

6. Help Your Child Become an Active Sermon Listener

Help your child to focus on the sermon by quietly whispering instructions to him (i.e. “Listen to this story”, “Can you draw a picture of...”). This is not a time of long instruction, but just for very short statements to focus his attention. It is also not a time for your child to whisper back to you. Encourage a younger child to listen to the sermon and to draw a picture of something from the sermon. This should not be seen as a time for doodling, but for active listening. If your child is very young and has difficulty sitting for a long time, you may want to let him look at small, non-distracting Bible storybooks. As your child gets older, model for him how to take simple notes.

Put together a tote bag for your child to use specifically in church. In it, you may want to include the following items: a Bible, small Bible story books, a pad of paper or notebook, Bible story coloring books, and crayons or colored pencils.

7. Stretch Your Child’s Ability to Sit Still and Be Attentive

If you have an active child, you may need to take him out of the service part way through. Keep stretching him until he can sit through the whole service.

8. Talk About the Service on the Way Home

Speak positively to your child about the service and ask him if he has any questions. Encourage him to share his drawings or notes and use the sermon questions in the FaithKids bulletin to start discussion.

The logo for FaithKids features the word "Faith" in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font, followed by "Kids" in a colorful, playful script font where each letter is a different color (green, orange, red, blue). The logo is enclosed in a dotted-line rectangular frame that has a small notch on the right side, resembling a speech bubble or a document icon.

FaithKids

A Worship Guide for Parents



How Family Worship Positively Impacts Children*

1. Children benefit spiritually along with their parents as they experience the guiding and convicting work of the Holy Spirit through the teaching of God's Word.
2. Children experience firsthand the central corporate activity of the church, and grow to understand their role in the community of believers.
3. Children gain intergenerational experience and the opportunity to be influenced and benefit from the example of others, especially their parents.
4. Children learn how to worship God, and discover the joy of what they were created for.
5. Children observe genuine worship in adults which can stir their hearts to worship.
6. Children learn to sit quietly and submit to their parents, laying the foundation for lifelong submission to God.
7. Children form good habits and spiritual disciplines that they continue into adulthood.

* Summarized from David Michael's "Let The Little Children Come to Me' in Worship" Seminar, <https://www.truth78.org/children-in-the-church-services>

8 Tips for Helping Your Child Worship*

Sometimes the difference for children between enduring Sunday morning services and enjoying Sunday morning services is simply a matter of preparation and training. It is our heartfelt prayer that your child will come as a participant in the service to worship our great God. To that end, we have prepared a few suggestions that might help you lead your child to worship.

1. Be Prepared for Worship

Sunday morning starts Saturday night - lay out clothes (find all shoes!), get offerings ready, gather everything you need to bring with you before Sunday morning. Keep Sunday simple - make an easy breakfast and leave the house with time to spare. Remind your child of your expectations of his behavior during the church service.

2. Be a Role Model for Your Children

Start your morning with a positive attitude, a cheerful tone, a spirit of anticipation and enthusiasm, and a heart for worship.

3. Walk Your Child Through the Service Before it Starts

Look over the bulletin; point out what will be happening and how your child can participate. Pray with your child before the service starts.

4. Pray for Your Child

Pray not only that your child will learn to participate and listen attentively, pray that his heart would be inclined to the Lord.

5. Encourage Your Child to Participate in the Service

Encourage your child to sit and stand at the appropriate times, and to sing the parts of the songs that he knows. Have your child bring an offering and place it in the offering plate.

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