

FBC PARENTS,

We are so excited to worship with you and your family! At First Baptist Church we are family and we welcome your infant, toddler, and children. We understand that they may talk, wiggle, or cry, it's okay! Below are a few ideas to help you and your child as you prepare for worship.

Before you arrive

- Talk about what worship is and the blessings of it.
- Explain to your child what the service will be like.
- Talk about what you expect from your child.
- Pray for your child. Not just for them to be good, but for them to see and experience God.
- Prepare a bag for your child that is only to be used for worship. Put these items in it:
 - Print out the worship bulletin that can be found on the church website. It will coordinate with the sermon
 - Crayons
 - Blank paper
 - Bible or Bible storybook
 - Try to avoid electronics, they often allow a child to zone out
 - Small bottle of water or sippy cup
 - Small stuffed animal
- Go to the bathroom before leaving for church.

During the service

- Sit near the front, so there are less distractions.
- Sit near the aisle so you can go to the foyer or Fellowship Hall easily if needed.
- Keep the Bible bag out of sight until the music is finished.
- Encourage your child to stand and sing. It's okay for them to stand on the seat, so they can see.
- When the sermon starts help your child open their Bible to the text and point out the verses.
- Then give your child the worship bag.
- Encourage them to draw a picture of something they have seen or heard while at church. Allow them to color, look at their Bible/storybook Bible or other books about the Bible.
- Be patient and shower your child with grace. It takes children time to adjust to new settings.
- If you feel you need to leave the Worship Center, the Fellowship Hall is available and will have the sermon playing. Please try to keep children at a table so we can limit touch areas.
- We'll have a rocking chair in the Fellowship Hall if you need one.

After

- Praise your child, even if they wiggled and talked. Let them know what they did great. They did a great job singing, they made a beautiful picture of the church.

We know that sitting with a child in worship service can be distracting and you may feel like you aren't able to fully focus on what the pastor is saying. Please remember that God has blessed you as the spiritual leader of your child, train them well during this season. The service is recorded so you can go back and watch the service later if you need to hear something again.

We hope this helps and please know that we are praying for you!

Melinda Burch
Children's Minister

Diane Turnbow
Preschool Minister