

# FAITH AT HOME

# HOME

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*Session 4 of 4*



FAITH AT HOME

## SITTING IN BIG CHURCH

28 NOV 2020, SATURDAY  
8.30-9.30PM, ON ZOOM

"Help! There's no Sunday School!"  
Join us to see how our children benefit from sitting through the main worship service.

REGISTER AT [WWW.ZIONBISHAN.ORG.SG/FAH-BIGCHURCH](http://WWW.ZIONBISHAN.ORG.SG/FAH-BIGCHURCH)

**WE HOPE TO...**

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*Goal 1: Cast the Vision!*



# WHY FAITH AT HOME?

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*A Biblical Mandate*  
*Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

# FOR THE FAITH OF THE NEXT GENERATION

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*To see our children know and love God, and  
honour Him in their lives.*

**WE HOPE TO...**

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*Goal 2: Get practical!*

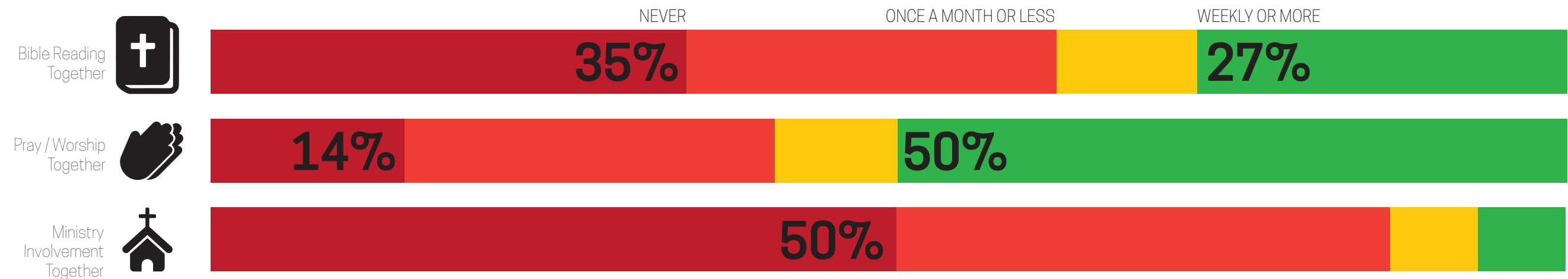


# WHOLELIFE INVENTORY

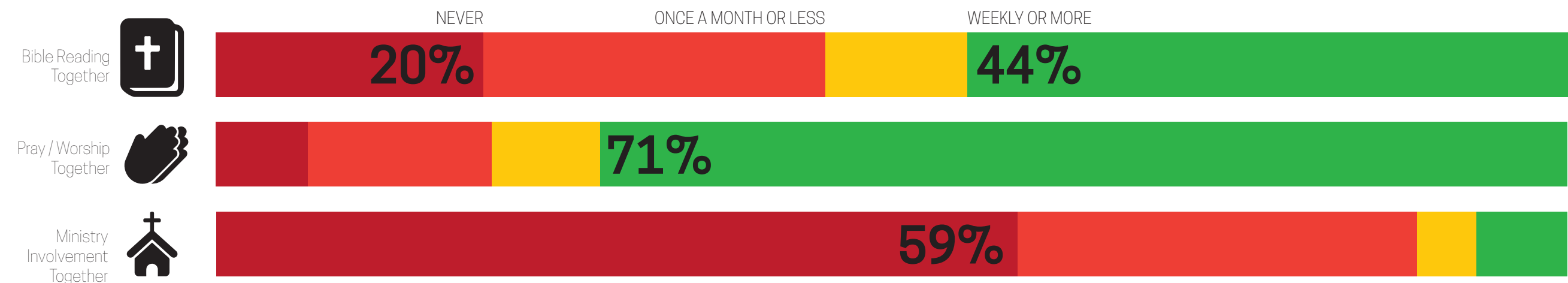
SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY 2018  
ZION BISHAN BP CHURCH



## On Family Faith Practices of YOUTH with Christian Parents



## On Family Faith Practices of PARENTS with Young Children or Teenagers



## On Spiritual Impact of Family

### YOUTHS Age 13-16

- 33%** Have faith discussion with either parent
- 65%** Say parents have a high impact on their spiritual development
- 77%** Say parents are role models for their relationship with God



### PARENTS with Young Children & Teenagers

- 48%** Have faith discussion with their children
- 59%** Say they have a high impact on their children's spiritual development
- 71%** Say they are happy with the way they parent their children



# CHURCH & HOME

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*Partners for life*

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PAUL RENFRO

BRANDON SHIELDS · JAY STROTHER

FOREWORD BY RANDY STINSON

EDITED BY TIMOTHY PAUL JONES

# PERSPECTIVES

ON FAMILY MINISTRY

3 VIEWS

Copyrighted Material

## WHAT WE'LL DO TODAY

.....

- Intro/Vision
- Today's topic:  
Sitting in Big Church
  - Truth
  - Testimony
  - Teach
  - Try (Talk)



# SITTING IN BIG CHURCH

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*Faith at Home*



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# HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?

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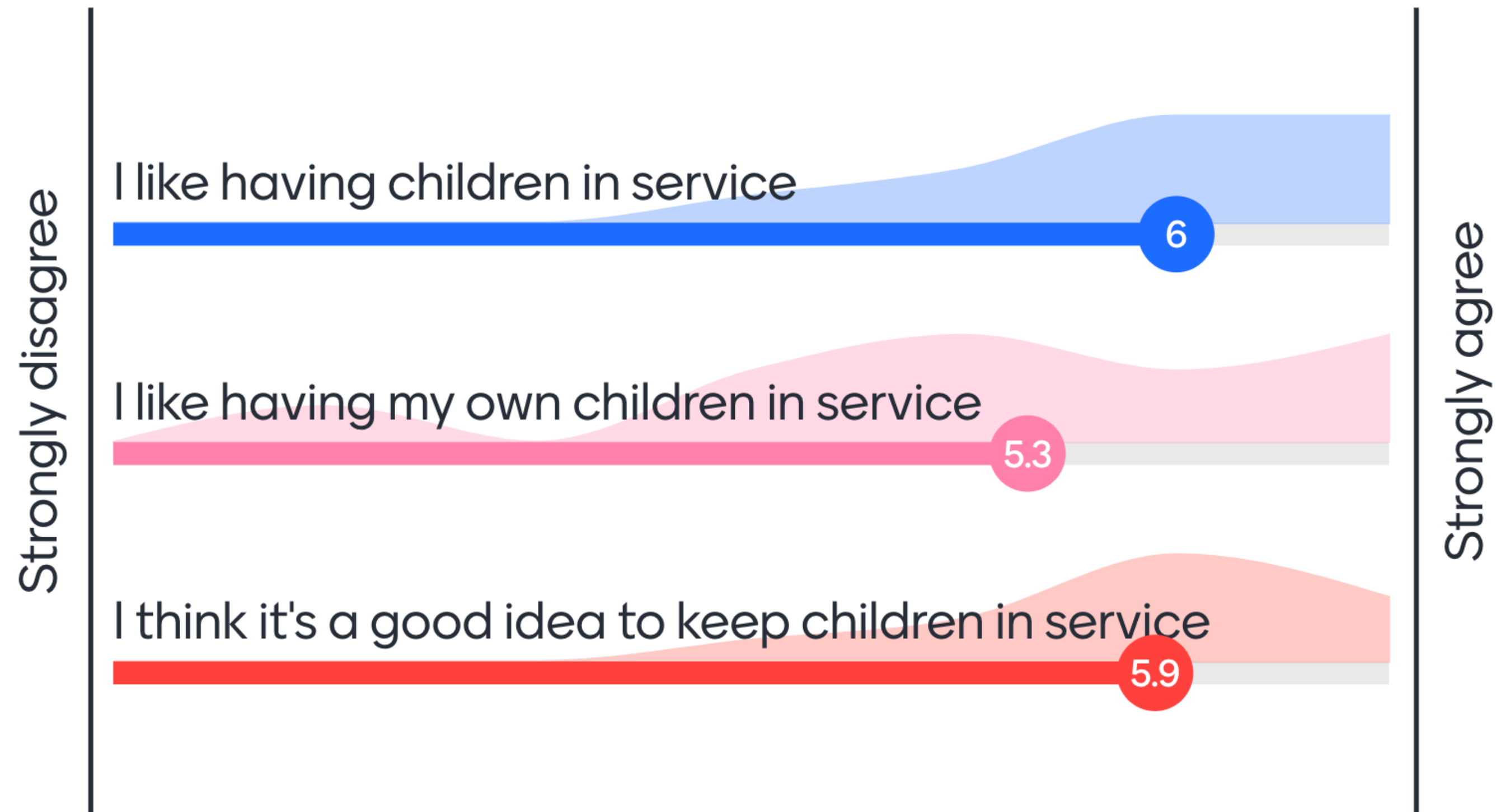
*menti.com*  
*98 25 51 0*



Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and use the code 98 25 51 0



# Children in service



# THERE IS NO ONE CORRECT CHURCH MODEL

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- It is not a sin if we don't train our children to sit in service.
- Sunday school/Children's Discipleship classes do good work.
  
- There are good reasons to train children to sit in service.
- COVID-19 might not have left us with many choices in this season.
  
- Will it be worth the embarrassment, trouble and pain?
- YES!

# TRUTH

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- 1. Biblical*
- 2. Rational*

# BIBLICAL TRUTH

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Exodus 12:1-28

The Passover

<sup>14</sup>This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations... <sup>26</sup>And when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ <sup>27</sup>you shall say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the LORD’s Passover...



## BIBLICAL TRUTH

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Deuteronomy 31:9-13

<sup>9</sup>Then Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests... <sup>10</sup>And Moses commanded them... <sup>11</sup>you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing.

<sup>12</sup>Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, <sup>13</sup>and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God...

# BIBLICAL TRUTH

---

Ezra 10:1

<sup>1</sup>While Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, a very great assembly of men, women, and children, gathered to him out of Israel, for the people wept bitterly.

## BIBLICAL TRUTH

---

Nehemiah 12:43

<sup>43</sup>And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced. And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.

# BIBLICAL TRUTH

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Joel 2:12-17

<sup>12</sup>“Yet even now,”  
declares the Lord, “return  
to me with all your  
heart...

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in  
Zion; consecrate a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;

<sup>16</sup>gather the people.  
Consecrate the  
congregation; assemble  
the elders; gather the  
children, even nursing  
infants.



## BIBLICAL TRUTH

---

Acts 16:31-34

<sup>31</sup>And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” <sup>32</sup>And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup>And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. <sup>34</sup>Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

# BIBLICAL TRUTH

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Types of “services” in the Bible

- Passover = Watchnight, Easter, Christmas
- Rejoicing = Special services (Anniversary)
- Confession, solemn assemblies = Sunday services
- Baptisms

How is faith passed on to children?

# BIBLICAL TRUTH

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Deuteronomy 4

<sup>9</sup>...Make them known to your children and your children's children— <sup>10</sup>how on the day that you stood before the Lord your God at Horeb...

# BIBLICAL TRUTH

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## Deuteronomy 6

<sup>4</sup>“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

<sup>5</sup>You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

<sup>6</sup>And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently

(impress them) to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

# BIBLICAL TRUTH

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## Psalm 78

<sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, <sup>3</sup> things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us.

<sup>4</sup> We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might...

<sup>5</sup>...he commanded our fathers to teach to their children,

<sup>6</sup> that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children,

<sup>7</sup> so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

# BIBLICAL TRUTH

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How is faith passed on to children?

- By them being present
- By them asking questions
- By parents telling and explaining to them the meaning of these things

If our children are not present at our worship services, how do we “impress” upon them what God is doing in our lives?



# TRUTH

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*Makes sense right?*

# RATIONAL TRUTH

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If you start bringing your child, from 3 years old onwards, to every Sunday service, how many times would he/she have experienced worship service by the age of 13 or 18?

- 468 times by age 13
- 780 times by age 18

They'll get there "eventually"

- Too difficult?
- Something else is better for them?



**Ask Pastor John**

Should Children Sit  
Through “Big Church”?

**EPISODE 919**

[desiringGod.org/askpastorjohn](https://desiringGod.org/askpastorjohn)

<https://youtu.be/u-z2ygb1QLc?t=489>

*Timestamp = 8:10 - 10:20*

**presence of Almighty God**

# TRUTH: LOOK AT OUR YOUTHS

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- Youths are disengaged/not interested/are not able to adjust well to main worship service/need something else.
- What happened? Why did we stop following these biblical examples?
- Age-segregated classes
  - Cultural shift in education
  - Cultural shift in efficiency
  - Leaving it to the “experts”
- Parents abdicate their responsibility to the church
- The church allowed it



PAUL RENFRO

BRANDON SHIELDS · JAY STROTHER

FOREWORD BY RANDY STINSON

EDITED BY TIMOTHY PAUL JONES

# PERSPECTIVES

ON FAMILY MINISTRY

3 VIEWS

Churches will begin “[to] build buildings to support segregation and they will do it with excellence. They will not build for racial segregation, but to support age segregation. Both the natural appeal of such buildings and the programming centered there will guarantee [that] teenagers will only experience church life with people almost precisely their own age. Adults will find no ways to bless children, much less even see them. Young people will be cut off from the richness of almost all adult relationships. And, most importantly, they will not see members of their own families until it is time to meet at their cars to go home.”

*Richard Ross (2006).  
"What Will Church Be Like in Ten Years?"*

# TRUTH: A NECESSARY SEASON?

---

- 100 year mistake or season?
- COVID-19 pushing us into a new season?
- Our children will learn the rhythms of church life:  
“They must see, know, and learn that the singing of the great hymns of the faith, the preaching of the Word, reading of confessions, corporate prayers, etc. is anything but boring. It is the gathered life of the community of faith. It is our weekly rhythm—appointed by God, designed by Him, established for the ages—this is what we want them to know, because we want them to know and worship Him.” - *Jason Helopoulos, 2012,*  
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/children-in-worship-lets-bring-it-back/>





**Ask Pastor John**

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<https://youtu.be/u-z2ygb1QLc?t=179>

*Timestamp = 2:59 - 6:36*

**about that but I think really the big**

# TRUTH

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*Your heart first.*

*You cannot impart what you do not have.*

# TESTIMONY

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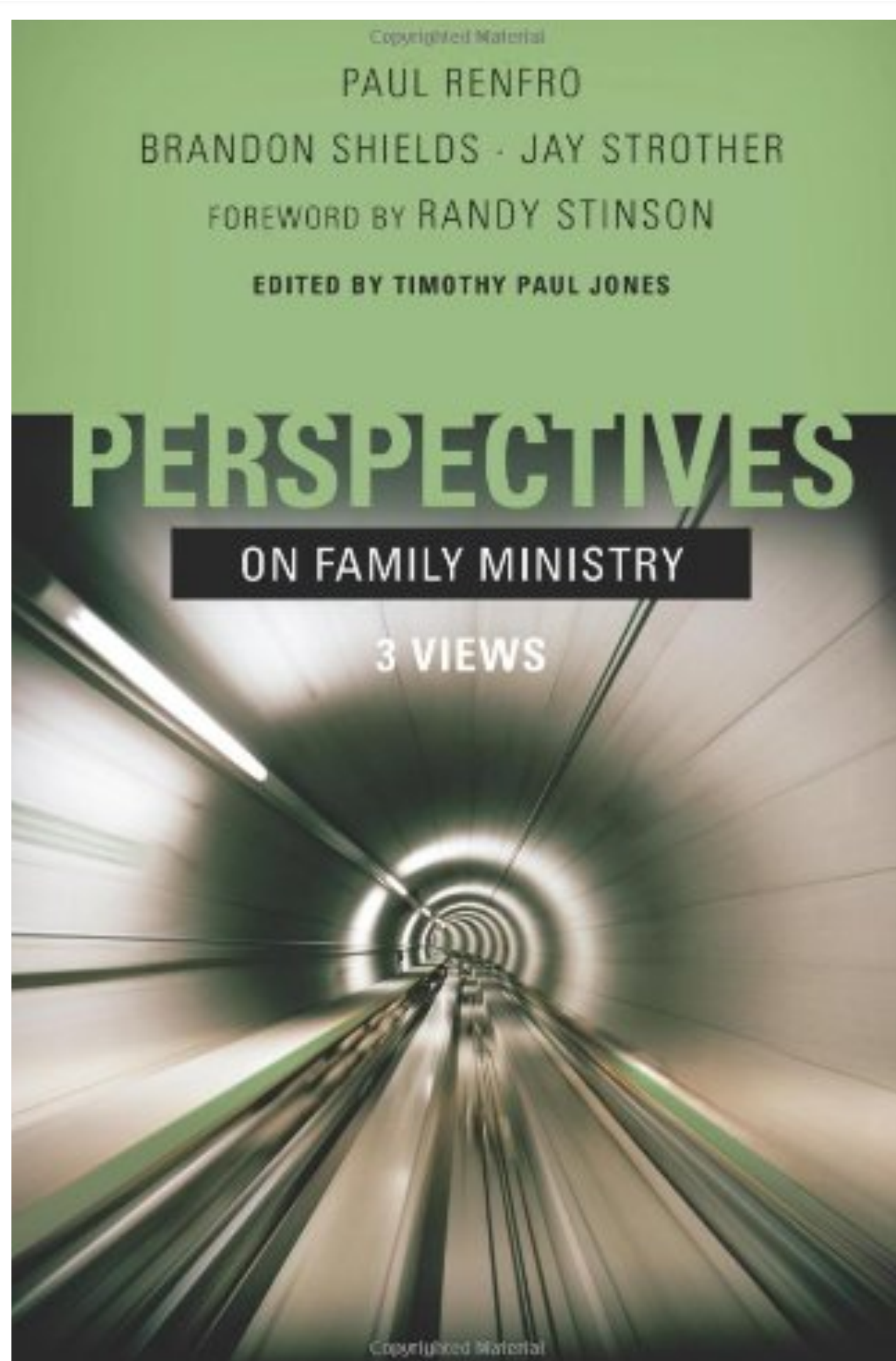
*Sharing stories*

# TEACH

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*Let's get practical*

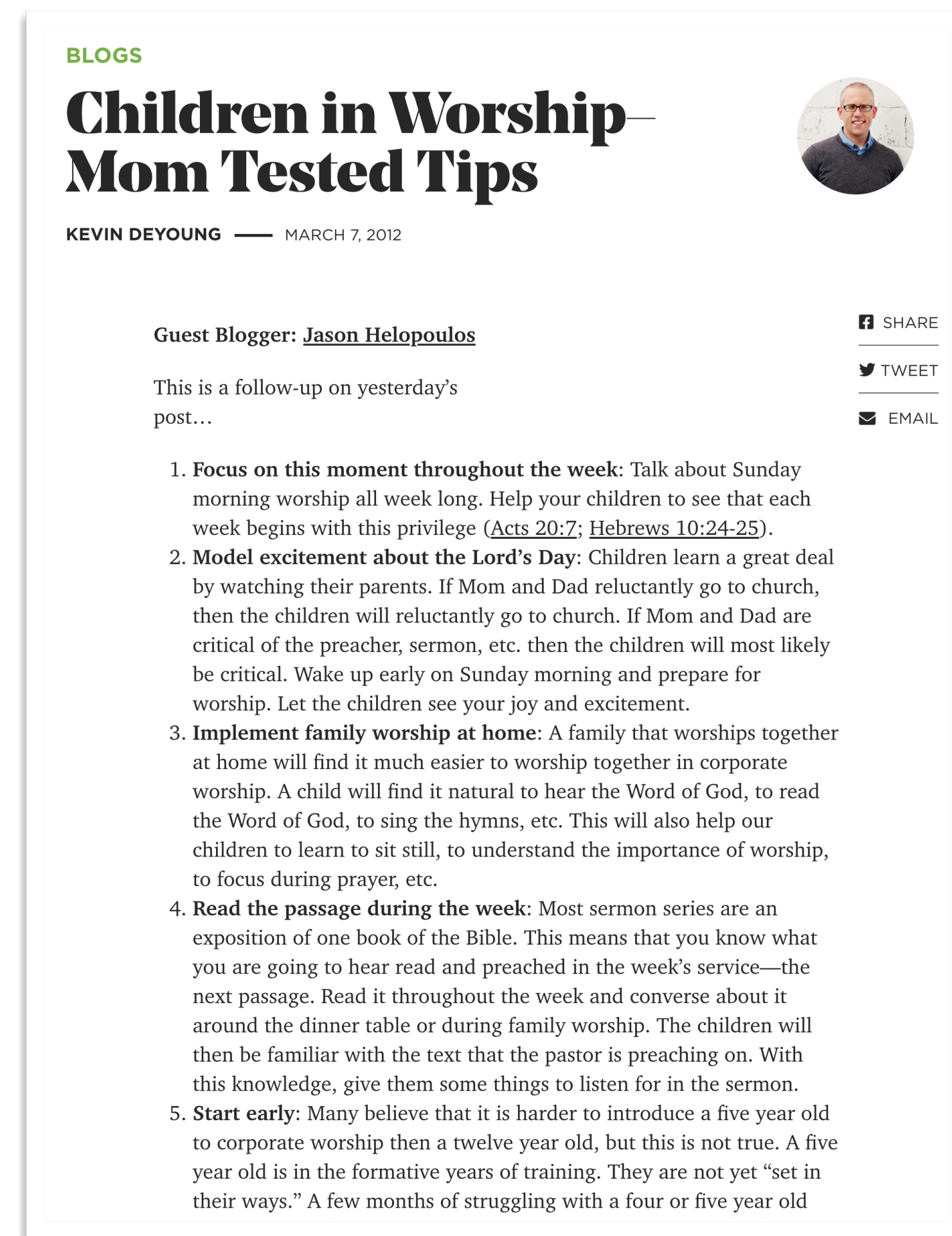




*“Perspectives on Family Ministry”  
by Timothy Paul Jones, 2009 (2019)*



*[https://www.desiringgod.org/  
articles/the-family-together-in-  
gods-presence#some-practical-  
suggestions-from-noel](https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-family-together-in-gods-presence#some-practical-suggestions-from-noel)  
John & Noel Piper, 1995*



*[https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/  
blogs/kevin-deyoung/children-in-  
worship-mom-tested-tips/  
Jason Helopoulos, 2012](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/children-in-worship-mom-tested-tips/)*

# TEACH: TRAINING OUR CHILDREN TO SIT IN CHURCH

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It won't come naturally to them

- Training is a process
- It will take time
- It won't go smoothly all the time
- Start early!
- Don't give up!



# TEACH: ARTICLE #1

---


## BEFORE

- Focus on this moment throughout the week
- Model excitement about the Lord's Day
- Implement family worship at home
- Read the passage during the week
- Start early\*

**BLOGS**

## Children in Worship— Mom Tested Tips

KEVIN DEYOUNG — MARCH 7, 2012



Guest Blogger: [Jason Helopoulos](#)

This is a follow-up on yesterday's post...

- 1. Focus on this moment throughout the week:** Talk about Sunday morning worship all week long. Help your children to see that each week begins with this privilege ([Acts 20:7](#); [Hebrews 10:24-25](#)).
- 2. Model excitement about the Lord's Day:** Children learn a great deal by watching their parents. If Mom and Dad reluctantly go to church, then the children will reluctantly go to church. If Mom and Dad are critical of the preacher, sermon, etc. then the children will most likely be critical. Wake up early on Sunday morning and prepare for worship. Let the children see your joy and excitement.
- 3. Implement family worship at home:** A family that worships together at home will find it much easier to worship together in corporate worship. A child will find it natural to hear the Word of God, to read the Word of God, to sing the hymns, etc. This will also help our children to learn to sit still, to understand the importance of worship, to focus during prayer, etc.
- 4. Read the passage during the week:** Most sermon series are an exposition of one book of the Bible. This means that you know what you are going to hear read and preached in the week's service—the next passage. Read it throughout the week and converse about it around the dinner table or during family worship. The children will then be familiar with the text that the pastor is preaching on. With this knowledge, give them some things to listen for in the sermon.
- 5. Start early:** Many believe that it is harder to introduce a five year old to corporate worship than a twelve year old, but this is not true. A five year old is in the formative years of training. They are not yet "set in their ways." A few months of struggling with a four or five year old

[SHARE](#)  
[TWEET](#)  
[EMAIL](#)

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/children-in-worship-mom-tested-tips/>

# TEACH: ARTICLE #1

---


## DURING

- Use Moments in the Service
- Use the Obvious Helps
- Sit near the Front
- Create an atmosphere in your row
- Enlist the Support of Other Members
- Stop Worrying\*

**BLOGS**

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# TEACH: ARTICLE #1

---

## AFTER

- Affirm Your Children
- Be Consistent\*
- Do Not be Overzealous\*

### BLOGS

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# TEACH: ARTICLE #2

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BEFORE - Preparation begins during the week

- Read the Scripture passage for the coming Sunday - create familiarity
- Look out for special items during the next service - create anticipation

BEFORE - Just before service

- Prepare pen and notebook
- Trip to the toilet
- For older kids, set expectations



The screenshot shows a webpage from desiringGod.org. At the top left is the logo "desiringGod" with a red cross icon. At the top right are search and menu icons. Below the header, the date "JANUARY 1, 1995" is displayed. The main title is "The Family: Together in God's Presence" in a large, bold, black font. Below the title is a black and white photograph of a large, weathered hand holding a smaller, smoother hand. Underneath the photo is a small circular profile picture of a man, followed by the text "Article by John Piper and Noël Piper" and "Founder & Teacher, desiringGod.org". The main body of text begins with "God-centered worship is supremely important in the life of our church. We approach the Sunday morning worship hour with great seriousness and earnestness and expectancy. We try to banish all that is flippant or trivial or chatty." It continues with "Not all services are this way. Sunday morning is the Mount of Transfiguration — the awesome place of glory and speechlessness. Sunday or Wednesday evening is the Mount of Olives — the familiar spot for conversation with the Lord and each other." The final paragraph states, "In this article, we hope to do two things: 1) demonstrate that parents (or some responsible adult) should bring little children to the Sunday morning worship service rather than send them to a 'children's church,' and 2) give some practical advice".

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-family-together-in-gods-presence#some-practical-suggestions-from-noel>

# TEACH: ARTICLE #2

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## DURING - Goals for training

- That children learn early and as well as they can to worship God heartily.
- That parents be able to worship.
- That families cause [as little] distraction to the people around them.



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# TEACH: ARTICLE #2

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## DURING - Expectations

- Sit or stand or close eyes when the service calls for it.
- Sit up straight and still — not lounging or fidgeting or crawling around, but respectful toward God and the worshipers around you.
- Keep bulletin papers and Bible and hymnal pages as quiet as possible.
- Stay awake. Taking notes helps.
- Look toward the worship leaders in the front. No people-gazing or clock-watching.
- If you can read fast enough, sing along. At least keep your eyes on the words and try to think them. If you can't read yet, listen very hard.

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-family-together-in-gods-presence#some-practical-suggestions-from-noel>



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# TEACH: ARTICLE #2

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AFTER - if child did well

- Readily praise the child
- Mention one or two things he could improve on

AFTER - if (older) child disregarded established expectations

- Immediately find a private corner and deliver deserved words
- Carry out consequences as promised



<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-family-together-in-gods-presence#some-practical-suggestions-from-noel>

# TEACH: SUMMARY

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- Training begins at home
  - Create familiarity and anticipation
  - Doing family devotions helps this

(Faith at Home: Family Devotions - Look out for it next year!)

- Use obvious helps
  - Elements of service
  - Other people
- Encouraging your child after

**TRY**

---

*Can't this time...*

**TALK**

---

*Encourage one another!*



# TALK

---

1. The worship service is a time to be in reverence of God. How do you personally approach Sunday worship service? How should our children?

2. Share one take away from today's sharing.

3. How can we help very young children learn to be quiet during service? (Home practice ideas and distraction techniques)

4. How will your child ask 'What do you mean by this service?'

# SITTING IN BIG CHURCH

*Faith at Home*



FAITH AT HOME

## SITTING IN BIG CHURCH

28 NOV 2020, SATURDAY  
8.30-9.30PM, ON ZOOM

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Join us to see how our children benefit from  
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BLOGS

# Children in Worship— Let's Bring it Back



KEVIN DEYOUNG — MARCH 6, 2012



Guest Blogger: [Jason Helopoulos](#)

- SHARE
- TWEET
- EMAIL

I remember sitting as a small child in church sucking on wintergreen mints and drawing battle scenes on the offering envelopes (my mother would always give me a tap of correction when the explosions were a little too loud with my scribbling pencil). And though I might have been preoccupied with my wintergreen mints and airplanes dropping bombs on tanks, I was picking things up. Was it easy for my single mother to corral a feisty little boy and his sister in the pew? No, it is a testimony to her patience and grace! But it was good for my soul.

As the church, let's be open to the idea of inviting our children into

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/children-in-worship-lets-bring-it-back/>

Jason Helopoulos, 2012

CHRISTIAN LIVING

# 4 Reasons Your Kids Should Sit with You on Sunday

JUNE 4, 2016 — JARED BRIDGES



Taking your child to a Sunday worship service can be jarring. Trust me, I know. It once gave me a concussion.

- SHARE
- TWEET
- EMAIL

Years ago, we began introducing our 4-year-old son to the worship service, with all the potential misbehavior that entails. During corporate prayer he decided to lie down on the floor. Like a good dad I knelt over and told him to get up. Like a good son he obeyed, immediately and enthusiastically. A little *too* enthusiastically.

As he jumped up, the full weight of his 95th-percentile-sized head drove directly into my semi-opened



<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/4-reasons-your-kids-should-sit-with-you-on-sunday/>

Jared Bridges, 2016

CHURCH PLANTING

# Prioritize Church, Even When There's No Childcare

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 — KIRSTEN BLACK



ACTS 29: CHURCHES PLANTING CHURCHES

- SHARE
- TWEET
- EMAIL

Before planting The Town Church in Fort Collins, Colorado, we attended a church in North Dakota that offered childcare up to (not through) age 2. At the time, we had a 1-year-old son, and I was pregnant with our second child. As the months ticked closer to Ezra's second birthday, I had a sense of dread well up in me, wondering how I could parent a 2-year-old through a service while tending to a newborn.

While my husband, Vince, was somewhat available to help, Sunday was a work day for him, and I was often solo-parenting. As I looked

<https://ca.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-we-embrace-children-in-our-worship-service/>

Kristen Black, 2020