

## Kids and Church

Some people seem to get more out of going to church than others:

*A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked.*

*"Why, God tells me."*

*"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"*

*A six-year-old was overheard reciting the Lord's Prayer at a church service: "And forgive us our trash passes as we forgive those who passed trash against us."*

*Every evening, a mother and her young son, knelt down beside his bed so he could say his prayers. One night, obviously bored with the same old prayer, the little boy said this: "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep, if I should die before I wake ... can I have breakfast with you in the morning?"*

<http://www.butlerwebs.com/jokes/religious-kids.htm>

### Monday – Coming to Church

*"Princes, kings, and other rulers of the world have used all their strength and cunning against the Church, yet it continues to endure and hold its own."* John Foxe, 16<sup>th</sup> c. English writer

1. Please read Hebrews 12:22-24. How would you describe to a friend this gathering of God's people?

**Text Insight:** Abel was the world's first murder victim, so the message of his blood is one of destruction, fear and terror. The word from Jesus, on the other hand, is of peace and joy for all eternity.

2. Now look at verse 28. What does it mean to you to be part of the unshakeable kingdom of God?
3. In John 10:22-30, how does Jesus describe the unshakeable nature of being one of his people?

**Making it Personal:** If you belong to Jesus, then you belong to the family of God. If you have not yet turned your life over to Jesus, ask God to receive you now into his family.

### Tuesday – The Gathering

*"The bible knows nothing of solitary religion."* John Wesley, 18<sup>th</sup> c. English theologian

1. Please read Hebrews 10:19-25. Why do you think some people get in the habit of giving up meeting together with other Christians (v.25)?
2. In what way would regularly attending church help someone carry out verse 24?
3. What was the early church like in Acts 2:42-47? What is one thing you can do to make our church look more like that?

**Prayer Focus:** Pray that our church would be known as a group of people who care for one another and the people around us.

### Wednesday – Standing Together

*"Church attendance is as vital to a disciple as a transfusion of rich, healthy blood to a sick man."* D.L. Moody, 19<sup>th</sup> c. American evangelist

1. Please read Ecclesiastes 4:7-12. When have you benefitted from having someone along with you through hard times? When have your problems grown worse because you were on your own?
2. Now look at Psalm 122:1-9. Why do you think the psalmist was so glad to be with others?

**Making it Personal:** What would it take for you to be that glad to be with those who belong to God? What can you do to help others be glad to join with you in worshipping our God?

### Thursday – Kingdom Hospitality

*"Hospitality should have no other nature than love."* Henrietta Mears, 20<sup>th</sup> c. American Christian educator

1. Please read Hebrews 13:1-8. What does hospitality among God's people look like?
2. How do verses 5-6 help you in reaching out to help others?
3. What importance did Jesus put on hospitality in Matthew 10:42? What does this tell you about the ease and the demands of being hospitable to others?

### Friday – The Wedding Feast

*"Go, I charge thee, invite them all; let in the tide of knaves once more; my cook and I'll provide."* William Shakespeare, *Timon of Athens* (Act III, Scene IV)

1. Please read Revelation 19:1-9. What type of celebration can you expect when Jesus returns to remove all sin from the world and be joined to his people for all eternity?

**Text Insight:** The fine linen in verse 8 is the righteousness of Jesus Christ that is given to us since we are not able to create righteousness of our own.

2. In Matthew 22:1-14, how does Jesus contrast those who were initially invited to join the wedding celebration with those who actually attended? Why do you think some people are not willing to put on the righteousness God offers freely?

**Digging Deeper (optional):** Read Psalm 45:1-17. What does it mean to you that Jesus is "enthralled" (v.11) by the beauty of his bride, the church?

**For the Weekend:** In Acts 17:10-12, how did the Bereans demonstrate the importance of gathering together to study the word of God? What else do you think they did with one another to indicate their "noble character"?