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The Storyteller

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The Waters of Creation By Kim McPherson

In July 2000 I attended a Godly Play training in Sewanee, TN I came away with a new passion for the stories of the Bible and their ability to transform the lives of children. I was shown this on Sunday morning, on my way to a meeting. It was raining, and I was delighted to be walking outside, having spent most of the week in the air-conditioned rooms of the seminary. The training had been theologically stimulating, listening to master Godly Play storytellers, and I found fresh meaning in the stories, in the silence and in the words of others.

As I walked, I noticed a splashing sound, and turned to see the water cascading out of the gutter pipe, rhythmically pounding against the concrete splatter pan. It was an enormous amount of water, like that of a waterfall: powerful, beautiful, the sound again and again calling for my attention. As I watched, the thoughts came into me with the rhythm of the water hitting the stone:

The waters:

*The waters that the people of God
Went through to freedom-
The waters of Baptism!*

And in that instant a moving realization came to me – and it stopped me in my tracks- that this is how our children one day will “get it”. They will be full of the stories, because they have heard them over and over. They have

wondered about them, responded to them, and heard the thoughts of others about them. And *one day* they will get it. All the stories will surround them in that moment, and they will understand how the stories fit together to give us a map of how to live and a lens through which to see God’s presence in our lives.

Godly Play is unique. It does not tell our children “how to do it” or exactly what they should believe. It gives them instead a way to discover how to come close to the mystery of god’s presence in their lives. It gives them a way to comprehend that they are on a great journey. And it gives them a way to delight in that journey.

