



Helping Your Child See Why Church is Important



The best way to help your child see that church attendance is important is to model it for them. When you are faithful to attend and make church a priority, they will also. God's plan is for all Christians to join together to accomplish His mission on earth.

Some practical illustrations:

1. Write out a mission (instructions) on a piece of paper and put it in an envelope. (Ideas: Make a batch of cookies, including clean up. Plan a family fun night - including games and food. Plan a sleepover in the living room - build a tent, plan and make food, and think of activities.) Give the envelope to the kids at breakfast and read it aloud. Ask if they are willing to accept this "mission" and set a time for it to be accomplished.

After the whole family has enjoyed the "mission," ask: **What did you like about working together to create something good? Would it have been harder or easier to accomplish this alone?** How did working together make it better? God wants the whole world to know about Jesus and when we join together with other Christians and tell others about Jesus, we are completing Jesus' mission for His church (Acts 1:8).

2. After dinner, give each family member a piece of straw from a broom with the instruction to please sweep the floor using their piece of straw. After expressing shock that they can't do such a big job with only one piece of straw, hold up the broom and ask: **Would it be easier to sweep the floor with this?** (Of course!) When all the pieces of straw are joined together, much more can be accomplished. God wants us to join with other Christians to accomplish more together than we could apart. God is pleased when we help one another and work together (Ephesians 4:16).
3. Write the different parts of the body on slips of paper (leg, arm, head, eye, nose, ear, mouth, and toe). Make several of each so that each person will have at least five to make a person. Put all the slips in a bag and let each person choose five slips and draw a person using the parts they have chosen. (For example, if they drew two slips that said "head," their person will have two heads.) They must use all their slips of paper. Let each person show their drawing. **How would your "person" function with the parts**





you chose? Would it be difficult to run with only one leg? To see with no eyes? To eat without a head? Romans 12:5 tells us that all Christians are different, but they make up one body in Christ. All are needed to accomplish God's work.

4. Cooperate with other families to have a progressive dinner. Enlist the help of three or four other families and ask one to make an appetizer, one to make a salad, one to make a main course, and one to make a dessert (or any variation of meal courses). Everyone should gather at the first house at a specific time. Go from house to house enjoying the meal. Simple is best - crackers and cheese, raw veggies, hamburgers, spaghetti, bread, ice cream, cookies, etc. More is accomplished when we work together.

