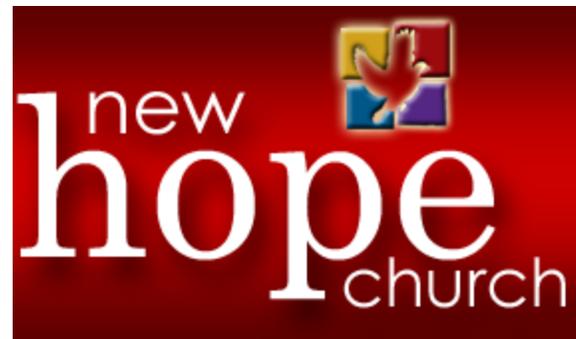


**worship as
multi-generational
families**

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates”

-Deuteronomy 6:6-9.



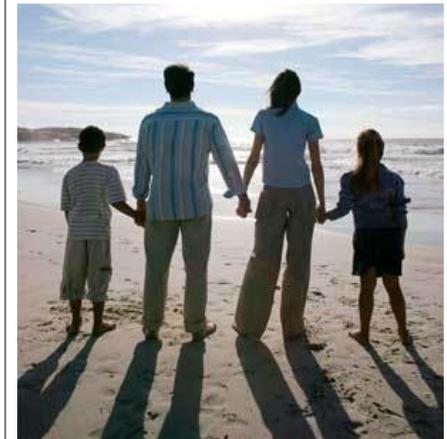
FAMILY MINISTRIES

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**FAMILY
MINISTRIES**



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At New Hope, the church and the Family Ministry Team...

- Encourages parents to integrate their spiritual training and instruction into their normal activities. Notice in the passage from Deuteronomy that the parents are using natural teachable moments to pass on spiritual truths.
- Gives parents resources to help them talk about God's truths at home. They could take a walk and relate God's Word to what they see.
- Encourages parents to read the Bible or pray with their children every day. Have them place reminders around their homes so they can remember God and his promises.
- Offers childcare in the nursery for children 0 up to the age of 5.
- Encourages families to worship together on Sunday mornings as directed in Deuteronomy 6. Worship bags are offered to children in grades kindergarten through 2nd grade to assist parents in engaging their children in the worship experience.
- Encourages all generations to attend the Sunday Morning Breakfast, quarterly fellowship activities and small groups. Embracing a multi-generational approach to fellowship, promotes different generations to value and learn from each other's gifts and wisdom.

Why Do Children Belong in the Sanctuary?

Many congregations today plan for children to be anywhere else rather than in the congregation's worship. Sunday School is held at the same time. Children's Churches are created to provide children with worship on their own level. Still other congregations simply provide recreation activities to keep the children out of the sanctuary.

But when they are not part of the worshipping congregation children miss out.

In the congregation's worship we take our place among all of God's people. Simply being in the room and walking through the rites and rituals connects us to people of all ages in our community. Children see the youth and adults that they know as teachers, coaches, and the "big kids" singing and praying. Families worshipping together claim the faith for the entire family. In some families it may be the only time they see their parents express their faith in a visible way. The stories told and songs sung by people of all ages have a different importance than those same stories and songs told and sung with only other children. Finally, worship is not an activity a child expects to outgrow moving on to another group. Instead it is a mysterious way of coming into God's presence with people of my community. I may not understand it fully now, but I do expect to understand it more fully later and to be part of that community for my entire life.

Also, during the elementary school years, children are focused on the larger world. They want to know how everything around them works and who gets to do what. They want to try almost everything. That will not last. During adolescence the focus turns to my peers and our special activities. That means we have a very important window of opportunity to invite children into the congregation's worship between the ages of six and about twelve. If we do it well, they will have both a home within the larger congregation and a foundational understanding of worship on which they can build throughout their lives. (Adapted from - <http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2011/04/why-children-belong-in-sanctuary.html>)

God commands us to worship together as multi-generational families.

"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates"-Deuteronomy 6:6-9.

Notice the absence of Sunday school teachers in this passage. We are not saying Sunday school is unbiblical; We are saying it's supplemental to what happens in the Christian home. Too often, Christian parents defer their responsibility to the volunteers at church to "bring them up in the training and the instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

God, however, is calling the church to give that responsibility back to parents-where it belongs. (Taken from - <http://childrensministry.com/>)

