

100
Quick & Easy
Worship
Ideas
for Kids

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A prayer for this book

Father God,
we praise You for all Your love and inspiration,
for Your creativity and greatness,
and for Your attention to the tiniest details of our lives.

We praise You for bodies that move, sense, grow, and learn.
We praise You for the wonderful world that still looks so beautiful,
even after all these years.

Thank You for seasons and changes and celebrations.
Thank You for the amazing stories of Your power and love
that still inspire and comfort us.
And thank You that You care about our happiness as a family,
and that You smile when we have fun together.

In all these ways we want to worship You
and to teach our children about You.
Open our eyes and our hearts with wonder.
May we become as little children and learn again about Your love for us.
May we find delight in sharing You with our beloved children.
And may we all grow closer to You as we discover You,
and worship You together.

May the grace of Jesus be experienced in our homes.
May the Holy Spirit inspire us.
And may the love of the Father be wrapped around us,
binding us together.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Introduction

How to help your child grow spiritually

The most important gift we can give our children is the desire to love God and to follow and serve Him.

- Parents can help their children by being a positive role model, because children are encouraged by their parents' faith.
- It's very important that you nurture your own spiritual development through Bible study, prayer, meditation, etc. This book contains thoughts for you, to help stimulate your own spiritual development.
- Talk to your child about your own faith and relationship with God in ways that she¹ can understand too.
- Pray for your family and your child, as well as for yourself. Let your child see and hear you praying for her. Share suitable stories of answered prayer with your child, to help her develop trust in God.
- Help your child to look for answers to prayer but also to understand that God knows best, and sometimes the answers come in ways that we're not expecting or even wanting.
- Experience God's grace and forgiveness for yourself so that you can pass this on to your child. Grace is about God loving us no matter what we have done, just because we are His children. This is one of the most beautiful aspects of the Christian faith.
- Learn how to put God's grace into action in your family, by offering forgiveness and showing acceptance when your child makes mistakes or accidentally breaks or spoils something.
- Deal with your child in the way God has patiently dealt with you. Think about how God has gently disciplined you before you consider how to discipline your child in a way that will bring her closer to God.
- As you parent your child, aim to show God's amazing love for her by the way you manage her with caring gentleness. Read 1 Corinthians 13 and

¹ Throughout this book, "he" and "she" will be used interchangeably in reference to your child. However, all the activities are suitable for both boys and girls.

think about how that kind of love can make a difference to your parenting.

- Create regular interesting worships to share with your child. This book will give you some ideas that you can adapt in different ways to provide a rich resource of worship activities.

Guidelines for great family worships

Here are some guidelines to help your family have special worships, and ideas to help you fill them with interesting activities for you and your child.

- As parents, make sure you are being filled spiritually through your own meaningful worship times.
- Keep the family worships simple. One idea is to use a devotional book suitable for the age of your child, with short inspirational stories, during the week.
- Make weekend worship times as special as you can.
- Plan ahead for worships, and gather the materials you need well before time.
- Invest in the best spiritual material for your child! Buy good books from your local Christian book store, seek out and rent good Christian videos, and buy interesting Bible games and activity books.
- Keep worship times free of discipline and criticism. Make them positive experiences that are fun, interesting, brief, happy, and loving. This is what your child will remember the most.
- Use the worships to learn Bible stories, learn how to make good choices, follow God's guidance, develop a prayer relationship with God, learn about God's creation, memorize scriptures, experience the joy of serving others in practical ways, learn worshipful songs, and enjoy being a Christian.
- Remember that children learn in different ways, and make sure that your worships contain practical illustrations, crafts, memorable stories, and physical activities.
- Use the everyday events that happen to you and your child to teach them about God. Opportunities for spiritual teaching are all around you once you start to look, and these are often the best ways to help your child learn about God. This book includes many worships that can be blended into the usual family routines with very little effort.

How to use this book

This book is full of different ideas that could enhance your family worships. It has been laid out to help you plan worships quickly. Following are some explanations of the different sections.

Bible stories:

- Some suggestions are included for Bible stories that may be connected with the worship activity. These suggestions are not exhaustive, and you may think of others that you could use. You might like to jot these other ideas in your book for future reference.

Things you need:

- It can be very helpful to create a worship box so that regularly needed items are close at hand. The following things may be useful to put in the box:

Child's Bible	Marker pens	Brass fasteners
Safe scissors	Pencils	Bubbles
Adhesive tape	Eraser	Magazine pictures
Stick adhesive	String	Bible story books
White paper	Balloons	Musical instruments
Colored paper	Crayons	A soft scarf for a blindfold
Colored card	Paper plates	Brown lunch sacks
A scrapbook	Stickers	Fabric scraps

Worship activities:

- Every child and every family is different, so not every activity will suit every child or family. It is up to you to choose the activities that best suit your family's needs.
- Preschool children vary widely in their abilities and interests. Activities that may not work now may be more suitable in a year's time.
- Many of these worships are designed to need very little preparation, because parents of preschoolers are usually very busy. You can even send your child to help you find some of the things you need for worship.
- You may want to have a simple worship on weekdays, and save some of the more complex or longer worships for the weekends.

Another option:

- Many of the worships also include other options that may suit you better, or in case you don't have everything you need for the first worship idea. These can also be developed to provide extra worships for you and your child.
- Many preschoolers like to repeat worships that they enjoy, so note the ones that your child would like to try again.

Just for you:

- Thoughts for you have also been included because parents often feel that their own spiritual life is neglected. By providing things for you to think about, you can experience your child's worship theme at a different spiritual level.

Bible verses:

- Bible verses are provided for your own meditation, but they may also be suitable as memory verses for your child.

Learning memory verses

Learning a memory verse can be a challenge for preschool children who don't yet read. Try some of these activities to help your child learn:

- Make up actions for the Bible verse that suit the words, and act the verse out as it is said. Let your child make up her own actions.
- Set the words of the verse to a well-known tune and make it into a song. Some Bible verses are already songs, and you could see how many of these songs your family could learn.
- Rebus puzzles replace some of the words with little pictures. Write out the verse using simple pictures instead of some of the words. Younger children who can't read can use the picture clues to help them learn the verse.
- Stand in a circle and throw a ball from one person to another across the middle of the circle, so no one quite knows who will catch the ball next. When the ball is caught, the catcher has to say the next word in the Bible verse, before throwing the ball to the next person. See how quickly you can go! For a bigger challenge, stand farther apart.
- Make the Bible verse into an attractive poster. Or illustrate some of the Proverbs with cartoons.

Music for worship

- Add music to your worship by using CDs or cassettes of children's worship songs.
- Buy some videos of children's Christian songs for your child to watch. She will soon learn the songs as she sings along.
- Make or buy a collection of simple musical instruments that your child can play during worship.
- Create your own praise songs by using tunes you already know and adding your own words. Ask your child for ideas.
- Add actions to all kinds of songs to help your active child enjoy the music.
- Choose lively songs especially written for small children.
- Be sure that the songs reflect your own beliefs, and that you enjoy the music too.

S E C T I O N 1

God Loves Me!

One of the most important things a child can learn about God is just how much God loves him. Children learn about God's love by experiencing the love of their parents. Parents pass on the love of God when they have experienced it for themselves.

Remember that God is forever loving you and trying to touch you with His love.

He delights in you.

He heals you.

He forgives you.

He remembers that you are fragile and that you get tired.

He cares about you and your family.

He knows that you are doing the most important job on earth as you share His love with your child, and He is there for you all the time. When things seem the darkest, He is the closest.

Read Psalm 103 and spend time thinking about God's amazing love, just for you, and then share that love with your child.

God loves me all the time

Bible stories:

David and Bathsheba—2 Samuel 11; 12

Zacchaeus—Luke 19:1-10

THINGS YOU NEED:

- paper plate
- brass fastener to secure the hands to the clock and let them rotate
- cardboard to make clock hands
- marker pen
- twelve heart stickers

Worship activities:

1. Make a simple clock out of the plate, adding hands that turn. Add numbers to the clock.

2. Write “God loves me all the time” on the clock.

3. Ask your child twelve questions. For example:

Does God love you when you are asleep? When you are playing? When you don't want to eat your vegetables? When you accidentally break something? When you disobey Mom or Dad? When you forget to pray? When you put your shoes on the wrong feet? When you are sick?

4. Every time your child says Yes, give him a heart sticker to put next to a number on the clock.

Another option:

- Purchase a flashing heart pin for your child to wear for a day. The pin will flash no matter how he behaves, as a reminder that God loves the child even when he is not perfect.

Just for you:

- Why not use a flashing heart pin to remind you that God loves you all the time, too, even when you get tired and frustrated?

“I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness” (Jeremiah 31:3).