



Winter 2025

Dear Families,

Raising children in the faith doesn't happen just at church, but at home and in everyday life. As parents, you have the unique role to walk alongside your children every day and teach them about Jesus. In order to help promote and encourage faith development at home, I have included several resources for you to use in your homes:

- Family Devotions
 - Hermie and Friends
 - Hillsong Kids
- Smart Moves for Little Ones
 - Worship
- Family Traditions
 - Advent
- Advent Calendar

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deuteronomy 11:18-19).

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jen Roettjer".

Jen Roettjer, DCE

Director of Youth and Discipleship



[FAMILY DEVOTIONS]

For Little Ones

SHARE

What are your highs and lows from the day?

What are you thankful for today?

LEARN

Hermie and Friends

Hermie and his friend feel ordinary. Common. But God shows them that they are special and loved.

YouTube

Search for Hermie and Friends Full Episodes

MUSIC

Hillsong Kids

Spotify or Amazon

Search for Artist: Hillsong Kids

YouTube

@Hillsong Kids

PRAY

Confess
Honor
Ask
Thanks



WORSHIP

Thoughts to Consider

Attending worship services is at the heart of the Christian faith. Through worship, we come before our God to hear his Word and apply it to our lives. We also grow together with the support and nurture of those in our church family we see regularly. For toddlers, attending worship is all about learning the rhythm of worship and beginning to participate in the service.

Here are several tips to guide your toddler through the worship service.

- Prepare on Saturday night for Sunday morning by getting clothes and offering ready.
- Sit in a location that your child can see what is going on.
- Get to know those who sit around you and others in your church family.
- When the offering plate comes around, give them a small amount of change to put in each week.
- During prayer times, encourage your child to close their eyes and fold their hands.
- Point out different parts of the church, such as crosses, colors, pulpit, and music.
- Bring your child up for the children's message.
- Bring your child with you to celebrate the Lord's Supper.
- The nursery and lobby areas remain options if your child needs to make use of them.



[FAMILY TRADITIONS]

ADVENT

Thoughts to Consider

The season of Advent is one of preparation for Christmas, beginning four Sundays before Christmas Day. While this time is filled with Christmas parties, concerts, and seasonal events, we also use this time to prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Savior into the world.

Advent Activities

- Advent Calendar – Count down the days to Christmas with a calendar. Use the one provided in this packet or purchase/create one of your own. Many calendars contain books, small toys, or candy treats.
- Reverse Advent Calendar – Each day of Advent, pick one item from around your house to donate.
- Advent Wreath – Light the candles of the Advent wreath at dinner time or devotion time.
- Acts of Kindness Tree – Write down 25 acts of kindness and hang them on the tree. Each day of Advent, pick one off the tree to do.
- Cookie Decorating Day – Bake and decorate a variety of cookies. After eating several of your own, prepare plates of cookies for your friends and neighbors.
- Hold a House and Tree Decorating Party – Crank up the Christmas music as you prepare your house for the festive season.
- Christmas Movie Marathon – Whether it's *Elf*, the *Santa Claus* movies, *Home Alone*, or *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, spend time as a family watching them together. Consider including a movie with the story of the birth of Jesus, such as *The Nativity Story* or *The Star*.
- Find the Best Decorated House in Town – Prepare glasses of hot chocolate as you drive around town to look at Christmas lights. Vote as a family on your favorites.