

preparing for family worship

IDEAS/TIPS FOR YOUR FAMILY WORSHIP

BEFORE THE SERVICE

THINK ABOUT SEATS

You know your child and how they learn best, so consider a place in the sanctuary where they will engage well. We have seen that children do best when they are seated near the front so they can see better, and therefore, their interest is piqued.

TRAIN EYES AND EARS

Give your child a “looking” and “listening” task before the service to help them engage. Some examples: “What word did you hear the most?” or “Look for people using their Bibles.” or “Listen for something in the service that you don’t understand.”

BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE

We will not be offering nursery or children’s church right away, so be aware the nursery rooms and the basement area will be closed. Since your kids usually get a snack while at church (usually the favorite goldfish or fruit snacks) so you may want to pack a snack or give them something on the way to church. Make sure they use the bathroom and sanitize their hands before coming as well, to help minimize traffic in the usual high-traffic areas.

*We will have worship bags for each child filled with activities, and you can add your own items.
Ex: Suckers last a long time!*

DURING THE SERVICE

CREATE RITUALS

Routines help your kids engage over time. Try holding hands during any time of prayer during the service, or touch your nose when the word “Jesus” is mentioned, or during the Scripture reading have everyone get their Bibles out. This can be a fun way to create your own traditions.

GIVE AND RECEIVE GRACE

We have long been a church that loves the sound of children in worship. This will not change. So let your child do what they need to do! Your child will not be able to pay attention the whole time, and that’s ok. They are absorbing much more than we realize, and do not be concerned that our church will judge their behavior. We love having them!

AFTER THE SERVICE

BE INQUISITIVE and CELEBRATE

Resist the urge to quiz, and instead ask questions like, “What was the most interesting part of the service?” or “How did you feel when _____ happened?” Don’t overdo it with a desire for meaningful conversation (unless it naturally leads there.) Think of it as a celebration of hearing God’s Word and being together as a family. Pick an action word to keep on the fridge door as a means to engage through the week with what you’ve learned and taken away.