

Guidelines for Leading in Worship

at First Presbyterian Church

by Pastor Dave Weidlich



Discovery Time (Children's Message)

We try to plan worship services around a theme. It will help children and adults if you will plan the Discovery Time to fit within the chosen theme for the Sunday. To find that theme, check the Worship Planner, in the Church Office. Another way: The worship bulletin will be emailed to you (providing we have your email address) by the Thursday before your Sunday.

A good children's message usually consists of three things: 1) a brief object lesson or message, 2) a verse of Scripture, and 3) a prayer.

Sit on the front row, or close by (there's often plenty of room for anyone who wants to join you too). When the Discovery Time is coming (usually right after the Passing of the Peace), walk briskly to the steps and sit down facing the congregation. Find the microphone and position it directly in front of you about 9 inches away from your mouth. Invite the children to sit on the floor facing you, not on the steps. They are not on display, but are there to hear the message. This leaves their spiritual dignity intact and reduces the desire to act up.

Here are a few more guidelines:

Remember that you're not just talking to children. Always use the microphone. If you don't it's just DEAD AIR to many farther back in the congregation, or those with difficulty hearing.

Keep your message to 3 minutes. That's enough time for a story or demonstration and a verse of Scripture, but not much more than that. Be sure to begin with an effective hook (attention getter), but don't feel like you have to dazzle the kids. Often they're listening more than they show.

When reading from the Bible, make it a short reading and use a Bible translation that communicates effectively with children (Living Bible, New Century Version, etc.) A great choice would be to use one of our Children's Bibles (check the Children's CE Office) If you ask a question and a child answers, repeat the child's answer into the microphone if possible or appropriate. The congregation can't hear the kids (remember dead Air).

Don't let a child talk too long. You'll lose the congregation, who can't hear, and the kids too. This ain't Art Linkletter.

Please avoid giving out candy and other food. Our SS teachers will greatly appreciate it.

Always end with instructions on where the kids should go. The Sunday School teachers and helpers escort the children to the Sunday School classrooms.

Resources for Discovery Time

Clergy Resources - Children's Sermons: <http://clergyresources.net/childrens%20sermons.html>

Children's Sermons Archives: <http://www.sermons4kids.com>

Need a sub?

If you find you cannot lead the Discovery Time you signed up for, please call another Discovery Time leader to arrange for a substitute.

Thank you for taking the time to lead with excellence!