

Some “Kids’ Time” Suggestions

Thank you for taking the time to prepare a children's sermon, and then delivering it to our smallest members on Sunday mornings. It is so very important to include them in our services, and your work is laying the foundation for their religious beliefs that will carry them through their entire lives. In an effort to make sure that “Kid’s Time” run smoothly, the following guidelines should prove helpful to you in preparing and delivering the sermons.

- Keep it BRIEF: 2-4 minutes is ideal. Small children's attention span is very limited, especially when they are the focus of attention in front of the entire church. Also, to streamline the service and not to become overly lengthy, we are looking at all parts of the service to ensure that we stay around the 1 hour time frame. If you can't get your point across in that amount of time you're point is too complex for a Children's Sermon. When you practice, time yourself; include any time you'll give for the kids to respond.
- Your MAIN POINT should be able to be summarized in a sentence. If you can't do this, you can't expect the kids to remember your point. Simple is the name of the game!
- HANDING OUT MATERIALS TO THE CHILDREN:
It is often helpful to have something that the children can take away from your sermon to read and remember during the week. However, it is not necessary. Please don't feel that you must give them any thing to return to their seats with. The important part is your message.
- PLEASE USE THE MICROPHONE SYSTEM:
And speak directly into it in a clear and slow manner. Even though the sermon is directed to the children, the entire church listens to it. So it is important that all are able to hear. As we would become uncomfortable and upset in a movie theater if the film sound stops for a full 5 minutes, if the congregation can not hear you, there will be a huge hole in the service in which they will not know what is happening. To make the worship service more spiritual and meaningful for all, everyone must be able to hear.
- OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER:
In preparing your Children Sermon remember the age of your audience (typically 4 to 10.) Make sure concepts aren't too abstract or difficult. Use just one image, example or story. Remember many of these kids are used to Pokemon and Sponge Bob Square pants, so keep things fast paced and interactive. Also, don't assume these kids know bible stories or characters. Many haven't been raised with these stories like you may have. Even though the message is for the kids the adults like to “look in.” Please make sure you are standing in a place where both kids and adults can see you, perhaps on the raised part of the chancel by the altar railing.
- RESOURCES:
To help you in your preparation, here are some resources:
<http://www.sermons4kids.com>
<http://www.childrensermons.com/index.html>
<http://www.textweek.com>
Pastor Julie also has some resource book you may borrow.

Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."* Again, **thank you** for all of your hard work and dedication to bringing God's Word to the children of our church. You are truly disciples of God! We are very proud of your work and hope that you will continue to play this very important role in helping with the service. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to ask Pastor Julie or the Worship Committee.