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Sunday, December 3, 2017  
Did You Know?

## Children in Worship, Part 3

At City on a Hill we want to raise our children to know and love Jesus as Savior and Lord. I know that's what every parent, teacher, and pastor desires as well. Here are some things the church is planning to do with you.

1. Changes to Sunday worship. In the new year, only children from grade 1 and up will join their parents in worship every 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. They will be dismissed after prayer, as we've been doing. Family worship will remain on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday where children from preschool to high school are invited. Like our toddlers, preschool and kindergarten children will be dropped off at their department before 2pm.
2. As well, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday family worship, the pastors are going to be more intentional to make the sermon more suited towards children. We can't promise that this will be the case every time, but we will try to illustrate the sermon more and simplify the topic and points so that our younger people can understand.
3. When you sit with your children, be a model of enthusiastic, heart-felt, Spirit-filled worship. Encourage them to sing along. Speak to them in advance of the kind of behavior you expect from them, and reward them for their obedience. Tell them what the Lord's Supper means to you. If your children are a bit older, review and discuss the sermon during Sunday dinner.
4. In 2018 we are going to be holding parenting classes on Wednesday evenings in May/June and again in October. Register your kids for the Awana program so you can attend the study. For three weeks in October we're inviting back youth culture expert, Paul Robertson of Youth Unlimited. His talks are very relevant and engaging and will be a benefit to parents of 9-18 year old children.
5. The bookstore will soon be stocked with several more titles related to parenting. Commit to read at least one parenting book in the coming year. I just finished reading a very short book by Donald Whitney, titled *Family Worship*. It is excellent and I recommend it to all married persons and families.
6. Did you know we dedicate the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday early prayer meeting (EMP) to pray for families and children? We all know how important it is to intercede for the salvation and spiritual growth of our children, so please come. Everyone's invited to join that prayer meeting. In addition, we are encouraging each of our children's pastors to start a parent's prayer team to intercede for our children.
7. Finally, make it a high priority to get involved in your child's Christian education. Get to know your child's pastors and teachers. Take them out to lunch or invite them to your homes. Attend every parent's meeting and send your child to every VBS and retreat. Place church attendance above any other extra-curricular or recreational activities.
8. As a church, let's start doing family devotions. Buy and read Whitney's book. Utilize the *New City Catechism*. Dads, assume the role of your family's spiritual leader and get started.

Soli Deo Gloria  
*Pastor Peter*