

Let the Little Children Come

by Christiana Tomlinson



If you have been attending Redeemer for some time, you may have noticed that, in the past year and a half, there has been a baby boom! Not only a baby boom, but we have also welcomed multiple families with older children into our congregation. When you look out on the playground after worship any given Sunday, you can expect to see every swing, slide, and climbing toy occupied with children. What a wonderful gift!

As we wait for the Lord to raise up more volunteers to serve these children, we will be adjusting the Bible Story Hour schedule in an effort to meet the needs of our whole congregation. We do not have enough teachers to staff the class full-time. We love our volunteers, and this decision has been made to avoid over-extending them. Our hope is to bless our children, families, and volunteers, so that all are encouraged and spiritually nourished.

Beginning on February 8, **on the 2nd and 5th Sundays of the month, children ages 4 years old-2nd grade will stay in the**

sanctuary with their parents for the sermon and the entire Communion service. Bible Story Hour will not be offered on these Sundays. This change will not affect the nursery. Our nursery will continue to be open every Sunday, serving children 0–3 years old.

I pray that this decision will result in blessings for your family as your children sit under the teaching of God’s Word. Here are some resources and encouragement to make this shift as seamless as possible. I think you will find them helpful.

- **Children's bulletins**, crayons, and clip-boards are located in the back of the sanctuary. These are for your children to take age-appropriate notes or just to color on.
- **Books** about teaching children to worship:
 - ***Let the Children Worship*** by Jason Helopoulos (Concise book full of rich information; check out his resource list at the end.)
 - ***Parenting in the Pew*** by Robbie Castleman
- **Seminar** about worshipping with children will be offered in late spring. This one-time, Saturday morning class will equip you practically to intentionally shepherd your child in the teaching of God’s Word and prepare them to worship with their whole hearts. If you have young children of any age, I encourage you to attend.

If you do not have children, consider ways, as a covenant family, that you can bless Redeemer’s families. Offer to sit with them as an extra hand, or help watch the older children while parents tend to younger siblings. If young children squirming distracts you too much, sit toward the front, so as not to be too distracted.

Most of all, have patience with Redeemer's parents and children, and remember that your patience and graciousness fulfills the vows made at these children's baptisms to assist in their spiritual upbringing.

In conclusion, here is a quote from one of the resources above:

"God attaches His promises to His Word. As much as we are able, we want to place our children in the way of this ordinary means of grace. The Word does not return void (Isa. 55:11). As we hear it read and preached, it works. It is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword (Heb. 4:12). We want that mighty weapon bearing down upon the souls of our children...It alone works faith (Rom. 10:17) and we want our children to hear it proclaimed with power."

—Jason Helopoulos, *Let the Children Worship*