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Ways Parents Can Engage Children in Worship in “Big Church”



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St. Giles Church

Ways Parents Can Engage Children in Worship

Children learn to worship by worshipping with us. On most Sundays children in Kindergarten through 5th grade will begin and end worship with the larger church, with a specific time for Kids' Own Worship in the middle. However, there will be special Sundays throughout the year when they will be included for the entire service. We believe these opportunities are an important part of teaching our children their place in the worshipping body of Christ. Here are some ways that you, their parents, can make your children feel part of the worship service:



Talk about worship at home and prepare your child for what may happen and what you expect of them.

Pick up an Activity Bag for your child (located in baskets in the Narthex, just outside the sanctuary.) These bags contain Bible-centered coloring and reading activities for your child to use, at your discretion, during worship. For older children, you may simply want to bring blank paper and encourage them to "picture" what's happening in the scriptures/sermon and draw a picture of what they see in their mind's eye.



Arrive early in the sanctuary with enough time to find a seat near the front or on an aisle so that your child can see and feel part of what is happening.

Help children follow the order of service in the bulletin by numbering the parts of the worship service. Then, let your child cross off each number as that part has ended.



Let your child find the hymns and help hold the hymnal. Run your fingers beneath the words being sung to help your child follow along

Encourage your child to take part in the Children's Moment. Parents are always welcome to join their children for this time.



Help your children find the scripture lessons in the Bible and follow along as the scriptures are read. If your child has his or her own Bible, encourage them to bring it to the service, and model this by bringing your own.

Allow children to give the offering by placing your offering envelope or their own children's offering in the offering plate.



Talk about what went on in worship on the way home. Have everyone in your family make positive observations about what happened during the service.

Practice prayer and worship at home and make Sunday worship a regular part of the time you spend with your children. Let God's love be evident in your family life the rest of the week.



Lastly, make this a special time of connection with your child/children. Give extra hugs and cuddles as you sit together, and don't worry if they're a little wiggly and restless at times. Let them know that you're glad to be worshipping with them, and so is their larger church family.

"... Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

—Matthew 19:14

