



## RND Kids Ministry

**Key Text** — [Deuteronomy 6:1–9](#): “Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

**RND Mission:**

Redemption Church exists to make disciples, join together as members of a family, and mobilize missionaries.

**Vision for RND Kids Ministry:**

**Partnering with families** to **disciple children** through learning and applying God's Word together, so that they **grow to love and be like Jesus** and **tell others** about Him.

### **Goals for Kids Ministry:**

- Partner with Families
- Know God through His Word
- Grow to love and be like Jesus
- Be Missional

## Why do we practice family-integrated worship at RND?

1. **It is the model we see throughout Scripture when God's people gather together.**
  - a. **The NT *assumes* children are in the worship gathering.**
    - i. Eph. 6:1 - *Children*, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
    - ii. Col 3:20 - Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
  - b. **In the OT, we see whole families gathered under the Word as well**
    - i. Dt. 31:11-13 - "when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."
    - ii. Josh. 8:35 - "There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them."
    - iii. See also Nehemiah 8:3.

2. **God's Word places the primary responsibility for evangelism and discipleship of children on their parents. (Deut. 6:1-9; Ps. 78; Eph. 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-25)**
  - a. As a church, we want to support, equip, and partner with parents in their role as primary disciplers of their children.
    - i. We also encourage families to develop a rhythm of daily family worship. This could look as simple as a 15-min. time intentionally set aside to gather as a family, read Scripture, pray, and sing together. (A good resource to help you start this rhythm of "read/pray/sing", see [Family Worship: In the Bible, In History, and In Your Home by Donald Whitney](#))
3. **There is something unique in gathering as a whole church under the preaching of the Word.**
  - a. The gathering is not just for *some* people (i.e. adults), but for people of all stages, backgrounds, and ages. Children are part of the church, too.
  - b. There is a place for age-appropriate teaching in a Discipleship/Equipping hour—but we desire it to serve as a *supplement*, not a *substitute* to the gathered church
4. **Togetherness**
  - a. Families are separated all throughout the week (school, work, etc.); This is one of the most valuable things families can do together—worship God with other families, hear the preaching of His word together, sing together with brothers and sisters, etc.
    - i. "Worship is the most valuable thing a human can do. The cumulative effect of 650 worship services spent with Mom and Dad between the ages of 4 and 17 is incalculable." - John Piper in ["The Family: Together in God's Presence"](#)
5. **Modeling**
  - a. Many times, for kids, "more is caught than taught." Your children are watching you and there is a lot they can learn just by watching their mom and dad gather and fellowship with God's people, sing songs in worship to the Lord, sit reverently under the preaching of the Word, take the Lord's Supper with the church, etc.

- b. They are learning, by your example, how to love and worship God as well as how to gather with and love His Church.

## 6. Common Objections/Response:

- a. They won't understand
  - i. They understand more than we think they do.
  - ii. Think of it like "language learning" for our kids.
    - 1. "For example, to learn a new language you can go step by step from alphabet to vocabulary to grammar to syntax. Or you can take a course where you dive in over your head, and all you hear is the language you don't know. Most language teachers would agree that the latter is by far the most effective." - [John Piper](#)
- b. They are bored.
  - i. We want to equip and encourage parents to find ways to prepare their children for the Sunday gathering, to engage them during the time together, and to follow up on what they heard and saw throughout the rest of the week. (See below for ideas)
- c. They are a distraction
  - i. "They are people made in God's image, and are just as much in need of the unique benefits of the preaching of God's word as the rest of us." - "[Why We Embrace Children in Our Worship Service](#)"
  - ii. They are a part of the body. We and others learn to adjust and bear with them as we bear with each other.

## 7. Ideas for how to prepare and engage your children before, during, and after gathering with the church:

- a. Before:
  - i. Develop a rhythm of **family worship** together every day (Read, pray, sing; See [Family Worship: In the Bible, In History, and In Your Home by Donald Whitney](#))
    - 1. **Read** that week's Scripture beforehand and talk about it ahead of time. (Found in the [Redemption North Davis weekly email](#) sent every Monday); read through a book of the Bible together, taking a few verses each day and talking about them together.

2. **Pray** for needs in the church body (from those in your CG, posted on the RND Slack's #prayer-requests channel, etc.); pray for the nations using [JoshuaProject.net](http://JoshuaProject.net) or [Operation World](#); pray for your family, friends, neighbors, etc.
  3. **Sing** along with the live [Songs We're Singing](#) Spotify playlist (updated by every Wednesday) with the songs we're singing that Sunday; sing other familiar hymns together; sing along with worship videos with lyrics on YouTube.
- ii. Talk about expectations (Behave-Follow-Listen; See "[Big church for Small Kids](#)" by Jen Wilkin)
  - iii. Prepare a "church-only" bag.
    1. I.e. with a Bible, noise-free activities, journal, crayons, snack, etc.
- b. During:
- i. *Behave-Follow-Listen*; See "[Big church for Small Kids](#)" by Jen Wilkin
    1. **Behave** – "Explain to your child that we behave well during Big Church. We use self-control so we can worship and allow those around us to worship."
    2. **Follow** – "Explain to your child that we follow along during worship. We do what everyone else is doing as part of sharing worship together."
    3. **Listen** – Grab a "[Worship Journal](#)" from the Welcome stand and encourage your child to take notes as he/she follows along.
- c. After:
- i. Follow up with your child about what they learned.
    1. E.g. "What did you learn in church today?" "What was your favorite part of worship?" etc.
  - ii. Affirm the good things they did in following along.
  - iii. Address and correct the not-so-good things.
  - iv. Reinforce the sermon message: plan a family devotion or service activity to correspond with what the pastor talked about.

## 8. Helpful Resources:

- a. [The Gospel Coalition: Why We Embrace Children in our Worship Service](#)
- b. [Desiring God: Should Children Sit Through Big Church](#)
- c. Jen Wilkin
  - [Worship together](#)
  - [Big church for small kids](#)
- d. [Family Worship: In the Bible, In History, and In Your Home by Donald Whitney](#)
  - i. A great resource for beginning a rhythm of family worship in your home.
- e. [God Made Me for Worship: Helping Children Understand Church by Jared Kennedy](#)
  - i. For ages 4–9; Geared to help children understand how different elements of the weekly gathering point to the gospel.