

The Connection

10 JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

6 IDEAS TO HELP YOU TRAIN YOUR CHILDREN TO WORSHIP CORPORATELY

GUEST POST BY JOSH MULVIHILL

Over the course of the next few months, most families will return to church. If your church is anything like mine, it is going to look different for a while. Currently at my church, children's classrooms are closed and all children must accompany parents into worship. If your children are new to corporate worship, here are a few suggestions that may be helpful as you train your children to worship corporately:

1. **Discuss worship expectations with your children.** Jen and I use to tell our children that we expected them to be calm (because we have three boys who couldn't sit still), quiet (because we have children who do not understand what an indoor voice is), and pay attention. Three things. That's all we needed them to remember. **Calm. Quiet. Pay attention.** Some of our children learned quickly. Others tested boundaries and needed loving guidance with a whisper in the ear, a squeeze on the thigh, or even an invitation to join me in the hallway to be reminded of expectations. Children who did well were praised generously. If children are brand new to corporate worship, expect that quick learners will do well after a few weeks and slow learners will take a few months.

2. **Provide tools not toys.** We want children engaged, not occupied. It's great that children are present, but our goal is their participation. Rather than bringing cars, coloring books, or legos bring a notebook, Bible, and pen. We encourage young children who cannot read to draw



pictures of what they hear. Older children are expected to take notes and listen attentively. For accountability, we often have our children go down to the senior pastor and show him notes. We attend a church of 5,000 people, so this can happen in small or large churches.

3. Teach your children the music you sing at church. We purchase songs that we sing at church and listen to them at home. It's not forced, but informal. We play worship music while children eat breakfast or clean and in the process they begin to become familiar with the worship music. Guess what happens at church when they hear music they know and like? They sing! You can help your child by sitting in a child-friendly location so they can clearly see the front of the worship space. We allow our smaller children to stand on a chair when we stand to sing.

4. Suckers! Our goal for children was always busy hands and quiet mouths. When the pastor began his sermon, we would pass out a sucker to each of our children. The sucker usually helped a child pay attention for about ten minutes. If a child was particularly squirmy, we would provide a second sucker or even a piece of gum. We would also strategically place the youngest children closest to a parent and the older children at the end.

5. Say no to bathrooms and screens. We learned quickly that some of our children suddenly had to go to the bathroom and couldn't hold it during the sermon. We made it a practice to encourage children to go to the bathroom before the worship service and only gave permission to use the bathroom in rare instances. We initiated the "Are you going to wet your pants?" test to determine if the bathroom was necessary. We also do not allow screens during the service, unless it is to access the Bible or use an app to take notes. As parents, we try to set a good example by not texting, using social media, looking at fantasy football scores (particularly hard for me during football season), or checking email. Our children learn the value and form of worship by watching us. We want the affection of our heart and the focus of our mind to be on worshipping Christ and; therefore, we try to eliminate all distractions.

6. Ask questions on the ride home. Invite your children to share what they liked most about the sermon or a comment that stuck out to them. Sometimes our children will laugh about a funny story that was shared and this is fine! It means they were listening. Other times, children will ask a clarifying question about what a word or concept means. This is simply an opportunity for you to see how your children are processing the sermon and to see what really grabbed them.

Like learning anything, it takes time for young children to learn how to worship corporately. If worshipping as a family is new to you, just getting your children to sit quietly without embarrassing you or distracting others is a big win! As a father of

five, I've been there. I've been given the evil eye as someone glanced over their shoulder at me due to a loud child. If that happens, just smile and don't take it out on your child. Be gracious to yourself, your children and others who have children. This is a season where extra grace is required.

While we need an orderly worship service, the sounds of children are a sign of health for families and churches as it is a means to pass on faith to the next generation. If you are willing to do the hard work to teach and train your children to worship corporately, your children will reap the benefits of being part of the larger church body and learning to worship.

If you want to learn more about worshipping corporately as a family I encourage you to purchase the book *Parenting in the Pew*, which has many practical and helpful ideas. Truth78 created a children's worship notebook that helps children follow along with a sermon and our children have found this resource helpful. Of course, if you haven't purchased a Bible for your child, consider getting one so the child can bring it to church for worship. May the Lord bless you as you train a child to worship God!



Josh Mulvihill, PhD, is the executive director of church and family ministry for Renewation. He has over twenty years pastoral experience and is the author of *Biblical Grandparenting* and *Preparing Children for Marriage*. Josh and his wife, Jen, have been blessed with five children. You can find more articles from Josh at GospelShapedFamily.com. Used by permission.



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 AM

The main service (including congregational singing) will take place in the auditorium. Overflow will be in the gym (no singing allowed). If you desire to watch the service from your home, please go to the front page of our website and click the link that will join you to our [live service](#) or the [recording of it to follow](#).

JULY 12, 2020

- CALL TO WORSHIP
- "CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS"
- "PRAISE HIM! PRAISE HIM!"
- PRAYER
- "HIS MERCY IS MORE"
- CHILDREN'S STORY
- "I AM THINE, O LORD"
- MESSAGE: "WATER FOR THE THIRSTY SOUL" JOHN 7 PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS
- "COMPLETE IN THEE"
- PRAYER

WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY 7 PM

This service takes place in the auditorium. In addition, you may also participate in a Zoom group that will follow the same format at the same time (Please email kwilliams@meadowlandsbaptist.com for a Zoom invitation). For our Bible study we will discuss the following questions that relate to the Sunday morning sermon:

JOHN 7

1. Which three words in this passage do you think are most significant?
2. What is being said about those three important words?
3. What does this passage say about Jesus?
4. How do people in this passage respond to Jesus?
5. How does this passage challenge or encourage you?
6. What from this passage can you share to encourage a fellow Christian?
7. What from this passage can you share with an unbeliever?

O give us homes where Christ is
Lord and Master,
The Bible read, the precious
hymns still sung;
Where prayer comes first in
peace or in disaster,
And praise is natural speech to
ev'ry tongue;
Where mountains move before a
faith that's vaster,
And Christ *sufficient* is for
old and young.

Barbara B. Hart

VIRTUAL VBS 2020

Answers in Genesis has crafted a COVID VBS for use online. This is a VBS experience that a family, grandparents, or even cohort families can do together over the summer. As cohort families, you can meet daily for the week, play the games, participate in the snack together and watch the video of the teaching lesson.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Sign up by Friday, July 17 on [Eventbrite](#) for a customized family package kit (contains daily devotional, game instructions, snack suggestions, craft materials and instructions)
2. Pick up packet at the church office anytime July 19 or later
3. You can use the program any week of the summer (ages 3 to grade 6)

Instructions and links for Virtual VBS will be forthcoming.



Need to contact us?



Church Office

780-440-1195

Pastor Kevin Williams

587-635-2758

Pastor Jerry Ascher

587-635-2751

Pastor Mark Richmond

587-635-2752

David Treau

587-635-2753

GIVING

E-transfer is available. From your bank's website, select the e-transfer feature. The email address to transfer to is donations@meadowlandsbaptist.com. Your donation will be automatically accepted and you will receive a confirmation of the transfer.

MBC MISSIONARY UPDATE

"Just a short note to update everyone on our plans for returning to Aklavik. First a praise and answer is that I received an email from the Canadian government and at this time we would be allowed to cross the border and continue our travel to Inuvik and then quarantine there for the 14 days. A change is that we will not be able to begin our travel until after July 14 as Andrena had to have one more dentist appointment. Also, last Thursday my mom was admitted to the hospital here in Missouri. A year ago she was diagnosed with chronic leukemia. She responded well to the treatments then, but last week her platelet levels dropped. They have done a second biopsy and the leukemia has progressed some, so Wednesday they started a few rounds of chemo and will be doing some infusions to increase her platelet count. Please pray for her health and also for strength for my dad as he cares for her.

With so many things uncertain from a human perspective, we are asking the Lord for wisdom on when to begin our travel, knowing and trusting the Lord for peace and direction. Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. We thank the Lord for all of our faithful supporting churches and are praying for you as well."



Larry and Pam Noland began their furlough in the States prior to the Covid outbreak. They serve the Lord as missionaries to the people in Aklavik, NWT.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Several of our senior citizens are in assisted living homes and isolated from friends and families.
- Laura Cook's sister, Lee, is going through chemo treatments for breast cancer.
- Nell Popowich has lymphoma and is in hospital recovering from surgery.
- Dorothy Christopher is recovering from a knee injury.
- Dale Bevan has ongoing health needs

UPCOMING EVENTS



CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES

MEADOWLANDS GYM

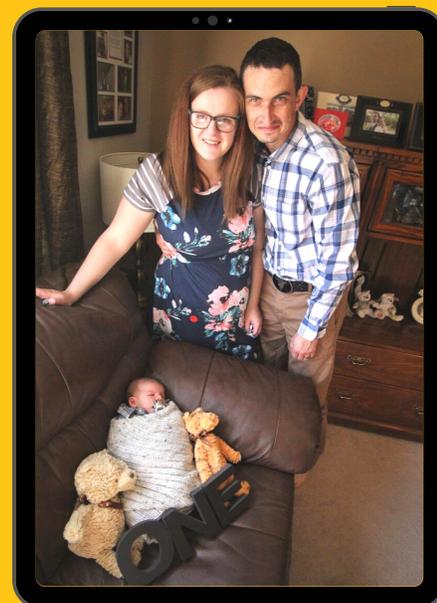
Wednesday, July 15, 3-7 pm

By Appointment: 1 888 2 DONATE or blood.ca

VIRTUAL BABY SHOWER FOR CHRIS & CINDY BURDETT AND BABY ZANDER, JULY 12-27

WAYS TO GIVE:

- Drop off a gift at the church office.
- Give toward a collective gift card by dropping off a donation or e-transferring it to custom@meadowlandsbaptist.com.
- See Sincere Hearts Facebook page for gift ideas and details.



[Guidelines for in-person gatherings may be found on our website.](#)

2215-17 St. NW, Edmonton, AB T6T 1J1 www.meadowlandsbaptist.com