


# *Intergenerational Worship*

## *Tips for Families*

"Sure they squirm, giggle, talk, and wiggle, but including children in the worship service is worth the distraction." Michelle Leise

"Jesus intended for us to bring children into this celebration. Being part of the community of faith is the basis of us being able to live a Christian life, and children are a part of that community." Myra Arnold

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Luke 18:16



*Every Child a  
Disciple of Jesus*

## Prepare Please

- Understand that you do not just go to church but that you go to worship God. Yes, you can worship with children and teach them to worship with you.
- Look forward to going to church because your children will pick up your attitude.
- Talk about Sabbath and church throughout the week.
- Play pretend church at home. Let your young child be the preacher or song leader.
- Have regular family worship and prayer at home.
- Sing church songs at family worship and throughout the day at home.
- Prepare for Sabbath on Friday, making sure that children's clothes are organised and offering money has been set aside.
- Begin Sabbath on Friday night with a special dinner. Set the table differently, and light candles. A candle could be lit for each family member. Have a special welcome Sabbath prayer.
- On Friday night play some Christian board games and have a longer more interactive family worship.
- Organise that your children wake up on Sabbath morning to the sound of Sabbath music playing.
- Have a special but simple breakfast that includes food not normally eaten during the week.
- Talk about the things that you are looking forward to doing and people you are looking forward to seeing at church.
- Pray for God's blessing on His special day.
- Talk through behaviour expectations.

## Church With Younger Children

- Make them feel like they are an important part of the church community.
- Ensure that your child gets welcomed at the door.
- Encourage your child to be involved in the service.
  - Holding the Bible and or hymn book
  - Looking up scripture verses
  - Putting money in the offering bag
  - Participating in the children's story by going up to the front
  - kneeling for prayer
  - Participating in the singing
- As a family sit near to the front of the church so that your child can see what is happening.
- Talk quietly to your child if they need help understanding what is being said.
- Be realistic. No young child will sit quietly for an hour.
  - Bring quiet time activities, puzzles and books for them to look at.
  - Have a notebook for them and encourage them to illustrate the sermon or record how many times the preacher has said a chosen word
  - Keep activities in a special bag (or backpack) that is used only for church
  - Include a small snack if needed
- Sit with an older person who is prepared to help you with your children.

## Church With Older Children

- Older children should be encouraged to participate and listen in church.
- Encourage your children to sit with you.

- Church bulletins and worksheets based on the sermon topic can help them keep focused.
- Provide your older child a notebook for recording sermon notes and keeping a sermon journal. Use it as a communication tool by writing your comments and questions on it too.
- Support your children as they use their gifts to minister to the congregation. They can give the welcome, pray, sing, play instruments, read scripture, collect the offering, help with story- telling, object lessons and dramas, share experiences and give testimonies, preach sermonettes, be sound technicians and operate data projectors.

## Take- Home

- Talk to your child after church and ask questions about what was taught. Discuss how as a family you will apply what was taught in the sermon.
- Follow through by sharing the message with someone else and serving as a family in your community or church.
- Make the Sabbath day special by inviting your children’s friends on a picnic or home for lunch.
- Invite the pastor to visit your home, so that your children can build a friendship with him/her.
- Invite your friends and their children to come with you next week.

***“The church is the body of Christ, the presence of the kingdom of god in the world. What a privilege to invite our friends and their children to worship the King!”***

Robbie Castleman ,“Parenting in the Pew”

Julie Weslake

