

# Together in Worship



## *A Leader's Guide for Parents*

*by Eric Davis*

Parents are the first and best teachers their children can have when it comes to worshiping God. The following information is meant to help parents in this important role.

### **Preparing for Worship**

During the prelude, help your child feel his presence is important to you and to God.

*"And Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said... 'whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me'"*  
(Matthew 18:2,5).

### **Attend Faithfully**

By your actions, show your child the importance of worship, and help him become an active participant in the worship service. To accomplish this, try these suggestions:

1. Sit where your child can see what is going on.
2. Prepare your child for any special activities that will be happening in the service.

3. Guide your child to have a positive, happy feeling about the service.

*"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it"*  
(Proverbs 22:6).

### **Worship in Singing**

Your participation in singing encourages your child to participate. Let him help you hold the hymnal. Move your finger under words of the song. Even though your child cannot read, this lets him know that the words written are those you are singing.

*"Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing" (Psalm 100:1,2).*

### **Worship in Giving**

If your child has money to give, he eagerly awaits the moment he will drop it in the offering plate. He also learns by watching his parents give their tithes and offerings.

*"Give to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness"*

(Chronicles 16:29).

## Reading God's Word

When the pastor or staff minister announces the passage he will read, find it in your Bible. Hold the Bible so your child can see, or let him help you hold it. Put your finger at the beginning of each verse as the Scripture is being read. This lets the child know that the words the minister is reading are from the Bible. Place a book marker at the passage of Scripture so your child can find it again at another time. In this way, you and your child will be able to look up that verse later and discuss it, should he have any questions.

*"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).*

## The Message

Tell your child that this is the time when the pastor is speaking to everybody. Occasionally, lean over and express what the pastor is saying in the words your child can easily understand; "The

pastor is talking about how much God loves us." "He's talking about how we should obey and listen to God." Express your love to your child by occasionally holding your child, holding his hand, or slipping your arm around him. Let him feel how glad you are he is with you.  
*"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever" (Psalm 136:1).*

## Helpful Hints in God's House

1. To help your child understand that we do not leave until the service invitation is over, make sure he goes to the restroom and gets a drink of water before going into the sanctuary.
2. Always sit where your child can see. Sit in different places in the sanctuary. Occasionally sit where the child can watch the musical instruments.
3. Help your child know the staff members and pastors of the church.

4. Talk about the service before and after. It is so important that children are previewed on what is going to happen before it takes place. Children need to be reviewed on things after they have happened as well. Don't expect your child to remember everything. Be sure you answer any questions he may have.
5. When your child has a good worship experience, praise him and reinforce his good behavior and participation.
6. Be patient with your child.
7. If you dread the service, so will your child.
8. If you have older children who normally do not sit with you, encourage them to make the worship hour a family time. Many times younger children respond to their sister's or brother's habits. Have your older children set good examples.
9. The worship hour can be a time when families gather together to

worship as a family with the entire church family.

10. Your child needs to see his parents worshipping God through their praying, singing, reading, and rejoicing. He will gain impressions that will remain with him into his religious thinking and feelings in later years.

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