



Tips for Engaging Children...

Worship

This resource includes suggestions for exploring and preparing children to participate in worship.

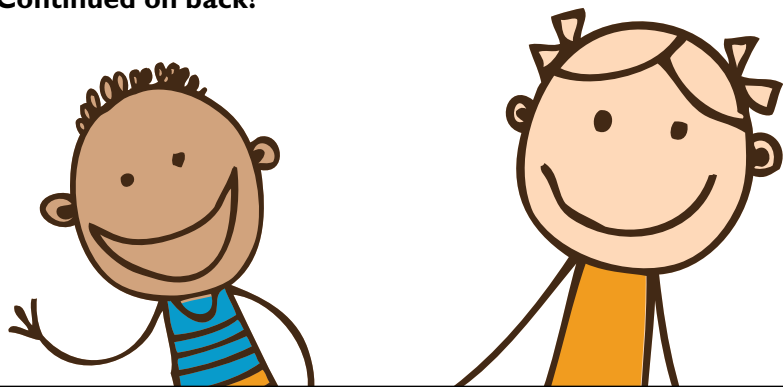
WORSHIPING WITH CHILDREN nurtures discipline at an early age. And as we take time to see God through the eyes of a child, we become more aware of God's presence in our midst.

"Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Not only are we called to teach children how to worship, we are advised by Jesus to learn from children as well. Children contribute to a congregational worship experience through their spontaneity, receptivity, thanksgiving, simplicity, enthusiasm, hope, self-giving love, and the freedom of their physical and emotional responses. Yes, we can learn much from children.

Whether you are a parent, grandparent, or simply one who loves children, all will benefit as you experience worship with a child.

Continued on back!



Tips for Engaging Children...

Worship

This resource includes suggestions for exploring and preparing children to participate in worship.

WORSHIPING WITH CHILDREN nurtures discipline at an early age. And as we take time to see God through the eyes of a child, we become more aware of God's presence in our midst.

"Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Not only are we called to teach children how to worship, we are advised by Jesus to learn from children as well. Children contribute to a congregational worship experience through their spontaneity, receptivity, thanksgiving, simplicity, enthusiasm, hope, self-giving love, and the freedom of their physical and emotional responses. Yes, we can learn much from children.

Whether you are a parent, grandparent, or simply one who loves children, all will benefit as you experience worship with a child.

Continued on back!



What adults can do to help children worship

- Be a positive model.
- Express your own enthusiasm for worshipping God.
- Arrive early so that you are not rushed.
- Make a bathroom stop right before worship.
- Make sure children have a good breakfast beforehand.
- Sit near the front so that children can see.
- Help children get to know the children they sit near.
- Review what will happen in worship with children.
- Remind children our focus is on God.
- Affirm children for positive responses to worship.
- Pray together before formal worship begins.
- Assist children with hymnal or song sheets, and the order of worship.
- Explain to children what is coming next.
- Answer questions. Questions are a sign that children are engaging.
- Help children follow along in reading.
- Hold little ones and sway with music.
- Hold hands when praying.
- Put an arm around a child or rub his/her back. This equates positive touch with worship.
- Rise/sit together.
- Don't get so caught up in personal worship that you forget children.

- Give fidgety children choices, such as "You may hold my hand while we pray or fold your hands while we pray."
- Even when children don't know the words to a song they can dance and clap their hands.
- Help children see by lifting them up or standing them on a chair.

What children can do in worship

- Children can help you follow along with a reading.
- Children can give an offering.
- Children can serve with you or others as ushers, readers, greeters.
- Children can illustrate Bible stories and other elements of worship.
- Children can draw/color their feelings, thoughts, prayers during worship/time with God.
- Children can pray.
- Children can sing.
- Children can dance.
- Children can clap their hands.
- Children can remember repeated prayers and songs.
- Children can be worship leaders.
- Children can help younger siblings.
- Children can fill out "friendship folder" (attendance form).
- Children can sit for short periods if they are engaged.
- Children can express their ongoing story of faith.
- Children can receive Christ and grow daily in faith.
- Children can express their love for God through worship.

What adults can do to help children worship

- Be a positive model.
- Express your own enthusiasm for worshipping God.
- Arrive early so that you are not rushed.
- Make a bathroom stop right before worship.
- Make sure children have a good breakfast beforehand.
- Sit near the front so that children can see.
- Help children get to know the children they sit near.
- Review what will happen in worship with children.
- Remind children our focus is on God.
- Affirm children for positive responses to worship.
- Pray together before formal worship begins.
- Assist children with hymnal or song sheets, and the order of worship.
- Explain to children what is coming next.
- Answer questions. Questions are a sign that children are engaging.
- Help children follow along in reading.
- Hold little ones and sway with music.
- Hold hands when praying.
- Put an arm around a child or rub his/her back. This equates positive touch with worship.
- Rise/sit together.
- Don't get so caught up in personal worship that you forget children.

- Give fidgety children choices, such as "You may hold my hand while we pray or fold your hands while we pray."
- Even when children don't know the words to a song they can dance and clap their hands.
- Help children see by lifting them up or standing them on a chair.

What children can do in worship

- Children can help you follow along with a reading.
- Children can give an offering.
- Children can serve with you or others as ushers, readers, greeters.
- Children can illustrate Bible stories and other elements of worship.
- Children can draw/color their feelings, thoughts, prayers during worship/time with God.
- Children can pray.
- Children can sing.
- Children can dance.
- Children can clap their hands.
- Children can remember repeated prayers and songs.
- Children can be worship leaders.
- Children can help younger siblings.
- Children can fill out "friendship folder" (attendance form).
- Children can sit for short periods if they are engaged.
- Children can express their ongoing story of faith.
- Children can receive Christ and grow daily in faith.
- Children can express their love for God through worship.



The Evangelical Covenant Church

The Tips for Talking with Children series also includes resources on baptism and communion with children. For more information, visit CovChurch.org, or call (773) 784-3000.



The Evangelical Covenant Church

The Tips for Talking with Children series also includes resources on baptism and communion with children. For more information, visit CovChurch.org, or call (773) 784-3000.

