

## Using Children's Literature Picture books in a church service.

Over the past few years we have sometimes used children's Literature Picture books in the service.

One of the main reasons to do this was to find an echo of the gospel or message for the day in a picture book. If a connection is made it can help for children to enter into the gospel reading.

We used Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems to link with the gospel passage about the woman in the parable who lost one of her silver coins.

Here is a link to the story that is online

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgYQHqvsbTM>

Enjoy

Here is a little information about the author Mo Willems



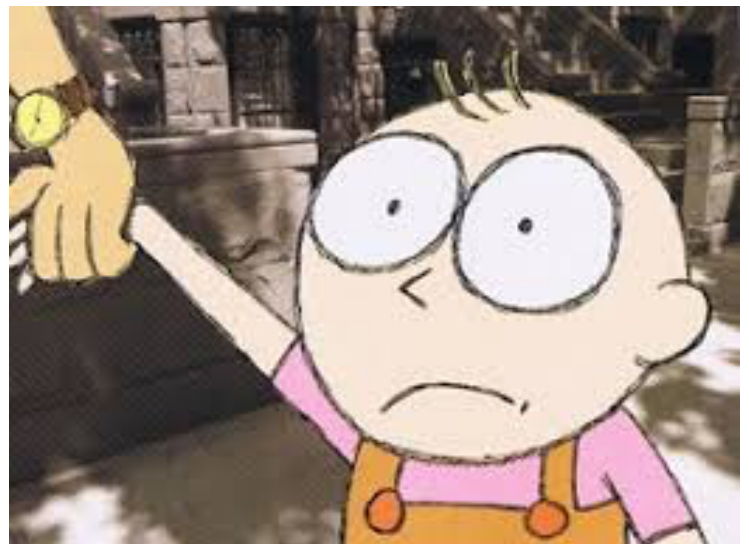
Mo Willems has a knack for both writing and drawing images. He started drawing cartoons when he was a child and never quit.

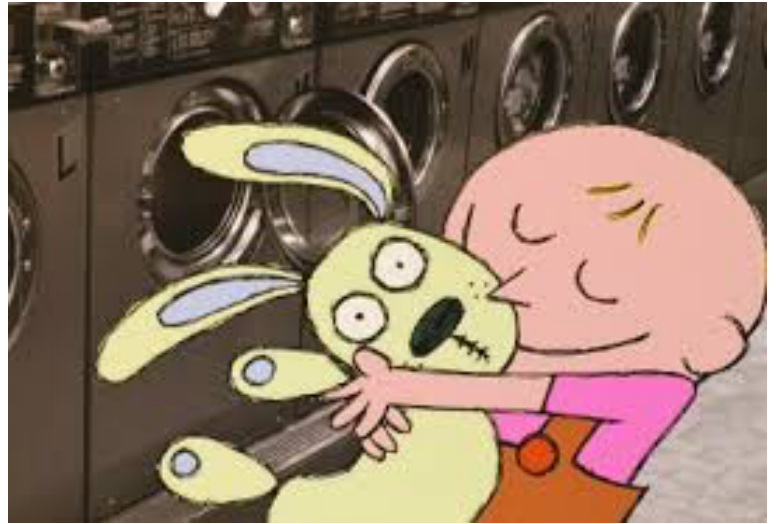
Willems has said that he writes to help children process their emotions

Willems, who also worked as a writer and animator for "Sesame Street," has said that part of the reason he writes is to help children process difficult feelings.

"I'm very lucky to write for children," Willems told CNN in 2013, "because I don't have to deal with popular culture. I can just deal with core fundamental issues: jealousy, love, hatred, sadness, joy, wanting to drive a bus."

- You should notice that his illustration style is a mixture of photoes and clip art.
- Talk about the Tixie's feelings in the pictures below. Can you name them?
- Have you ever lost a toy or cuddly or something precious. How did you feel?
- Why did Trixie miss her toy?
- What is your favourite toy?





### Connect to the Bible

- Just like how Trixie was sad that she lost her knuffle Bunny, the woman in the parable that Jesus narrated also was sad that she lost the coin.
- Like Trixie, the woman searches for the coin everywhere.
- Jesus says, “We are like the woman’s silver coins. God wants every single one of us.





**Luke 15:8-10** International Children's Bible (ICB)

“Suppose a woman has ten silver coins, but she loses one of them. She will light a lamp and clean the house. She will look carefully for the coin until she finds it. And when she finds it, she will call her friends and neighbors and say, ‘Be happy with me because I have found the coin that I lost!’ 10 In the same way, there is joy before the angels of God when one sinner changes his heart.”



There is a child friendly booklet that can be printed and read about the lost coin or just downloaded and read.

<http://www.lambsongs.co.nz/New%20Testament%20Books/Parable%20Of%20Lost%20Coin%20Big%20Book%20%20col.pdf>

If you enjoyed the Knuffle Bunny there are two more stories about Trixie.

Knuffle Bunny Too and Knuffle Bunny Free.

Explore

Have a look at Mo Willem's website

<http://www.mowillems.com>