Wonder

➤ Recognizes a child’s innate sense of the presence of God.
➤ Helps children to explore their faith through Story.
➤ Essential for a child’s spiritual formation and development of a language of faith.
➤ Teaches children how to think theologically at an age-appropriate level.
➤ Invites children beyond a binary understanding of good and bad.
➤ Helps children “get it right the first time” so they don’t have to unlearn things later.

Wondering About a Bible Story
I wonder what part of the story you liked best.
I wonder what part of the story is most important.
I wonder where you are in the story.
I wonder if there is any part of the story we can leave out and still have all the story we need.

Wondering About Other Topics
How might that be?
Tell me about...? or What do we know about...?
What is ______ like?
What does ______ do?
What is [theological concept]?
Where is God/Jesus in [this scenario/story]?

Wondering-style Questions About a Bible Story
What is happening in this story?
What do you think happened next?
How do you think ______ felt when ______?
Why did you think ______ said ______?
How is this story unfolding today in the world around us?
How is this story in my life?
A Wondering Model of Questions
Abbreviated from Appendix 1 in *I Wonder: Engaging a Child’s Curiosity About the Bible* by Elizabeth F. Caldwell

This model is specifically for use with children at home, yet may be used as a guide for times with children in worship.

**Enter** (or Examen — the ancient spiritual practice of examining the day before going to sleep)

  - How was your day today?
  - Was there something that made you really laugh?
  - Was there something that made you sad?
  - Where did you see God’s love today?
  - Where did you give or receive God’s love?
  - For what are you most grateful?
  - For what are you least grateful?

**Hear**

  - The Story

**Pause**

  - Sit with the Story in silence.
  - With a three-year-old, you could count to ten silently with fingers.

**Wonder**

  - Who is in the story and what happens to them?
  - What do you think this story is about?
  - What kind of story is this?
  - How is this story different from the time and place in which we live?
  - Why do you think this story is important?
  - How do you connect with the story or what does this story have to do with your life?
  - When would be a good time to remember this story?

**Bless**

  - Affirm some of the things you have heard the child say about the story.
  - Or
  - Recall some of the good things or bad things mentioned by the child at the beginning and use them in a simple prayer of thanks or a prayer for help.
  - Or
  - Invite the child to pray. This could help him or her learn how to use different kinds of prayers: thanksgiving, intercession, confession, and praise.

Another resource on this same topic may be found at Faith Inkubators:
http://www.faith5.org
The Prayer Shawl
A Readers Theater re-enactment of an actual Time With All God’s Children in Worship

**Adult:** Welcome! It is good to see you all here this morning!

We have a special task we need to do today — we are going to pass around this prayer shawl, that the Knitting Ministry has made, to everyone in the congregation so that they can bless it.

[Spread out the shawl between all of the children in the circle so that everyone can hold a small piece of it.]

And after we all place our blessings on this shawl, it will be brought to Olivia who is in the hospital right now. We hope that this shawl will keep her warm and remind her of our love for her, and of God’s love for her, as she heals and gets well again.

So I just mentioned that we hope that this shawl reminds her of God’s love.

I wonder what God’s love is like.

[Pause]

**Child 1:** It’s all around us.

[Pause]

**Child 2:** It’s big…very big…bigger than the whole world!

[Pause]

**Child 3:** God’s love is like my dog.

[Pause]

**Adult:** I wonder how God’s love is like this prayer shawl.

[Pause]

**Child 3:** It stretches around to all people.

[Pause]

**Child 1:** It comes in many colors.

[Pause]

**Child 2:** It’s warm.

[Pause]

**Child 3:** It’s for people who are poor, too.

**Adult:** Let’s pray over this shawl together.
Please repeat each line of our prayer after me:
May God’s grace be upon this shawl…

**Children:** May God’s grace be upon this shawl…

**Adult:** And may it keep Olivia…

**Children:** And may it keep Olivia…

**Adult:** wrapped in love.

**Children:** wrapped in love.

**Adult:** Amen.

**Children:** Amen.