



Families Together in Corporate Worship

Children are extremely important to us here at Redeemer. While we offer many age-appropriate Bible programs, we want and welcome children in the service with parents or another responsible adult for our Lord's Day Worship. We firmly believe in the importance and uniqueness of the Sunday morning worship service, where the church gathers to worship together. We approach Sundays with seriousness, expectancy, and excitement. We sing the Word, pray the Word, preach the Word, and see the Word in communion and baptism.

Why We Welcome Children in Corporate Worship

- Most importantly, it is the biblical pattern. Everywhere in Scripture it is assumed that children were a part of the gathered congregation (Exod 13:14; Josh 8:35; Joel 2:15—16; Eph 6:1—3; Col 3:20).
- We want to train them to be a part of the congregation, showing them, this is what we do as a family and church family. Much of the faith is caught than taught, and we can teach by example to pray, sing, and listen.
- They will see the gospel displayed in the ordinances, communion and baptism.
- They will experience a sense of awe, likely not happening in children's church and hear the whole counsel of God taught.
- In our age of family fragmentation, this provides togetherness by doing something invaluable as a family.
- You should see the range of the congregation when we gather: moms and dads bowing their heads in earnest prayer, "aunties" and "uncles" listening hungrily to God's Word, young and old alike singing praises in meeting the living God.
- We understand this can be difficult and attention spans differ among children. It is for this reason we offer a nursery (ages 0-3) and Children's Worship (ages 4 to 1st grade) to help prepare them so that they can join the family in worship.

Tips

- Consistently have family worship at home so that corporate worship will be continuous with what they experience at home.
- Sunday morning worship begins on Saturday night. Have plans for breakfast and clothes.
- Read the passage for the upcoming Sunday ahead of time at home. We typically publish our preaching schedule quarterly. Kids will light up when hearing familiar words and themes.
- Take them to the bathroom *before* the service.
- Sit toward the front so they can easily see everything.
- Fully engage in corporate worship. Sing. Read. Listen. Take notes. You are modeling.
- Feel free to quietly explain parts of the service to your children.
- Consider bringing quiet age-appropriate activities who struggle to sit still for the whole sermon.
- Ask questions about the service on the way home.