

Spirit Play Story Lessons

Families All Matter – Divorce

Materials:

- Gold circle underlay
- 7 human figures (4 smaller for children, 3 larger for adults)
- 2 large yellow hearts (joys), 2 large blue hearts (sorrows),
1 large purple heart
- 4 small hearts (blue, yellow, red, and green)

Presentation:

What do we have for our story today? Hmm... Oh look at this!

Spread out the gold circle underlay.

Sometimes in our Spirit Play stories we use the color gold when talking about a great mystery. Today's story comes from the middle of a great mystery.

Hmmm... What else is here today?.... It's another family.

Lay out 2 larger and 2 smaller figures at the top of the gold circle.

This family is about to go on a big adventure into the mystery. Do you know what kinds of things live in the mystery? It is called the "mystery" for a reason. Sometimes we call life a mystery when we don't know what will happen next. Sometimes things that feel good happen, and sometimes things that feel bad happen. Every day can be a day of learning a little more about our lives as we make our way through the mystery.

Pick up one of the smaller figures.

My name is Emma. I am a child in my family, and I am going to tell you a story about my adventure with my family in the mystery.

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One day I was playing in the living room when my parents called me and my brother to come sit with them on the couch. I didn't know what was going to happen. Maybe we were going to the swimming pool. Maybe it was time to clean our rooms. What my parents said completely surprised me: They said that they loved us very very much, and that they had big important news to share. They said they were getting a divorce and they weren't going to be married any more.

I didn't understand right away. What was going to happen? Did I make them upset? They explained that this was a decision that grown-ups make and it wasn't anything my brother or I did. They told us that there would be changes to our family, but the one thing that wouldn't change is their love for us. They loved us a lot, and that was not going to change.

But I still didn't like the sound of all the changes. I wondered if I was going to be okay.

Well, they were right, there were a lot of big changes.

Move one adult figure to the far left side of the circle and the other adult figure to the other side. Move the child figures back and forth as the story shifts from parent to parent.

Mom moved out of our house and into another house. Some nights we would sleep at Mom's house, and other nights we slept at Dad's house. Sometimes I am really sad, like when I am with one parent and miss my other parent and wish we could all be together.

Place a blue heart at the top of the circle.

Sometimes I am really happy, like when we got a dog at Mom's house and when we got to choose colors and paint our rooms at Dad's house.

Place a yellow heart next to the blue heart at the top of the circle.

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Things didn't quite feel like they did before, but I know that Mom really loves me and Dad really loves me too. Things are new. They are happy sometimes and sad sometimes, too.

We lived like this for a long time. Then one day, my Dad called me and my brother to come sit down with him on the couch. I didn't know what was going to happen. Maybe we were going to the park. Maybe it was time to do our homework. What my Dad said completely surprised me: He said he loved us very much and he had some big important news to share. He said that he had been thinking a lot about his friend, Anne, and he wanted to ask Anne to marry him. She and her kids would make a new family with us and come to live in our house.

I didn't understand right away. What was going to happen? Would I have to share my room? Dad explained that Anne loved us a lot and that the more people who love you, the better. Dad explained that he loved us and that would never change, and that Mom loved us and that wouldn't change either. He said Anne loved us, making our family bigger and with more love to share. I wondered if I was going to be okay.

Place one more parent and two more child figures with Dad and children.

Well, there were a lot more changes. Dad and Anne got married, and she and her kids moved in with us. Sometimes I am really sad, like when my Dad is playing with Anne's kids and I want to play just with him.

Place a blue heart at the bottom of the circle.

Sometimes I am really happy, like when I go to big family gatherings with Anne's family. They are so funny!

Place a yellow heart next to the blue heart at the bottom of the circle.

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Things don't feel like they did before, but now I have three grown-ups who love me. Things are new, and sometimes it feels good and sometimes it feels sad. When big changes come, I get worried because I don't know what will happen next.

When you walk with mystery, it's always a surprise.

Place a big purple heart in the center of the circle

I always find something sad,

Place a small blue heart on the purple heart.

and something happy.

Place a small yellow heart on the purple heart.

I always find something new,

Place a small red heart on the purple heart.

and something interesting.

Place a small green heart on the purple heart.

Every time something changes, and I don't know what will happen next, I have always been okay.

Place the child figure (narrator) in the center of the purple heart surrounded by hearts.

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My family doesn't look like what it used to. It's changing in all kinds of different ways. Sometimes I wish my Mom and Dad were still married, but I also love Anne and my big new family.

And Mom and Dad were right that some things don't change at all: My Mom and Dad and now Anne really love me a lot. Through all the change, they have been right by my side with a hug and a cuddle.

Wondering questions:

I wonder what was the best part of the story?

I wonder what was the most important part of this story?

I wonder what we could leave out of this story and still have all the story we need?

I wonder if you were someone or something in the story, who or what would you be?