

15 Ways for Parents to Involve Children in Worship

Covenant Presbyterian Church welcomes all children into the worshipping community. Children learn to worship by worshipping with the congregation Sunday after Sunday. Worship is an important part of each child's spiritual growth. Below are some tips for parents to make worship a positive experience.

1. Talk about worship at home and prepare your child for what may happen and what you expect of them.
2. Pick up a Children's Bulletin from the Welcome Center or balcony. These bulletins correspond to the scripture for the day and are made for both younger and older children.
3. Pick up a Worship Packet from the Welcome Center or table in the balcony. These provide colored pencils, drawing paper, bookmarks, and hand held games for use during worship. Look for the blue, red, and clear plastic envelopes. Return the packet to the baskets when worship has concluded.
4. Arrive in the sanctuary in time to find a seat near the front (or on the aisle) so that your child can see and feel a part of what is happening.
5. Comment on special events happening in worship such as a baptism, communion, and introduction of new members. Point out special banners, visual adornments, or the changes in the liturgical colors in the chancel.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Encourage your child to take part in the Children's Time. Parents are always welcome to join their children in the chancel area during this time.
9. Invite your child to participate in the Passing of the Peace by shaking hands with the people near you. If your child is shy, introduce your child to the people around you.
10. Three year old through 1st grade children are invited to participate in Kaleidoscope Worship Education classes. These children leave the sanctuary after the 'Children's Time' and go to a classroom in the upper Christian Education wing to learn about the parts of the worship service. Parents pick up children from the classroom after worship has ended.
11. Help your child find the scripture lessons in the Bible and follow along as the scriptures are read.
12. Allow children to place your offering envelope or their own children's offering envelope in the offering plate.
13. Talk about what went on in worship on the way home or at lunch. Have everyone in your family make positive observations about what happened during the service.
14. Practice prayer at home.
15. 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..