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## Sundays are Special

Here at LBC, we value having our children in the pews with us on Sunday mornings. It is so important for children to witness and participate in the joyous privilege of worshipping our Savior as a congregation. Worship is a service, not an experience, and it is a service that takes work.

As humans, we learn by doing and by watching good examples. Our children need to witness us loving and celebrating the Lord, but we know this can be challenging. Sunday mornings are a special kind of spiritual battle. However, Sunday morning encounters with God are worthy of our best energy, our intentional preparation, and a genuine attitude check.

To prevent families from just going through the motions and in an effort to cultivate an excited expectation of Sunday mornings, we have put together this little brochure as a resource for parents. We encourage you to let go of whatever "calm" or "relaxing" expectations you have for Sunday mornings and to dive into the challenging, yet abundantly rewarding work of parenting in the pew.



## CONTACT US

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## RESOURCES

*Parenting in the Pew: Guiding Your Children into the Joy of Worship.*

By Robbie Castleman

*Family Worship* By Donald S. Whitney

*Faith Begins at Home: The Family Makeover with Christ at the Center*

By Mark Holmen

"Parenting in the Pew (Successfully)."  
<https://donutsanddevos.com/parenting-in-the-pew-successfully/>

Parenting  
in the Pew






## WHY WE DO IT

A lot of people have asked, "Why are children joining us in the main service?" or "What happened to children's church?" which are both valid wonderings. The simple answer to this question is: because they are part of the church. The quote saying, "the sound of a crying baby is the sound of a growing church" couldn't be more true. Our children are a huge part of our church family and their presence with us on Sunday mornings is important for both us as adults and them as children.

God delights in children, their expectancy, vulnerability, honesty, and their child-like faith. Children are great believers. Their faith is a gift to our church and we need them here with us. They also need to soak up our example of loving and serving the Lord and to hear the truths found in Scripture being discussed. This need for each other should not be deterred by the fear of having to do it perfectly. We are raising up children before the Lord, not before the congregation. Worship is for God's glory rather than our benefit. Sunday mornings are about Him and for Him.

## Practical Tips & Tricks

1. Practice, practice, practice!
  2. Be consistent. Go to church every week.
  3. Encourage your children's participation in worship as early as possible.
  4. Sit in the same area and get to know the families that consistently sit near you and introduce them to your children.
  5. Use the bathroom before the service starts.
  6. Less is more. Don't bring a ton of stuff.
  7. Bring special "church snacks."
  8. Save snack time/feeding time for the sermon.
  9. Sit close to the front.
  10. Bring purposeful and age-appropriate activities for them to draw, doodle, and write/color about the sermon. Use the children's bulletins available in the Worship Center Foyer to help.
  11. Leave the sanctuary to address misbehavior, but return quickly.
  12. Practice whispering.
  13. Have family devotions a few times each week.
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## WHAT TO DO

### Before

- Be intentional with your preparation. Lay out your children's clothes, pack their snacks and activities the night before.
- Eat a good breakfast.
- Regularly spend time at home in family worship: pray together, read God's Word, sing worship music.

### During

- Model participation and engagement for your children. Help them to actively worship, not just to watch. Help them utilize the bulletin.
- Take care of business before church starts: get here early, use the bathroom, get good seats.
- Introduce yourself and your children to other families sitting around you.
- At all ages, birth through high school, have them sit with you as a family. Whisper and discipline as needed.

### After

- Discuss the service with your kiddos: the songs we sang, the sermon, the missionaries we prayed for, the things they noticed.
- Encourage them to ask questions!
- And PRAY. Pray for children: their growth, their understanding, the work the Lord is doing in their hearts.