



Worshiping with Children

Worshiping

Worshiping with a child is something we're called to do together! Having a collection of tricks to pull out as you worship makes it more interesting, fun, and satisfying for children. Compiled here are several strategies for parents (even those who don't consider themselves to be great Bible students) to more deeply draw children into worship.

- ◆ When you recognize a familiar story or text about to be read, say something about it to your child and add the word “listen.” (e.g., “Listen to this: it’s one of my favorite stories about Jesus.” “Listen—this scripture was read at our wedding.” or “Listen to this. I never have figured out why...”)
- ◆ Keep a Bible story book in a worship bag brought with you each week. When the day’s scripture reading is a story, find it in the book for the child to read or reread during the sermon.
- ◆ Encourage older children to read along in the Bible or the bulletin by providing them with a bookmark with which to mark passages. Bookmarks are quite useful in helping young readers keep track of what line they’re reading.
- ◆ Challenge children to draw a picture in response to a scripture passage or prayer by asking a question (e.g., how do you think that looked? How do you think Jesus looked when he said that? Drawings can be made in margins of bulletins or in a spiral-bound “worship journal” brought to worship each week.
- ◆ Encourage your children to participate in worship services in ways beyond the time for children. Serving as acolytes, guest musicians, and liturgists are ways children and youth participate actively in worship leadership.
- ◆ Help your child write prayer requests on the goldenrod prayer slips used in worship. They will be proud and excited to hear their prayer concerns and/or joys to be read aloud during the Prayers of the People.
- ◆ Don’t be afraid to whisper helpful information to your children! Whispers may be used in a variety of ways:
 - ◇ Call attention to what comes next (e.g., “this is the prayer where we tell God what we’re sorry about.”)
 - ◇ Suggestions about things to listen for (e.g., “Jesus is going fishing in this story. What do you think he’ll catch?” or “there are A LOT of alleluias in this song!”)
 - ◇ Connect to something at home (e.g., just before the doxology, say “my favorite blessing this week was our picnic yesterday. What was yours?”)

Adapted using ideas from the *Worshiping with Children* blog:
www.worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com

St. Giles Presbyterian Church

1021 Hudson Rd | Greenville, SC 29615 | 864.244.4887

