

## **"Let's Play Church"**

Mark 1:21-28  
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by Becky Enney

Elizabeth was over at Barabas 's house yesterday. "Hey," said Elizabeth. "Do you want to play church? I will be the Presiding Minister and you can be the Preacher, okay?"

"Sure," said Barabas. You may remember that he wants to be a pastor when he grows up!

So, they gathered some things to make their church. They got a little piece of bread and a glass of juice for the communion elements. They put them on their pretend altar. And they used this little clay cross that Barabas found under his bed.

"Now we need some people here." So, they got some of Barabas's toys to be the congregation. Here are Mr. & Mrs. Ball and their daughter Lucille. And here are Fred and Shirley Car and their daughter Sue. "I wish we had one thousand people here! That would be really exciting!" So, they got Jeter and Arod to sit still in their congregation! You should realize that the dogs are NOT toys, they are real dogs!

It was now time to start. Elizabeth said "Blessed are all you dolls and toys and dogs! Let us say we are sorry for all the times we were not nice or when we didn't help mom or dad or uncle or when we didn't make our bed. Amen!"

And it was time to sing a song. The only song they could think of that they both knew all the words to was "Jesus Loves Me" so that is what they sang.

Gator had been watching and thinking it was all very nice but he kind of wanted to disrupt their service to see what would happen. He did this in a spirit of fun, not in a spirit of meanness. So, he ran upstairs and got the fireman in Barabas's room and hurried back downstairs and pretended the fireman was possessed of an unclean spirit.

Gator made the fireman look at Barabas and in his scariest voice, he said: "Oh no!? Pastor Barabas! Have you come to destroy evil? Have you come to destroy me!?"



Barabas and Elizabeth were surprised at Gator. But decided to play along with this pretend disruption. Pastor Barabas shouted at the fireman with all the authority he could muster and said: "Come out of the fireman, oh ye unclean spirits. Come out and be gone with you!"

And Gator made the fireman fall down and convulse on the floor until the pretend unclean spirit came out and Gator threw it far away!

And then Pastor Barabas gave his sermon, which amounted to him saying "Be gone all that is evil. Hold on to what is true. Praise the Lord!"

And all three of them had pretend communion. And then they sang "Jesus Loves Me" again!

And Uncle Floyd, who had been watching from the kitchen, smiled.

And God in heaven and all the heavenly host smiled too!                      THE END