



FAMILY SUNDAY INFORMATION

What is Family Sunday?

- On Family Sundays there is no nursery/preschool/elementary children's church so kids will remain with their families in the service. We have a limited number of worship activity bags for kids (toddlers, preschoolers, and K-5th graders).

Why have Family Sunday?

- **In Revelation, we read about a great number of people worshipping the Lord together in heaven.** Every Sunday is like a mini-dress rehearsal of that day when everyone who has asked Jesus to be their Lord and Savior will do that together.
- We get to celebrate the **amazing partnership between parents and the church body** in discipling the next generation as multiple generations intentionally worship together.
- Kids naturally ask questions because of what they see taking place during church and **their questions are a perfect lead in for parents to share and reiterate the gospel** with their children.
- Family Sundays also provide an **additional opportunity for our dedicated Kids Ministry Volunteers to participate in the service** with the congregation. We truly have an amazing team and it's important for them to participate in the service to help them take one step closer to Jesus since their leading the kids is an overflow of their relationship with him.

When are Family Sundays?

- We typically have Family Sundays on the 5th Sunday of the month when there is one, and also around Christmas/New Year's. At the end of the summer, we also have a few Family Sundays which allows extra time for Kids Ministry volunteer trainings to prepare for the upcoming school and ministry year.

Tips & Ideas for Preparing for Family Sunday

1. Prepare on Saturday night.

- Set out clothes, shoes, Bibles, and any quiet activities you'd like your child to have during the service.
- The Kids Ministry will provide a limited number of activity bags, coloring sheets, and sermon note sheets for kids.

2. Talk with your child about what to expect from the service and what your expectations are for them.

- Typical order of service: announcements, call to worship, music, elder prayer, sermon, music, benediction.
- For some families, and also depending on the age/personality of the child, it might be helpful to set the expectation that quiet activities are reserved just for the sermon. Encourage participation in the music and encourage standing during the Scripture reading.
- For older kids, encourage them to follow along with the message using the sermon notes for kid's page that we have printed, or draw pictures of what they are hearing. Ask them to share their notes or pictures at the end of the service.

3. Your attitude in coming to church will influence your child's attitude toward church.

- Share why you enjoy coming to church. Share what you are thankful for about church.
- Don't underestimate your child's ability to take away something from the message. God is at work in their heart just like he is at work in yours!
 - Express to your child you look forward to hearing one thing they learned or liked about the service. Remember to ask them after the service and share your answer too.

"Is Church Worth Attending with Young Kids?"

YES! 😊 [This article](#) provides "four reasons this investment will pay dividends."