



A to Z Guidelines For Worshipping with Children

Arrive in time to find a good place to sit where the child can see what is happening near the front.

Book marks are in Worship Bags and in pews; use them to mark the hymns and Bible readings. Refer to scripture also printed on the back of the bulletin or use a Children's Bible.

Communicate expectations of behavior beforehand.

Demonstrate by your own participation what is expected at different times during worship.

Express your joy in having children in worship with you.

Free yourself from expecting children to have perfect behavior.

Give children a Worship Bag or Children's Bible if you think it will be useful.

Help the children to learn parts of the liturgy; i.e. Lord's Prayer, Statements of Faith, Gloria, and Doxology.

Introduce your children to persons near you in the pew during Passing the Peace. A high five or fist bump can also be a sign of peace.

Join with the congregation in all singing and corporate prayers.

Keeep some things in your pocket or purse: life savers, Kleenex, etc.

Learn from the creativity and spontaneity of the children what it means to praise God.

Music and words of hymns will be easier to follow if you point with your finger to the words.

Nothing will teach children more about worship than experiencing worship directly.

For Parents and Other Adults

Offer compliments when children have accomplished something good or communicate you are glad to worship with them today. Try to avoid complimenting children on the way they dress.

Pass the offering plate and the communion elements to children not around them.

Quiet the child with a gentle touch rather than a verbal “shush”.

Read parts of the liturgy to the non-reader child.

Stay alert to the needs of children to see, hear, wiggle, and snuggle during worship.

Utimize all of the resources that are available for preparing and engaging in worship. Ask the children to help you do something (usher, greet, clean up)

Value children’s participation by soliciting responses and ideas after the worship service. I wonder what you thought was special about worship today?

Worship Bags contain illustrated pictures that correspond to the same passages that will be read and preached in worship that day. The bags also include an order of worship book mark, pencils, crayons, blank paper, and activity sheets.

eXamine the bulletins before the service begins to help the children know what is coming.

You will be forever grateful that you encouraged your children to worship at an early age.

Realize that children do not automatically know the *why* and the *how* of worship; they learn, with help. Worship education is an ongoing process.