

FAMILY TOOLBOX



SERIES

TEACHING KIDS ABOUT WORSHIP



Children's Ministry

Golden Hills Community Church

2401 Shady Willow Lane

Brentwood, CA 94513

925-516-0653

A Note to Families

The Children's Ministry of Golden Hills Community Church exists to *"Glorify God by helping families develop age-appropriate disciples who impact their world for Christ"*.

In order to accomplish this task, we at GHCC have attempted to describe the discipleship of a believer, which includes these three elements:

- **Worship**
- **Grow**
- **Serve**

We believe that children, as followers of Christ, can also participate in the discipleship process. We have further identified twelve specific spiritual growth issues within these three elements of discipleship.

It is our desire in Children's Ministry, to create a balanced program, which addresses all of these spiritual growth issues, helping to produce a healthy, age-appropriate disciple.

However, statistics tell us that the national average for children attending Sunday school is 26 hours each year (that's only half of the time). And our church is no exception to this. Our average Sunday attendance is roughly half of our total registration. What does this mean? Well, we could have the best programming, the best teachers and staff (which, by the way, I think we do) and we would still have a very hard time in accomplishing the goal God has set before us. But there is a way.

The way in which we can realize the goal of making age-appropriate disciples is stated in our purpose: "...by helping *families* develop age-appropriate disciples..." In fact, the best approach to aiding your child's faith development is *not* in the formal setting of the church, but in the informal, everyday life of your home. God's Word clearly reminds us of this in Deuteronomy 6:4-7:

"Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. The commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress (teach) them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home, and when you walk along the road, when you lie down at night and when you get up."

We encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity to "impress upon your children" spiritual truth. Use dinner conversation, driving in the car, bedtime routines and getting ready each morning as times to reflect and teach about God and his faithfulness.

To help you in these discussions, we have developed a series of tools for you to use. These tools are series of booklets (**THE FAMILY TOOLBOX SERIES**), each addressing the spiritual growth issues. In them you will find information, discussion questions and activity suggestions to help you guide your children on their spiritual journeys.

Dear Parents,

Understanding worship is foundational to our faith. After all, it is what we were created to do! My prayer is that this booklet will help you and your family begins to discover the secret of true and lasting joy (Psalm 91:1,2; Isaiah 26:3).

God bless you as you come before His throne in worship.

Pastor Mark

Teaching Kids About Worship

Definition

The dictionary defines worship as:

wor-ship n. The act of showing great reverence, honor, respect, etc. to God.

Worship is not just attending church, sitting in a pew listening to a pastor talk about God and singing songs. It is much more than that. Worship is thinking about, paying attention to, God.

Worship is taking the time to appreciate God—who He is, what He has done, what is doing, and what He will do. It is responding to Him with reverence, praise and joy. Worship is all about God; *it has nothing to do with us.*

The First Step to Worship

The first step to worship is grateful acceptance of God’s gift to us. We show God our deepest appreciation of Him when we humbly and gratefully accept the payment He made for our sins when He sent His one and only Son to die on the cross. Once we accept Jesus Christ as Savior, Christ Himself comes to dwell in us and we begin a lifetime journey of understanding how great God really is (see **FAMILY TOOLBOX SERIES**, *Leading Your Child To Christ*). Then true worship begins.

Worship God With Others

God wants us to worship Him with other believers (see **FAMILY TOOLBOX SERIES**, *Teaching Your Child About the Church*). In Psalm 34:3, David calls us to worship, saying, “Oh magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name forever.” Just going to church does not mean you are worshipping. You worship by thinking about or paying attention to God as you sing, pray and learn His Word. Focus on God and join others in honoring Him.

You can help your family prepare their hearts and attitudes before you even arrive to church by allowing margin in your time. Get everyone up a little earlier so you are not so rushed to arrive to church on time. Talk with your family about how good God is, and what He has done for you and your family. Begin the process of focusing on God before you arrive and you will be better able to give him the attention He is due when we worship together.

Worship God When You Are Alone

You can worship God anywhere at anytime. Learn to go through each day thinking about God's greatness, and thanking Him for who He is and what He is doing. Each morning when you wake up, thank for a fresh, new day. Sing (or, if you sing like me, hum) a praise song to Him as get dressed. Pray each morning and worship God by giving yourself to Him to serve him during the day. Notice the world around you. Isn't God's creation wonderful? Tell God how glad you are for His love and continual care. Worship Him from the time you get up until the time you go to bed at night.

Use God's Word to Help You Worship

Let God's Word help you focus on Him and His works. The Psalms and many other Scriptures are praises spoken to God (examples: 1 Chronicles 16:34; Psalm 95; Psalm 100). As you read them, pray them back to God. I should mention here that it is good for children to a Bible translation they can read, understand and appreciate for themselves (see **FAMILY TOOLBOX SERIES, *Choosing A Children's Bible***).

Worship God in Prayer

Another aspect of our worship is prayer, expressing to God His great worth. You can help your kids do this by completing one of the following sentences in a prayer of praise to God:

“God, I love you because...”

“God, I praise you because...”

“God, you are wonderful because...”

(See the **FAMILY TOOLBOX SERIES**, *Teaching Your Child To Pray* for more ideas on prayer)

Singing is a Way to Worship

Songs are a great way for us to express our worship and praise God (provided the lyrics are directed to God. Remember, it’s about Him, not us). Did you know that the Psalms are actually songs written to God? Encourage your children to sing songs that glorify and honor God. When my kids were little, they often made up their own songs to God, telling Him how awesome He is and how much they loved Him. Often, the ride home from church was itself an incredible worship service!

Make Giving an Act of Worship

We can worship God by giving. We can give God all of us, that is, our time, our talents, our finances, our bodies, our minds, and our hearts. We give our time by doing things for others. Our talents are given as an act of service to God. We give our tithes and offerings are cheerfully given to support the work of the church (see **FAMILY TOOLBOX SERIES**, *Teaching Kids about Stewardship*). When we give, we focus on God-His goodness, provision and blessing. Our response is our worship. The next time you are in service and the offering is passed; make the most of the opportunity to focus on God in worship.

Family Worship Activity

Worshipping God isn’t possible without first knowing God. A good place to start in our journey to know God is with the names of God. The names of God reveal His nature and

character. Below is a list of some of the names of God used in scripture. Review them with your kids. Read the verses and talk about what you think the name means. What does it say about God?

Abba-Romans 8:15
Almighty-Psalm 68:14
Alpha-Revelation 22:13
Author of life-Acts 3:15
Beginning and the end-Revelation 21:6
Branch-Jeremiah 33:15
Bread of life-John 6:35
Bridegroom-Isaiah 62:5b
Bright an morning star-Revelation 22:16
Chosen one-Isaiah 42:1
Christ-Matthew 22:42
Comforter-John 14:26 (KJV)
Counselor-John 14:26
Creator-1 Peter 4:19
Deliverer-Romans 11:26
Door-John 10:7 (KJV)
Eternal God-Deuteronomy 33:27
Everlasting Father-Isaiah 9:6
Father-Matthew 6:9
Friend-James 2:23; John 3:29
God-Genesis 1:1
Good Shepherd-John 10:11
Guard-2 Timothy 1:12
Guide-Psalm 48:14
Holy One-Acts 2:27
Holy Spirit-John 14:26
Hope-Titus 2:13
Immanuel-Isaiah 7:14
Jealous-Exodus 20:5
Jehovah-Psalm 83:18 (KJV)
Jesus-Matthew 1:21
Judge-Acts 10:42

King-Zechariah 9:9
King of kings-1 Timothy 6:15
Lamb of God-John 1:9
Life-John 14:6
Light of the world-John 8:12
Lion of the tribe of Judah-Revelation 5:5
Living water-John 4:10
Lord-John 13:13
Lord of lords-1 Timothy 6:15
Love-1 John 4:8
Master-Luke 5:5
Messiah-John 4:25
Omega-Revelation 22:13
Peace-Ephesians 2:14
Physician-Luke 4:23
Potter-Jeremiah 18:6
Power of God-1 Corinthians 10:4
Prophet-Acts 3:22
Redeemer-Job 19:25
Rock-1 Corinthians 10:4
Ruler-Revelation 3:14
Savior-Luke 2:11
Servant-Isaiah 42:1
Shield-Genesis 15:1
Stone-1 Peter 2:8
Teacher-John 13:13
Truth-John 14:6
Vine-John 15:5
Way-John 14:6
Wisdom of God-1 Corinthians 1:24
Wonderful Counselor-Isaiah 9:6
Word-John 1:1

Listing God's names, understanding their meaning and then *believing* them to be true, with heartfelt gratitude and adoration makes up true worship. God bless you and your family as you discover the blessing of true worship.

The Spiritual Growth Issues:

Worship

- Salvation
- Worship

Grow

- Bible knowledge/Application
- Bible Memory
- Stewardship
- Healthy Relationships
- Using Gifts, Talents and Skills
- Church Commitment

Serve

- Outreach
- Missions Involvement
- Christian Service