

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please, feel free to contact us at the provided information below!

Cole Barnes

Associate Minister, Worship and Families
cole@crestviewbaptist.org

CONNECT WITH US

@GACRESTVIEW



"For His Glory, By His Mercy"



● A PARENT'S GUIDE TO ● Parenting in the Pew

At Crestview, we welcome and encourage families to participate together in our Sunday gathered worship services. We know God put the wiggle in kids and love having them in our worship services. This guide is intended to help you understand why we encourage families to worship together, as well as provide practical steps for your family as you seek to train your children to participate and engage along with you each Sunday.

WHY PARENT IN THE PEW?

"So that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments" –Psalm 78:7

- It trains children to do the most important thing they are called to do—to worship God!
- It teaches children discipline. Sitting still and listening attentively for over an hour is a discipline.
- It allows children to soak in God's word and the truths of the Gospel, because we believe that children can understand more than we give them credit for.
- It allows children to watch the church, especially their parents, and learn from their example as they worship God together.
- It gives children a sense of awe of God.

If you are new to parenting in the pew, the thought of teaching your children to sit through an entire service may be overwhelming. It isn't easy, but it is possible. And, as we've already seen, it's worth it! But, how do we set our children up for success?

AT HOME...

- **Have regular times of family worship.** This will help your children get accustomed to the activities you'll participate in when the church gathers to worship. Family worship is as easy as reading the Bible, singing a song, and taking time to pray together.
- **Read the sermon text with your children before Sunday.** Use the sermon schedule to know what text of scripture will be preached each Sunday and prepare your family to hear God's word.
- **Be prepared for gathered worship!** Sunday morning should start Saturday night—lay out clothes, pack children's bags, and set expectations for the next day.
- **Have a good breakfast.** Don't come to church on an empty stomach!

AT GATHERED WORSHIP...

- **Use the restroom.** Take a trip to the restroom before the service starts to help minimize restlessness or mid-service bathroom trips due to a full bladder.
- **Find a good seat.** You will want to sit in a place that is appropriate to the age of your children and conducive for the level of attention they need. Don't be afraid to sit on the ends, close to the front or back if you need to exit with your children during the service.
- **Use the information guide.** We provide a kid's information guide to help younger children participate and follow along in the service. The key is to teach your children to engage and participate rather than distract them in order to keep them silent.
- **Model participation and engagement to your children.** Your children will follow your lead. Sing loud, say "Amen!", and take notes. Let your children see what it looks like to be engaged in worship.

AFTER CHURCH...

- **Talk about the service with your children.** Discuss the songs we sang, the missionaries and churches we prayed for, and the sermon. Use the kid's information guide as a tool in this. It also has general bible knowledge questions to practice with your children. Encourage your children to ask you questions about the service.
- **Pray for your children.** Continue to pray the Lord will work in the hearts of your children as they join you for gathered worship each week.

Parenting in the pew isn't easy and there is no guarantee that every worship service will be smooth for your family. Consistency is key and prayer is essential! Over time, our children can learn to participate and engage in all parts of the service. Our prayer is that you will be blessed to see how the Lord can use the weekly gathered worship service to work in the lives of your children.

"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." –Galatians 6:9

SUGGESTED RESOURCES...

We have many resources and helpful tools listed on our website at crestviewbaptist.org/familyresources

Books

Family Worship by Donald S. Whitney

Bibles

The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd Jones

Articles

"The Family: Together in God's Presence" by John and Noel Piper. (DesiringGod.com)

"5 Reasons You Should Prioritize Family Worship" by Donald S. Whitney. (TheGospelCoalition.com)