw the Prince?
- I wonder why the Grand Prince and the Grand Princess were so mean to each other?
- I wonder how the Grand Prince and the Grand Princess felt when they heard each other praying?
- I wonder how God felt when the Grand Prince and the Grand Princess would not help each other?
- I wonder how the boy from Midnight and girl from the Desert felt when they first saw each other?
- I wonder how the people from Midnight and from the Desert felt when they shared their water and oil with each other?
- I wonder how God felt when the people from Midnight and from the Desert helped each other?

In God's Name

- I wonder how it felt when no one knew God's name?
- I wonder how it felt to go searching for God's name?
- I wonder how it felt when people found so many, many names for God?
- I wonder how it felt when all the people with all the many names of God came together by the quiet lake?
- I wonder how it felt to hear all the people with all the many names of God kneeling by the quiet lake and calling out their names for God?
- I wonder how God felt about all of this?
- I wonder what you think God's name is?

More Great Stories

And God Created Squash

Martha Whitmore Hickman

- I wonder what it was like before God made anything?
- I wonder how God felt making Light?
- I wonder how God what God was thinking when God made all the animals?
- I wonder how the animals felt to be here?
- I wonder how the first people felt when they looked around at all of Creation?
- I wonder how you feel looking around at all the God created?
- I wonder how you feel to be alive?
- I wonder how it feels to know God is here with us?

In God's Hands

Lawrence Kushner & Gary Schmidt

- I wonder how Jacob felt when he went to worship and fell asleep?
- I wonder how David felt when he worked and worked but could not feed his family?
- I wonder how Jacob felt when he woke up and worship and heard those words about baking challah bread?
- I wonder how Jacob felt bringing the bread to the synagogue and putting it in the holy ark?
- I wonder how David felt when he opened the holy ark and found the bread?
- I wonder how God felt about all of this?
- I wonder how Jacob and David felt when the rabbi showed them it was not God baking the bread or eating the bread but it was Jacob and David?
- I wonder how God felt when Jacob and David became friends?
- I wonder what Jacob and David learned about God's hands?
- I wonder how you might be God's hands?

Koala Lou

Mem Fox

- I wonder how it felt when Koala Lou heard her mother say: "*Koala Lou, I DO love you!*"?
- I wonder how it felt when Koala Lou's mother was so busy she didn't have time to say that anymore?
- I wonder how Koala Lou felt when she decided to enter the Bush Olympics?
- I wonder how Koala Lou felt when she was training for the Bush Olympics?
- I wonder how Koala Lou felt when she saw how fast Koala Klaw climbed?
- I wonder how Koala Lou felt climbing up that tree?
- I wonder how Koala Lou felt when she came in second?
- I wonder how Koala Lou felt when she came in second and heard her mother say: "*Koala Lou, I DO love you! I always have and I always will!*"?

Old Turtle

Douglas Wood

- I wonder what it was like when all the animals and rocks and wind and water and trees and birds and fish could speak and understand one another?
- I wonder what they all were arguing about?
- I wonder how they all felt when Old Turtle spoke up?
- I wonder how they all felt when Old Turtle told them God was all the different ways they imagined?
- I wonder how they all felt when Old Turtle told them about human beings coming into the worlds?
- I wonder how the people forgot where God was?
- I wonder how the people started remembering God again?
- I wonder what made Old Turtle smile?
- I wonder what makes God smile?

Something From Nothing

Phoebe Gilman

- I wonder how Joseph's Grandfather felt when he was making that blanket for baby Joseph?
- I wonder how it felt to baby Joseph when he was wrapped in that blanket?
- I wonder how Joseph felt when his mother said his blanket was "frazzled and worn, unsightly and torn . . . it is time to throw it out"?
- I wonder how Joseph's Grandfather felt when that old blanket was brought to him?
- I wonder what Joseph's Grandfather was thinking as he worked on the blanket to make it into a jacket?
- I wonder how Joseph felt when his Grandfather brought him his new jacket?
- I wonder how Joseph felt when again and again and again his jacket and then his vest, then his tie, then his handkerchief wore out?
- I wonder how Joseph felt when again and again and again his Grandfather took his jacket and then his vest, then his tie, then his handkerchief and made something new?
- I wonder how Joseph felt when he lost his button?
- I wonder how Joseph felt when he wrote his story?

Stone Soup

Numerous versions available

Look for a classic Caldecott Honor version by Marcia Brown

Also a Far East version by John Muth

- I wonder how the three monks felt when they were walking up to that town?
- I wonder why the villagers did not come to the gates to greet the monks when they got there?
- I wonder what people were thinking when they saw the monks gathering twigs and branches and making that little fire?
- I wonder how the little girl felt when she came out to talk to the monks?
- I wonder why the villagers came out to see this soup the monks were making?
- I wonder what all went into that soup?
- I wonder how the soup tasted?
- I wonder how the villagers felt when they all sat down together to eat?
- I wonder what the villagers learned from the monks and the soup?
- I wonder what you would bring to put in the soup?

The Sandwich Swap

Queen Rania Al-Abdullah

- I wonder how Salma and Lily met each other?
- I wonder why Salma and Lily thought each other's lunch was so icky?
- I wonder how Salma and Lily felt when they called each other names?
- I wonder how the food fight got started?
- I wonder how it felt to be in a food fight?
- I wonder how Salma and Lily felt in the principal's office?
- I wonder what Salma and Lily thought when they had to clean it all up?
- I wonder how Salma and Lily felt when they tasted each other's lunch?
- I wonder what you were afraid to taste until you tried it?
- I wonder why we think things that are different are icky?