

Worshipping with Children

Deciding to bring your children in for corporate worship means two things: You value being together as a family to worship God, and, you like a challenge! We hope the following ideas will equip your family to worship well together.

Worship- our children are learning by example. What an opportunity we have to arrive on time, with thankful hearts (Psalm 100:4), and engage fully in corporate worship with our church family.

Observe- Call their attention to the different instruments, words to songs, how people worship, what is being prayed for, thoughts about the sermon. You might phrase it this way, “*I wonder why*...some songs are slow, and some are fast”.

Record- have supplies ready for them to draw a picture or take notes on specifics to that day. This is not just to keep them busy, but is a way for them to reinforce what they are learning on their level.

Specify- give clear boundaries before and during the service so they know what they are free and not free to do. Praise them often, and discipline when necessary.

Home- Use the ride home, dinnertime, bath time, etc. to reflect on what everyone learned or was reminded about God that day.

Involve & explain- let them help you find the scripture passage for the day & explain what the subject is. Let them watch you take communion and explain that Jesus said it is a way to help us remember what he did for us. Let them put the offering in the basket and explain that God asks us to give back a portion of what he has already blessed us with.

Pray- pray for patience for our kids, our church family, and ourselves. We are all learning as we grow.

Describing the worship service to children...

Call to Worship and Songs of Praise

Worship begins with asking God to forgive our sins and for help to worship Him in the best way. We sing songs that tell God how good, powerful, and loving he is.

Profession of Faith

We say a statement together as a church family about what we believe.

Prayer and Scripture Reading

We speak to God by praying and God speaks to us through Scripture, teaching us what we should believe about God and how we should live.

Sermon

The sermon helps us to understand God's word better.

Communion

This is a way to remember what Jesus did for us. If you aren't sure what Jesus did for you yet, or you are not letting Jesus be your King, he doesn't want you to participate at this time.

Offering

Giving reminds us that it all comes from him, and all belongs to him. If they have an allowance, this is a good time to teach them what a "tithe" is.

Benediction

God, through the pastor, gives us a blessing, to remind us that God is with us all the time, not just in the church.

For further reading on children in corporate worship:
Parenting in the Pew by Robbie Castleman