

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 this morning.

1. Be Prepared for Worship

Sunday morning starts Saturday night – lay out clothes (including shoes!) and gather together 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 their 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

Share the order of the service and read through the passage being taught that week. 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, but pray that their hearts would be inclined to the Lord.

5. Encourage Your Child to Participate in the Service

By teaching your child hymns and worship songs at home, they will be able to participate in the service. If they cannot learn the whole song, teach them the chorus and signal them when it is time to sing the part they know. Encourage them to clap when appropriate.

6. Help Your Child Become an Active Sermon Listener

Help your child to focus on the sermon by quietly whispering instructions to them (i.e. “Listen to this story”, “Can you draw a picture of ...”, “Let’s fill in the blank on the note sheet”) This is not a time for long instruction, but just very short statement 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. If your child is very young and has a hard time sitting for a long time, after they have listened to the sermon for a while, you may want to let your child look at small, non-distracting Bible storybooks.

Put together a tote bag for your child to use specifically in church. Inside you may want to include some of the following items: small Bible storybooks, a pad of paper or notebook, Bible story coloring books, Twistable 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 your child out of the service part way through. Keep stretching them until they can sit through the whole service. You may need to be firm. Affirm positive behavior.

8. Talk About the Service on the Way Home

Speak positively with your child about the service, and ask them if they have any questions. Encourage them to share their drawings or notes.