



How we prepare kids for *Children First, Family Worship*...

Three Sundays leading up to CF:

- **Choir/"Junior Worship Leaders"**: 9:30-10:00am in choir room. Kids practice songs, scripture story, and bible memory verse with any motions these might have. They complete the art project (for the theme poster) as they filter in. This is for ALL students- no tryouts. *"Ensembles" of singers, bell choir, drums, etc. would be pulled out during this time to practice their part in a separate space.*
- **Sunday School lessons: 10-10:45am.** Explore the theme in depth: read the book(s) for the theme, discuss the scripture as a class or in pairs/small groups, learn the Call to Worship, do an art response, pray around the theme, cooking activity, etc. Depends on the grade level/maturity (older kids can journal). Last Sunday School lesson of the month, for us, was always a mission project related to the theme.
- **Sunday Funday: Last Sunday of the month, 4:00pm-6:00pm.** Assign any speaking roles (like scripture, prayer, call to worship) and send home a copy of it with them. Then full rehearsal with the band, film interviews for the Good News segment, and family supper. Follow up with liturgists' parents by email and include their speaking part: "Thank you for practicing this with your student this week."

First Sunday of the month: *Children First*: All participants meet in the choir room for warm-ups at 9:15am. Worship at 9:45am in the sanctuary.



Helpful tips:

When exploring the theme during Sunday School, we try to have a mix of activities: hands-on (art, legos, cooking), interactive/social reflection (group discussion, partner sharing), individual reflection (journaling, individual art, prayer stations). This taps into different kids' strengths and interests. By having some general guidelines around a theme, you can quit buying expensive curriculum- or better yet, your teachers will lesson-plan without any of your help at all!

We always go over the scripture, bible memory verse, and call to worship no matter the age. Then the exploration activity is tailored to the group's needs.

I update social media and enews with the theme and what we are doing with it, so parents can be involved. This is a good time to add some "dinner discussion" ideas for families to explore the theme at home.

We had monthly **Ministry Lunches** with our teaching team. This was where I prepared them for the *next month's theme* and modeled any spiritual practices I wanted them to do with the kids. This gave them a chance to prepare their own hearts and minds, before teaching kids- and ask me any questions about the theme. I also got a chance to invest in them spiritually and check in about prayer requests. You could do this quarterly, and talk about the upcoming three months of themes instead.

Contact me anytime!

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