



## **“Let the Children Worship”**

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**Main Theme: “Worshiping with our children is one of the most significant ways we can parent as Christians. When we as God’s people gather together, we do so to worship the true and living God. Worship binds us to one another” so why would we not want children to be part of this and watch their parents model this proclamation of a deep desire and love for God?**

### **Why Should Children Worship with You?**

- Christians love nothing more than God so worshipping with others we care about, including our children, is important. This also shapes and dominates your parenting.
- If we want worship to take a central place in our children’s lives, it is important for them to see it takes a central place in our lives as well.
- Although there is no Bible verse to mandate children in worship, we see children included in worship time and time again in the Bible.
- Throughout history, God’s community not only included adults but children.
- Jesus said, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God”. (Mark 10:14)

Taking children to worship service can sometimes feel like torture but the blessings and benefits in the end will pay off over the long run.

### **Blessings and Benefits**

- When children attend worship they are in the midst of grace. The more we place them there, the greater the chance that their souls will encounter God’s grace. We steer our children away from all of the bad things in life, but why don’t we equally steer them toward these positive things?
- God’s promises are in His Word, so as children hear it read and preached, it becomes part of their life and they have a greater chance of applying it to their lives.
- When children see the sacraments of communion and baptism, it gives them wonderful opportunities to ask parents more questions and for them to share more of the gospel with them.
- As children participate in prayer, they can’t help but hear the word, truths and grace in these prayers. The more children dwell in the presence of grace, the more their souls will benefit.
- Children can benefit from participating in they see an entire congregation unified and encouraged by fellowship together.
- Bringing children into corporate worship gives them an opportunity to observe the importance and delight of worship in their parents’ lives.



- Attending worship with parents demonstrates that it is a weekly priority for the family.
- Children can be drawn in by the stories and lessons during a worship service which open many other opportunities for parents to share the gospel with their children.
- Children set an example before the covenant community.

### Mom-tested Tips on Making the Service Go More Easily

- Treasure the Lord's Day—Be joyful on Sunday mornings and model excitement. If parents are reluctant to go to church, children will be as well.
- Be prepared the night before by setting out church clothes ahead of time and make sure everyone gets enough sleep. Allow plenty of time to get ready so you don't have to rush out the door.
- On the car ride, prepare for worship by talking about things of God, singing a hymn, etc.
- Implement family worship at home—families who worship together at home find corporate worship much easier. For a lot of children, worship at church seems foreign because it isn't done regularly at home.
- Start with corporate worship early. A few months of struggling with a three-or four-year-old teaching them how to sit still in corporate worship reaps many benefits for the rest of their lives.
- Teach children some of the songs regularly sung in church. Young children love to sing songs and it helps them connect with the service.
- Make the service special by letting your youngest child sit on your lap or put your arm around the older ones so they can feel your sense of affection.
- Use your children to do things to engage them by looking up a Bible passage and to actively engage in the activities of the service.
- Be consistent with what you expect their behavior to be each week in church.
- Encourage a relationship between your children and the pastor.
- Avoid distractions such as books and toys. While you want to train your children to sit still, you do want them to participate in the service. For younger children, sitting in the front may be best because there are fewer people to distract little eyes.
- Talk about the service on the way home, but don't fall into the practice of "critiquing" it. Find out what their favorite song was or ask them about main points to the lesson.
- Don't worry about what other people think about your child's behavior. God doesn't care! But do exercise wisdom in knowing when you might have to step out of the service.
- Affirm your children and let them know when they have done a good job during the worship service.
- Be patient with your children and yourself.