

Tips for Kids Worshiping with their Parents:

1. We teach kids to Respect – to respect themselves, others, property, and most importantly what God is trying to do. We tell them each week that if they can respect what God is trying to do then they will be able to hear the still small voice of the Lord and those around them will be able to as well. If they choose not to respect what God is trying to do then they will not have a good time because we will be constantly having to correct their behavior.
2. We take a bathroom break time before we start our “serious worship time”. Be sure and challenge the kids to think about what they need to do before going into the worship service and make sure they go to the restroom before coming to big worship. We have been working hard to teach them that leaving during worship can distract them and other people from what God is trying to do.
3. Remember Kids have just finished sitting in a classroom setting do something to help them get their jitters out such as. (Take the long way around to the worship center, play an I spy game in the worship center, do something goofy as having them walk backwards or skip to worship...)
4. We teach kids that about offering. You may ask your child when the offering plate is passed, so what is the minimum the Bible tells us we should give. Their answer should be 10%. You may even ask their opinion of what happens to them money. Trust me this could be pretty comical. More importantly we remind them that our attitude must be that we are willing to give everything to the Lord.
5. We encourage them to write and draw in their bulletins. You can do to things here, we will have kids bulletins for you to pick up. However, you can use the church wide bulletins or a blank piece of paper and have this kids draw what the Pastor is talking about.
6. Help time to engage in the music by clapping and hand motions.
7. Help them engage the message by drawing, sculpting with clay, writing down certain words, play a game with them and present a prize, create some kind of competition between you and them on listing. Try to find ways to make it fun!!

Other Tips from an Article by LifeWay:

Before Worship

- Pray. You want this experience to be a joyful success; so does your Heavenly Father.
- Take a tour. Kids are naturally curious and need to ask lots of questions when they first go to “big church.” Let your child do that in a safe and comfortable setting. Encourage him to touch the offering plate, stand on the platform, and look in the choir loft.
- Introduce worship leaders to your child. Kids are more apt to listen and participate when they know someone.
- Talk about the service. Help your child understand what’s going to happen in worship. Kids shouldn’t be expected to follow traditions they don’t know or understand.
- Practice worshiping. Children learn best through play and repetition. Play “big church” at home. Stand and sing together. Pass the offering plate. Practice whispering.

- Get rest and get ready. A good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast can make a big difference. Avoid family stressors on Sunday mornings with some preparation on Saturday night.
- Anticipate physical needs. Visit the restroom and water fountain before worship. Give your child opportunity to wiggle and squirm before you enter the worship center.
- Discuss expected behavior. Kids generally want to please their parents. If your child knows what the reasonable expectations are, he'll usually try to live up to them.

During Worship

- Pray, asking God for an extra dose of love and patience.
- Be consistent. Kids will grow to value what they believe their parents value. Nothing says "this is important" more than your consistent attendance and support.
- Accept age-appropriate behavior, such as a few wiggles. Realize that 4-year-olds need some grace during a 30-minute sermon. Expectations for 4th graders can be higher.
- Encourage participation. Have your child stand when the congregation stands. Let him hold the hymnal and the Bible. Let him place the family's offering in the plate.
- Model appropriate behavior. What your child observes and experiences in worship will teach him about worship.

After Worship

- Pray, thanking God for the privilege of worshiping with your child.
- Discuss any aspects of the service that your child may not have understood. Honor your child's questions.
- Praise your child for good behavior, and calmly discuss behavior that was not appropriate.