



CHILDREN'S MOMENTS GUIDELINES

PREPARATION

- You will be **assigned a date** for presenting the Children's Moment. If that date does not work for you, (or in case of illness or emergency) please notify our Children's Moments coordinator, Mary Stark.
- You will receive a **scripture and sermon title** for your assigned date. Focus on the **scripture**, read through it several times. Read it out loud. What's the main idea of the passage (sometimes there may be more than one, choose **ONE** to focus on).
- Our children range in age from preschool to elementary school. Aim for a message suitable for a **first-grader**.
- Plan for **3 minutes** for your presentation.
- **Avoid fancy words**. Keep it simple.
- Use **illustrations and/or stories that a child can relate to**.
- Avoid scary, violent or other inappropriate content.
- Try to ask **yes or no questions**, instead of open-ended questions. (If you do ask an open ended question, keep it simple and be prepared for anything!)
- If an **object, prop or picture** helps get the idea across, use it.
- **End your presentation** by leading the children in an **echo responsive prayer** - using short phrases with the children repeating each phrase after you. Ask them to bow their heads, close their eyes and fold their hands as they pray. This is a great opportunity to teach our children how to pray.
- **Practice**. Make an outline of what you're going to say, run through it out loud - maybe even in front of a mirror - and pay attention to your voice inflection and facial expressions - be animated!

THE PRESENTATION

- Arrive at least **15 minutes before the service** for any questions you may have or special instructions from the pastor.
- The **pastor or worship leader will announce the Children's Moments**.
- Come forward, take and use the **microphone** so everyone can hear you.
- **Sit on the kneeler or use a small or folding chair** to sit among the children.
- Exude **energy and excitement!** Be animated! Enjoy!
- After the closing prayer instruct the children to **return to their parents or accompany the nursery workers to the nursery**.
- **Return the microphone to the stand then return to your seat**.
- **Thank you for your service!**