

## For the younger children

During the two morning services (9.15 & 11.15), there are two groups available for very young children. Both have DBS checked leaders who will care for them, teach from the Bible and give your child a chance to play, create, sing and make friends. Leaving for these groups will be clearly signposted during the meeting. Please visit our website to complete Parental Consent and for full details of our Safeguarding provisions.

### BibleTots

0-3 year olds

Lower room,  
The Addison Centre

### BIBLE EXPLORERS

3 year olds - Year 1

The Scout Hut, behind  
The Addison Centre



## RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

There are some great resources available to help support family life, from books to podcasts. Check out our website:

[www.graceinthecommunity.com/resources-fcy](http://www.graceinthecommunity.com/resources-fcy)

### MORE INFORMATION

General information about Families, Children & Youth (FCY): please contact Jon Putt or Chris Atkinson at: [fcy@graceinthecommunity.com](mailto:fcy@graceinthecommunity.com)

[www.graceinthecommunity.com/fcy](http://www.graceinthecommunity.com/fcy)



grace<sup>+</sup>  
community  
church

## Welcoming children into our services

A guide to helping children engage and enjoy worshipping together on Sunday.





## We love families

We love to have children of all ages staying with the church family, worshipping together, for the whole of our service.

All our meetings are prepared with this in mind. Most weeks follow a similar pattern, with teaching accessible and engaging for all. So, each week we have these resources available, to support families with younger children:

### Bitesize

A slot in the early part of the service designed especially for children, to highlight the main message of the sermon.

### Follow-along sheets

Activity sheets are available from the welcome area to help children engage with the sermon.



### Retreat Space

If you need to 'retreat' with your child, that's no problem - there's an area in the foyer with quiet toys and a Live Stream so that you can stay connected with the service.

### Groups for 0 to Y1

Additionally, we run two groups during both morning services for the younger children: Bible Tots (0-3 year olds) and Bible Explorers (3 year olds - Year 1). Details on the reverse.

## Worshipping together as a whole family

Meeting together for corporate worship is a big part of what it means to be God's people, and always has been.

Throughout the Bible we see children included in God's gathered community for the instruction of God's law. Jesus himself encouraged children to be brought to him.\*

\*Joel 2v12-16; Exodus 13v3-10; Deuteronomy 16v11-15; 31v9-13; Nehemiah 8; Ephesians 6v1-2; Mark 10v14.

# TOP TIPS

## To help your child feel engaged with the service...

### Look forward to church together

**Pray** for the Bible teachers at Sunday breakfast, get your hearts ready!  
**Talk** about looking forward to meeting together.

### Sit strategically

**Sit to see** - it's so much easier if they can see what's going on.

**Sit to separate** - Sometimes siblings work best *between* adults! Remember, it doesn't just need to be a parent...

**Sit to unite** - invite other church family to sit with you to lend a hand. You and your child can get to know the people that are sitting near you, make them feel welcome too!

### Build familiarity

**Read the Bible** during the week - from the book or passage the sermon series is featuring.\*

**Songs** - Play or sing the songs around the house during the week (learn the chorus first!). Keep hold of the Meeting Guide to help, but also check out our YouTube channel and Spotify Playlist\*\* for regular songs. Help them sing with everyone else on Sunday.

**Get to know the leaders** - Involve your child in the chat & refreshments time after the service, or invite those who teach them to lunch so that they will be more familiar and engaged.

\*The Meeting Guide (with Bible the Bible passage, songs & notices) is available beforehand from the Friday emailer 'Weekly Round Up'. \*\*Spotify: 'Grace Community Church Playlist'.

### Facilitate well

Use activities that will **help them keep their mind available to hear what is being said**, rather than distracted and diverted. Try using the follow-along sheets provided, give them a 'sermon notes book' of their own or a special colouring book reserved especially for Sunday. Ask them questions about what they've heard afterwards.

### Cultivate 'togetherness' & good habits

Encourage your child to **join in** with what everyone else is doing - standing for songs, quiet for prayer, opening the Bible etc.

### Encourage the good

A warm smile, an affirming wink, an encouraging word... let them know that you are glad they are worshipping with you.

### 'Retreat' if you need to!

Sometimes you will need to take them out for a few minutes. That's ok - there's space in the foyer for you to chat with them.

### Be reassured...

**We don't mind the noise** and movement that come with young children, we love having them with us!