

Why Children In The Worship Service?

We are training our children to be little worshipers.

One of the best ways parents can encourage and invite their children to participate in worship is to bring them to the Lord's Day worship service with the saints of God.

The saints of God are gathering together to worship the true and living God. Inviting children to be part of this is inviting them to worship God by praying, singing, confessing, proclaiming, sitting under the preaching, and observing the ordinances with the saints.

Encouragement

Parents, this is hard work, but rewarding. A short season of intentional training and discipline will lead to lifelong blessings for your children and families. As we train our children to participate in worship, behavior modification is a goal, but not the main goal. **The main goal is for the Lord to transform them, our families, our church, and our world for the glory of God.**

Parental Responsibilities

- ◆ **Fathers**, God has called you not to provoke your children to anger but to raise them up in the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Lead your family; do not leave the primary responsibility of training to your wife at home and in the pews.
- ◆ God has called parents to be the **primary disciple-makers** in their home.
- ◆ Parents are called to "train them up in the way that they should go" (Proverbs 22:6).
- ◆ Parents are to **teach the commands of God** to their children (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).
- ◆ Parents are to **model Christ** in all of life. This work is to teach children to obey God, honor Him, and enjoy Him in all things.
- ◆ To lovingly discipline our children (Proverbs 13:24).

Blessings and Goals

- ◆ In the service, children see baptism and communion, hear the Word, pray, and sing, all of which provide opportunities for training up in the Lord and for gospel conversations.
- ◆ Regularly put the ordinary means of grace before the children, praying that the Lord would draw them to Himself and save them by the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ We believe God's Word is inerrant, sufficient, infallible, and authoritative. We seize every opportunity for our children to hear it preached, prayed, and praised.
- ◆ Bringing our children into the service unifies the entire church.
- ◆ Children learn reverence and learn how to participate as worshipers.

"We trust that the promises of God will be fulfilled in our children as we faithfully teach them to love God, obey God, worship God, and enjoy Him forever."

Tips to Prepare Your Family

🏠 At Home

Everything is Worship: Cultivate a home that models holiness, repentance, and sound doctrine in all things: structure, order, education, and leisure.

Anticipate Sunday: The Lord's Day is coming! Help your children treasure Sunday. Going into the house of the Lord to worship is a joy, not a burden.

Family Worship: Training throughout the week helps children practice. *(To start: sit before bedtime, read a scripture, sing a familiar hymn, and pray together.)*

🕒 On the Lord's Day

Set the tone: Be excited about coming to church. If you are frustrated, mad, or show a lack of joy, your children will follow.

Be prepared: Get things ready before bed on Saturday. Pray as a family. Wake up, have a realistic breakfast, and listen to hymns or songs in the car as you come to church.

At the Church

- ◆ **Be early:** Get to church early enough to go to the restroom, settle in pews, greet others, and prepare hearts before service begins.
- ◆ **Worshipers, not consumers:** Free them from distractions like toys (parents, use your discretion). Active participation is the aim.
- ◆ **Be active:** Invite your children to participate. When it's time to stand, stand. Encourage them to sing and pray.
- ◆ **Teach them to obey:** Avoid using reward-based obedience for behavior; instead, celebrate obedience and praise God with them.
- ◆ **Be respectful:** Children will act like children. If your child starts to be a disruption, quickly take them out, calm or discipline them, and bring them back in.
- ◆ **Don't panic:** Don't worry about what others think. Babbling is a sign of a healthy church. Use wisdom in knowing when to step out.
- ◆ **Don't zone out:** Encourage and correct children during the service. Talk about the service on the way home and throughout the week.