



Playing & Living Joyfully

About this Faith Practice

In today's world people of all ages need to give themselves permission to play. We believe God seeks to awaken a playful spirit among us. We invite God into this process as we seek recreation and re-creation. While it can lead us into other things, play is inherently its own reward; the experience of playing and living joyfully is – in its essence – pure hope, delight, celebration and song. Playing and living joyfully moves beyond prescribed forms and places. It includes ways of doing justice and moves us outside ourselves into sharing one with another. Joy is contagious; come and play!

Let's Begin...

Now that you've downloaded the files for your faith practice and age group or setting, you can get started planning one or multiple sessions:

1 Open the .pdf file for your age group or setting. Choose an Exploration, the approach you think will help your group to best experience the faith practice. Choose any one of the following Explorations to use for one session:



Discovery



Scripture



Discipleship



Christian Tradition



Context and Mission



Future and Vision

Note: If you're planning multiple sessions, you can follow the order suggested above or feel free to use any order that fits the needs of your group. Some groups may choose to start with Scripture and then see where that leads them. Others may be more ready to act in their community and might want to start with Context and Mission.

2 Locate the Exploration you've chosen

3 Look through all 9 activities and select the ones you would like to do with your group.

- If you're planning a 30–45 minute session, choose 3 activities.
- It is best to select at least one activity from Exploring and Engaging, at least one from Discerning and Deciding, and at least one from Sending and Serving.

Tip: Look for this symbol  to find activities designed for Easy Preparation (able to be done with minimal preparation using supplies normally found at the church).

4 Make copies of any handouts () related to your activities. Locate images () if using art.

- For 45-60 minutes, choose 4 or 5 activities; For a 1½ to 2-hour session, you can use all 9 activities.

Use of Art, Music, and Scripture in Faith Practices

Faith Practices activities include many opportunities to grow in faith through the use of scripture, music, and art.

Art

If you choose activities that use an art image, you or your church will need to purchase Imaging the Word Poster Sets of the art or locate the images through other sources. If you wish to use art, you will need to plan ahead if ordering the posters through online sources.

“Allerheiligen” (All Saints) by Wassily Kandinsky

“Sisters in the Wind” by Ethan Hubbard

“Shotgun, Third Ward #1” by John Biggers

“Children Play in the Old Town of Kabul, Afghanistan”

“Joyful Dance” by Diana Ong

“Dancing ‘Til Dawn” by Marianne Millar

Music

Three music selections are used with Playing and Living Joyfully. We have selected music which is easily found in many hymnals. More information about each music selection can be found online.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You, Tune: Hymn to Joy

Say it Sing it, (Sing! Prayer and Praise! #188)

Over My Head, Tune: African-American traditional

Scripture

Twelve Bible passages are used with Playing and Living Joyfully, two with each Exploration.

Discovery	1 John 1:1 – 2:2	Psalms 30
Scripture	Mark: 9:30-37	Philippians 2:1-13
Discipleship	Galatians 4:4-7	Revelation 7:9-17
Christian Tradition	Isaiah 11:1-10	Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Context and Mission	John 12:20-36	Luke 1:39-56
Future and Vision	Mark 16:1-8	Psalms 112

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