



Family Worship: Corporate Worship

Deep truths from the Word have shaped our understanding and practice in regards to the role of the shepherd in families and our call as parents to train up our children.

One practical way for families to grow in understanding of this high calling is that we have our children sit with us in corporate Worship. This happens in a couple of ways:

- PreK and Kindergarten children join families in corporate worship on the last Sunday of each month.
- Children in 1st grade and above join families during worship weekly.

Through this, the children are being trained weekly/monthly to worship in and through singing, listening, note taking, and many other opportunities in Sunday Morning Worship.

The training for our little worshippers happens on Sunday, as well as in the moments throughout our days, weeks, months, and years.

Just as you are making connections week to week, your children are being given that opportunity as well. As you consider your time in corporate Worship on Sunday morning, we hope this Resource Guide will help you with real, tangible ideas as you consider your role as a parent in the following ways:

Preparation for
Corporate Worship

During Corporate Worship

Follow-up to Corporate Worship

Teaching is the process.

You are teaching your children as you sit, as you rise up, as you lie down, as you walk by the way. When you bring your child alongside you in anything in life, you are teaching them. Sunday morning Worship is no different. As they sit by your side in the Worship service, you are teaching them by...

...making important things important. We know what a hassle it can be to wrestle with your little ones for an entire service. Really. But it is so worth it!

...pointing them back to the teaching. This happens in the service itself, as well as throughout your week. Please don't be concerned if you have to whisper quietly during the service to encourage your little one to listen to a specific thing the pastor is teaching on. Remember to follow up on what God has taught you in the sermon as well.

...being an example. Our children mimic our behavior more than we realize. We should remember that they are also learning to be an image bearer and imitator of Christ as they sit at our sides each week.

...preparing. This preparation for engaging the sermon is different than preparing to keep your child/children entertained for an hour. This preparation takes talking, praying, follow up, and diligence.



Crosspoint Fellowship

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Preparation for Corporate Worship

Make it routine.

I don't know what Sunday morning is like at your house. But at our house, Sunday morning can easily become the most stressful morning of the week. It is a race to get to worship on time. It is a miracle that we don't all have snarls on our faces when we arrive. It is the most distracted, chaotic morning imaginable. And it has to do with routine.

It is "easier" to get yourself together during the week than it is Sunday because there is routine there. You have a rhythm to your schedule. It is something that may feel chaotic at first, but finds some sort of beat in the dailyness.

Do you allow that to happen on Sunday? Or is every Sunday different? Do you just rush through to try to get to the finish line? Is there some sort of routine you can establish as a family to make Sunday a bit more laid back?

Find the rhythm to Sunday. Think about the morning before you go to bed. Set an alarm on the weekend! Wake up early. Enjoy God in the small things as you prepare yourself for worship. Then establish routines with your children. Let them be a part of getting prepared for corporate Worship. Give them a chance to think on things before they walk in the door and are expected to sit still for hours on end.

Worship on the way to Worship.

Make it a habit on the way to worship to crank up the music and worship on the way! Stop down and pray in the parking lot! Tell your children what to expect when they come in the door and let them get excited about worshipping with the church body.

Bathroom Breaks.

Have you ever noticed how our worship center is not ideal for bathroom breaks? It's hard to move around in that room without distracting the rest of the room! So why not take bathroom breaks BEFORE?! There are times where a bathroom break is necessary.

Where is the "off" switch?

When you walk in the door of the worship center, you have likely prepared your mind and body for the moments ahead. You have likely set aside your schedules, to-do lists, and chores so that you can worship! Our children don't have that "off" switch! We have to help them! We have to be aware that they need to set aside things also. Help your child find their "off" switch!

During Corporate Worship

Notebooking.

Buy a notebook or journal or spiral for your child to take notes in. Give them the responsibility to bring that notebook and Bible to worship with them weekly.

This will not only get your child/children into the habit of preparing themselves for worship, but it will also be a measure of growth as you look back at their notes from week to week.

Here are some things they can do with their notebooks in worship:

1. If they are good writers, encourage them to take notes. Write down words, sentences, thoughts that they hear that mean something to them. If they cannot write, have them draw pictures!
2. Make a list of 4-6 words they hear, then keep a tally of the times the pastor talks about this.
3. Make a list of the stories they hear that are familiar. Write down the name of the story and the characters in the story.
4. Write down the answer to this question at the end of the service: What did God teach you as you heard this sermon?

Bingo.

Make a Bingo card by drawing 12 squares on a piece of paper. In the first 5 minutes of the sermon, write down several words or phrases that you want your child to listen for. When they hear the words or phrases, they can color in a square of their Bingo Card.

Picture this.

Have the children fold a paper into thirds. Have them listen to the first part of the sermon, then draw a picture for the things that were talked about in the first part of the sermon. Then repeat this for the middle and end of the

Sticker Chart.

During the first 10 minutes of the sermon, have your child listen to the teacher. Have them choose 5-10 words that they heard in the first 10 minutes of the sermon to make a list. Then during the remainder of the sermon, when they hear a word from their list, let them choose a sticker to put on their words.

Model.

Teach your children that listening matters. Teach them by listening! Teach them that it's important by showing them how serious you are about it.

Follow-up to Corporate Worship

He said...she said...I said...

Fold your paper in half. Write down a couple of points from the sermon on the left side of the fold. Then write down how it applies to our daily lives on the right side of the fold.

Have each person in the family come up with one to write down. Post it on the refrigerator for the week

Hang it up.

Encourage your child/children by hanging their notes on the refrigerator each week! Have them put a star by the things that stuck out the most to them during the service. Then encourage them during their week with the same

Small Group Connections.

One of the biggest challenges that Small Groups face seems to be the question of what to do with the children. As you are sitting in the sermon, think forward to small group! As a parent, come equipped with ideas and thoughts of how you can engage the children in small group. Enlist your child/children's help to help think forward to small group as well. For more info to small groups, check out the website here: http://www.crosspointfellowship.us/disc/study_groups.php

Sermon Series.

Many times we engage the text through sermon series. As you're following up during the week, be sure to revisit the other sermons in the series. The sermons can be found at: <http://www.crosspointfellowship.us/>

Worship in Song.

Every week, the Worship band chooses songs that appropriately fit the sermon. As you are singing these songs, write down your favorites to revisit during your week.

Look up these songs online! Talk about the lyrics with your children. Talk about their meaning. Sing the songs together as a family. Enjoy worshipping in song with your family as you continue through your week.

A great resource for family worship is Remembering! Check them out in iTunes! <https://itunes.apple.com/us/artist/remembersing/id617175209>

Pray.

Pray with your children. Pray for your children. Pray together.



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