



Showing Kids the Benefit of Church Attendance



Hebrews 10:25 challenges all Christ followers with these words, “Not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and, all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” In the pages of the New Testament, as well as throughout church history, believers everywhere have taken these words to heart and voluntarily gathered together to worship the Lord and encourage each other.

Sometimes children find church boring, and they fail to see its relevance to their everyday lives. It can be discouraging to dads and moms when children complain when they have to attend church. As parents who want to pass our faith down to the next generation, there are a few practical steps we can take to show our children the value of church attendance.

Follow up with them to find out what they learned in church.

If we as parents show interest in what they are being taught, they will place a higher value on it. This is also a good opportunity to further explain or clarify some of they have learned at church. Parents can have deeper conversations about spiritual things that might not otherwise occur. In the car on the way home or sitting around the dinner table after church are good times to have these conversations. (A curriculum that has every age group studying the same theme is helpful in giving parents a heads up in this area.)

Attend a church where your entire family is being challenged spiritually AND where your family can serve others.

We often approach church with the mindset of “what is in it for me.” This is not entirely wrong, but it is not the whole picture either. We certainly should look for a church that is meeting the needs of our family, but we also need to view church as a place where we can plug in and serve others. Our kids will follow our lead in this area and be more fulfilled as a result.

Show the value of church attendance in your own life. If you approach church as an obligation that has to be fulfilled, your kids will most likely see it as something to endure instead of something to enjoy. Our attitude as parents is key.

Teach them the importance of community. The verse in Hebrews reminds us of the value of encouragement. As technology continues to change the way we relate to people, it is wonderful to have a place where face to face interaction with others can happen. Church is ideal for this type of interaction and can help fill the void that all humans share for real, meaningful relationships.