

## CHILDREN & THE LORD'S SUPPER

### Some Suggestions

#### 1. Introduction

- A. How do you teach your child to worship? That is a crucial question. When is a child old enough to be expected to sit in the worship service?
- B. Worship is more caught than taught. It is important to begin modeling worship for your child from an early age.
- C. Including children in worship takes work and energy. We deprive ourselves of the comforts and ease when we begin to think in terms of training our children.

#### 2. Infants

- A. A nursery is provide each Lord's supper meeting. Please try to be on time—if there are no babies in the nursery by 9:35 or 9:40, the nursery workers leave to join the meeting.

#### 3. Toddlers

- A. You can begin training your toddlers to sit quietly during the Lord's Supper. Certainly they may comprehend hardly anything, but you are beginning at an early age to make worship an ingrained practice.
- B. One parent can concentrate on the children, while the other is free to concentrate on the worship. They can alternate each week. Certainly, it would be easier for one parent to stay home with the children, but, the effort expended now will pay dividends later when the child sees this morning meeting as being very natural.
- C. Of course, it is unreasonable to expect toddlers to sit still and do nothing for one hour. But, the creative parent would bring Bible picture books and Bible coloring book, as well as mints or candies for the children.
- D. Some squirming is expected, and no one minds too much. But, if heads start to turn, it may be better to only keep the toddler in the meeting a little while.
- E. If discipline is needed, be courageous enough to taken the child out of the meeting and deal the problem. Don't let what others may think affect you. Better a child that has been taken out of the meeting in full view a few times for discipline than for a child to learn than he can get away with undisciplined behaviour because Mom and Dad are afraid of making a scene.
- F. In some circumstances, it may be advisable to keep the children at home.

#### 4. Pre-schoolers

- A. Continue training your children.

#### 5. Grade school age

- A. By now the child should have his/her own "real" Bible and be encouraged to read it. For earlier grades (i.e. Kindergarten adn 1st grade), very Bible story books are appropriate. Particularly ones that focus on Jesus. As the child grows, a good NIV children's bible is a very good choice. It has the full Bible text, but also lost of pictures.
- B. Increasingly, as the child grows

*Chuck Gianotti, February 2002*