

Spirit Play Story Lessons

Families All Matter - Divorce

Materials:

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

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

Lay out a gold circle

Sometimes in our Spirit Play stories we use the color gold to talk about a great mystery. Today's story comes from the middle of a great mystery. Hmm, 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 kid in a family and I am going to tell you the story about my adventure with my family in the mystery.

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 pool. Maybe it was time to clean our rooms. What my parents said totally surprised me. They said that they loved us very, very much and 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 a lot of new changes to our family, but the one thing that wouldn't change is that they loved us kids. They loved us a lot. That wouldn't change. I did not like this. I wondered if I was going to be ok.

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 kid figures back and forth when you talk about each parent.

My 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 our Dad's house. Sometimes I am really sad, like when I am with one parent and miss my other parent and wish they could be with us too all together.

Place a blue heart at the top of the circle

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

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

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. One day my Dad called me and my brother to come sit down 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 totally 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 and that would make our family bigger and even better. I wondered if I was going to be ok.

Place one more parent and two more child figures with the Dad and kids

Well, there were a lot more changes. My 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

Things don't feel like they did before, but now I have 3 grown ups who love me. Things are new and they are good sometimes and sad sometimes too. When big changes come I get worried because I don't know what will happen next. Every time I walk with mystery, it is 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

something new

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Place a small red heart on the purple heart.

and something interesting.

Place a small green heart on the purple heart.

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

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

My family doesn't look anything like it used to. It is always changing in all kinds of different ways. Sometimes I still wish my Mom and Dad were still married, but I also love Anne and my big new family. And Mom and Dad were right, some things don't change at all. My Mom and my 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?