

# HELP YOUR CHILDREN ENGAGE IN A WORSHIP SERVICE

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Bringing your elementary-age children to worship with you can be an adventure, especially the first time when they and you aren't quite sure what to expect.

## PRE-GAME

- Explain what will happen during a worship service and what the room looks like.
- Talk about the importance of corporate worship as a church family and worshipping together as a family.
- Set behavior expectations in advance.
- Set the example with your own attitude about and participation in the worship service.
- Bring a pen and paper for your children to write down words or draw pictures of what they hear in the sermon or they lyrics of the worship music.

## GAME TIME

- Make a last-minute restroom stop before heading into the Worship Center.
- Encourage children to read along with the Bible passage and sing during the worship music time of the service.
- Look at the bulletin and suggest, especially for older children, to look for a key word or phrase during the sermon based on the title or memory verse.
- Challenge them to give God their best — their best attention and their best singing. God deserves our best!

## POST-GAME

- Ask what part of the worship service they liked, what was confusing and what they didn't like. Ask why, and you'll learn how your child connects with God. You can use that to encourage him or her in the years to come!
- Share with your children how you connect with God during the worship service and what you learned.

If you are fearful of your child's ability to sit through the entire worship service, please sit in an area where you can make a quick exit to the Family Room! It's OK if it's a rough first time...you're not the only family who may have more of an adventure than planned during worship. Remember, it's hard to sit still for that long for some little ones. Also, understanding a worship service is something that we learn. The best way to help your kids understand is to experience it with them.