



Kids in Worship?

KIDS CONNECT WITH JESUS

The work of the Holy Spirit is not limited by our own understanding as is evidenced in infant baptism. When children are brought into the presence of God, regardless of the style of worship or how much or little children comprehend, He is glorified. Children also get more out of the Worship Service than we give them credit. They learn the creeds, the Lord's Prayer, and other liturgical elements. They sing praises; they hear the Word of God.



THEY ARE PART OF BODY OF CHRIST

When Ministries are separate, children can grow up with an understanding that they are only partly connected to the life of the whole church. Worshiping all together is a nonverbal communication that they are part of the whole. If children worship separately, or not all, at what point do they become part of the "big church" or adult community?

THEY SEE PARENTS WORSHIP

Faith is caught more than taught, and parents are the primary nurturers of their child's faith. Of all the things a child can learn from a parent, to worship the Lord is at the top of the list. Discipleship best happens in the context of a small group, and for children in the context of the original small group, the family. Children learn what a disciple looks like by watching and emulating parents. Worship at church can be a model or training ground for worship at home.



WE CELEBRATE COMMUNION

Even if children do not partake in the bread and wine, the family comes to the table together. The power of receiving a blessing cannot be underestimated.



WE HAVE AGE APPROPRIATE SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCES

Children do need time to be with other children, wiggle, sing children's worship songs, and learn Biblical truths on their level. Adults do need time away from their children to recharge, have adult conversations, and focus on scripture without having to redirect children. That is why we offer small groups outside of our family worship experience.

THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A SHARED EXPERIENCE

Parents can tell children about their worship experience; children can tell parents theirs, but living the experience together builds their relationship.



RELATIONSHIPS WITH ADULTS

A strong indicator for children sticking with their faith into adulthood is a relationship with at least 5 other adults. Worshiping together is a generational bridge, and children must be present for that relationship to form. Actually, children must be present for other adults to know they exist.

KIDS SEE ADULTS MODEL FAITH; ADULTS SEE KIDS MODEL FAITH

While children can be distracting, they are also a blessing to the body of Christ and examples of innocent faith and uninhibited worship.



DISCIPLESHIP TAKES TIME

Children learn what is expected of them over time through repetition. It is the same with the worship experience. When we regularly and intentionally model what worship is and how to participate in corporate worship, children learn it. Corporate worship then becomes a regular part of their adult life. Look to the end game and work backwards...Who is it that we want our children to be when they grow up?