



Young Children Can Worship God



For many reasons children are ready to worship God. Children...

- Have a marvelous capacity for wonder and for drawing close to God.
- Engage in conversations about the Bible and the stories of Jesus.
- Experience the presence of God through prayers of thanks and sharing concerns about family and friends.
- Will respond to God in a quiet and focused way through writing, drawing a picture or using their imagination as they play.
- Enjoy singing songs of praise and using sign language.

Robert Coles, the author of *The Spiritual Life of Children*, says that children are seekers, young pilgrims well aware of life as a finite journey. Children are anxious to make sense of it. He states that even children who have never been taught about God seem to have an intuitive awareness of God's existence or of a Holy presence.

Too often, we simply try to keep children busy with lots of activity, movement and crafts or we require them to just sit and be quiet without including them. As we gather as God's people to renew and refresh our relationship with God and with each other, include children who have the capacity for worship and are longing to be nurtured.

In Gospels, children are very important to Christ:

- Matt. 18:1-5 ~ Disciples asked Jesus who was the greatest. Jesus said, humble yourself like a little child, they are the greatest.
- Matt. 19:13-15 ~ Jesus laid his hands on the children and blessed them.
- Mark 9:33-37, 10:13-16 ~ Who ever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me.

Jesus takes great delight in meeting the children, putting his hands on them and blessing them. Children learn best when they can experience through touching, tasting, feeling, and hearing. The language in our Judeo-Christian heritage is rich in signs, symbols, and images that can help children express the many dimensions of their relationship with God. Ask God to lead you on this journey to help children worship and experience the awe and wonder of the Triune God.

Here are some resources for encouraging children to in their worship experience:

- *Children in the Sanctuary* by Debbie Hough and Mary Speedy
- *Get Ready! Get Set! Worship!* by Sue Lou, Jean Love, Mickey Meyers and Sylvia Washer
- *Including Children in Worship* by Elizabeth J. Sandell
- *The Children Yes!* By Philip W. McLarty
- *Worship for Life* by LOGOS Ministry
- *Young Children and Worship* by Sonja Stewart and Jerome Berryman

I Chronicles 16:29 – “Ascribe to the Lord the Glory due his name. Bring an offering and come before him, worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness...”