

# Sermon Notes for Kids: Parent Tips

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One way our church seeks to encourage “all together worship” is through [Sermon Notes for Kids](#), an activity page to help children participate in the worship gathering. The main Sermon Notes for Kids page features activities and questions for elementary-age children, while the “Junior” page provides a simplified version for preschoolers who are not yet able to read and write.

The purpose of SNFK is not to entertain but to train. Our goal is not to help our children sit still so that we can listen to the sermon; we are trying to help *them* to listen to the sermon and participate in the worship gathering alongside us. Yes, “all together” worship is challenging; and no, none of us have this all figured out. It takes work, patience, and a lot of grace, but the result is worth it!

Here are five suggestions for how to use Sermon Notes for Kids:

1. *Explain what takes place during the worship gathering.* Kids are curious and want to understand what is happening, so talk beforehand about why gathering with the church is important. What is the church? Why do we sing and pray together? Why do we listen to someone talk from the Bible for so long? Why do people get baptized? Why do we take communion? What is worship?
2. *Communicate in advance how your children can participate.* Consider the ages and development of your children. Do you expect them to stand during the songs? To face forward and read the words on the screen? To sing along (or hum if they don't know the words)? Is it OK if they are coloring a picture during the songs... or the announcements... or a long prayer? Encourage participation, but remember grace: we want to foster heart engagement, not just compliance with a list of rules.
3. *Use discernment about how much to expect.* Some kids will enjoy taking notes; others will just want to draw or color. The end goal is for our children to learn to worship through participating with us, but kids often absorb more than we realize while coloring or drawing. Ask God to help you discern how to help them grow, not how to get them to meet your expectations.
4. *Look for ways to engage reluctant children.* Listen to the songs or read the sermon passage together at home during the week in anticipation of Sunday's worship gathering. Make up a listening game to play together, like nudging each other each time you hear a particular word. Fill out your own SNFK each week and compare notes! Let them laugh at the picture you drew of the Bible story or illustration. The best teaching tool is often your own example and engagement.
5. *Ask kids to share their questions, answers, and responses with you.* Discuss the questions during your drive home or over lunch. Compliment their pictures and notes, ask follow-up questions, and share how God used his word to encourage or challenge your own heart that morning. Pray together at lunch or bedtime about what you heard that morning. Remember that the goal (for all of us!) is worshipping hearts, not merely good behavior.