

Family Worship Guide

- This is a guide that I create weekly for Faith Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, NC to enable children and families to worship together. It may be used with the worship educator or parents in a special worship area designated for children. Or it may be used by parents or adults with children in their pew/seats.
- The activities are designed for children ages 3-10.
- It follows the pattern of our worship service – gathering, proclaiming, responding and sending. There are activities in each section which correspond to the worship service at that moment – often mirroring and/or explained for children.

We Gather in God's Name

- This section includes prayer stations that are set up in the children's worship area so that the children may arrive and interact at their own pace.

We Proclaim God's Word

- This section includes scripture, a special explanation of the scripture for the children, and a "pew project" for them to work on during the sermon.
- The pew project is explained by the pastor as she talks with the children about the scripture. All the supplies needed are kept separately, and only introduced by the pastor so that the activity is as exciting, engaging, and quiet as possible.
- This section may also include notes about a particular anthem, a video, or any number of other elements that further interpret the Word of scripture.

We Respond to God's Word

- This section includes the offering, prayers of the people and the Lord's prayer, Baptism or Communion (if celebrated), hymns, and an affirmation of faith.
- It often includes a special description of the offering and an interactive prayer that the children can do with the congregation.

We Go in God's name

- This section includes a Charge and Benediction written for our youngest members.

You will receive the family worship guides for the weeks of Lent 2015. Many of the activities are detailed here or in the “Interactive Lenten Prayers” document. If you are confused by any element, please feel free to ask me in the webinar or contact me with questions later.

Karenjack@gmail.com

When looking at the Guides **Please take note:**

- Lent 1 – we imposed ashes because there was a snow storm on Ash Wednesday. Very high participation! Not a bad idea if you are comfortable playing with the liturgical calendar.
- Lent 2 – we used a book by Lois Becker, “It’s the Work of the Wind.” You may be able to find it here: <http://store.braughlerbooks.com/books/its-the-work-of-the-wind/> Lois was a member of my former congregation and this book is out of print. If you need a copy, contact me. I also have a power point presentation with the images or you may create your own. Basic theme - We can’t see the wind, but we can see what it does. It’s the same with the Spirit...
- Lent 3 – for the “water collage” I printed lots of pictures of water. I cut out a large white circle (from chart paper) and put it on the floor labeled “God’s Well.”
- Lent 4 – I modified the chalkboard confession by drawing sunglasses on the chalkboard. We also used the simple song “open my eyes that I may see” as the prayer for illumination.
- Lent 5 – bandage confession – I used white cloth bandages that come on a roll in the drug store. For the pew project, I drew a large cave on chart paper, and gave the children hearts cut out of red paper. They use the hearts to cover the cave to show that god’s love is stronger than death.
- Lent 6 – Includes notes to two activities from “Flame: Creative Children’s Ministry.” Search for “palm Sunday spinner” and “hosanna mat” on the Flame website to pick up these printables and instructions.
- Easter – the children made cross sun catchers. I cut transparency paper into the shape of a cross and the used glue sticks and small pieces of colored tissue paper to cover the shapes