

Children's Sermon Guidelines

Serving our faith community by giving the children's sermon is a special responsibility and helps our children connect in worship in a meaningful way. Below are some guidelines to help ensure a fruitful children's sermon.

General:

1. The children's sermon is normally done at the altar railing. Kids can sit on the altar step facing the congregation. You can sit on the floor or use the front pew.
2. The children present on any Sunday will range in age from 1 year old up to 8 years old. Some Bible readings will naturally appeal to older or younger children but do your best to include all of them.
3. Your children's sermon can be as short as you like but should be no longer than 5 minutes.
4. Your children's sermons should communicate one central point.

Prepping Your Children's Sermon:

1. Mid-week you will receive the Bible verses for your week. Base your children's sermon on these verses.
2. Start prepping by reading the Bible verses provided. You may need to read the verses several times before you are ready to craft your sermon.
3. Choose an object lesson that has meaning for you. If possible, the story should relate to the sermon or to some other aspect of worship for that day. You can check with whoever is preaching to find out what the theme for the day is.
4. Once you have crafted your children's sermon, it is important to run through it a few times.

Before Service:

1. Retrieve the handheld wireless microphone from the sound booth. The microphone should have a green label on it.
2. Before leaving the sound booth, turn it on, and do a quick mic check, and ensure you are comfortable working with the microphone.
3. Ensure the microphone is muted and take it with you to your seat.

During Service:

1. After the gospel reading unmute the microphone and announce that the children should come forward for the children's sermon.
2. Once you have completed your children's sermon, send kids back to sit with their families.

After Service:

1. Return the microphone to the sound booth. Please ensure the microphone is turned off.
2. Return any supplies you may have used to the art closet.

Helpful Hints:

1. Remember who you are doing the story for! It is tempting to tell the story for the adults rather than for the children. Avoid that temptation!
2. If you are struggling for inspiration, try googling Dollar Store Children's Sermons. These short podcast videos, done by an ELCA pastor, review the story, and most of the time includes a great visual aid that can easily be purchased from the Dollar Store. These videos make a great starting point.
3. Use visual aids to illustrate the story if possible -- pictures, puppets, toys, familiar objects, etc. This will help your lesson point stick in the children's mind!
4. If possible, send the kids home with a little tangible item from your lesson. To be safe, you will need around 10 items.

5. The art closet has a number of craft supplies. You are welcome to use anything you find. We just ask that the plastic boxes are returned.
6. During your children's sermon speak slowly and clearly, but not in a special "church voice." Repeat important points to be sure that the children understand. Be friendly and inviting!
7. Acolytes are available to help with your children's sermon if needed.
8. Encourage children's participation with questions! You want children to laugh and to be engaged!
9. Most importantly, don't stress! You got this!

Thank you for your willingness to serve our community of faith by giving children's sermons.