

Leading Your Children In Praise and Worship

God has placed within children a desire to worship Him. It is our job as parents to mentor that desire. A good place to start is to make songs available that will help your child praise and worship at home. Simply download songs that are designed for children's worship. I have listed the top 10 praise songs and 5 worship songs that we do in KIDS Church, along with the groups that perform them. Kids today don't buy albums. They go online to a site like the i-Tunes Store and they individually purchase the songs they want for about a dollar a song. If you type in a song like "Every Move I Make," you will find hundreds of groups that market that song, but I have listed the more popular groups such as Hillsong Kids & Shout Praises Kids. Songs designed for children's worship tend to have less words, simpler lyrics, and are played in a higher key. I love today's adult music, but it is more complex and children are less likely to go off to school singing these songs in their heads.

Praise

Hallelujah (Your Love Is Amazing) – Shout Praises Kids 3

You, You Are God – Song Discovery Vol. 46/CFN Music

Better Than Life – Supernatural /Hillsong Kids

One Way – More Than Life (Live) /Hillsong

Ain't No Rock – Trading My Sorrows/Shout Praises Kids

House of Praise – Carman/House of Praise

Every Move I Make – Shout to the Lord Kids

I Believe In Jesus – Super Strong God/Hillsong Kids

Blessed Be Your Name – Friend of God/Shout Praises Kids

Blood of Jesus – Shout Praises Kids 3

Worship

Did You Know – Jesus Is My Super Hero/Hillsong Kids

You Are My All in All – Hallelujahs/A Rocketown Worship Collection

I Give You My Heart – Shout Praises! Kids/Who Is Like the Lord?

As The Deer/I Love You Lord – Praise Hymn Tracks

One Pure and Holy Passion – Passion: One Day Live/Passion Band

Praise vs. Worship

What is the difference between praise and worship? To keep it simple, I tell kids that praise is outwardly expressed. It is something an observer can see and hear. We sing out loud. We clap our hands. We raise our hands. We jump. We dance. We shout. We do choreographed movements. Sometimes we even run around the room when we praise in KIDS Church. In a nutshell, we express

outwardly our praise for God. Kids tend to be “kinesthetic” (energy in motion), so our praise time is generally longer with lots of movement.

Worship, on the other hand, is a deep love for God that comes from the heart. Sometimes we can't see anything on the outside, but on the inside we are having an encounter with God through our loving desire for Him. Typically in KIDS Church we make a distinct transition between praise and worship to help kids quiet their spirits and focus their hearts on God. Normally we only do a couple of worship songs, but children can often make the transition to worship more quickly than adults.

Lifestyle of Worship

My life is worship **when** Jesus is on the throne of my heart and I do everything for His glory. For example, children can do their chores grumbling and complaining. Or, they can take out the trash as an act of worship to God. Anything that is done with the right attitude is worship. Worship is obedience to God and bringing joy to God's heart in all that we do. All of the following can be worship if our motivation is to bring joy to God's heart:

- ☆ Treating siblings with kindness
- ☆ Doing homework when told and doing it properly
- ☆ Cleaning your room or washing dishes
- ☆ Going to bed on time
- ☆ Watching only good T.V. programs
- ☆ Putting away laundry
- ☆ Helping in the kitchen
- ☆ Honoring and respecting parents
- ☆ Being patient when waiting for others
- ☆ Letting others go first
- ☆ Doing your chores diligently without being told

Create Family Worship Times

Be the spiritual leader of your children. Create a rhythm of worshipping together as a family. It's not hard to put in a CD and worship together for 15 minutes or so a week. Select a mealtime, morning time, or a dinnertime to do this. Let them take turns leading the worship time. It's all about establishing a rhythm. Children and teens may resist a little in the beginning, but I guarantee that it will become a treasured time of the week. Today's children and teens value family times like this. For the first time since the surveys have begun, teens have listed parents as their #1 heroes instead of anyone else like rock stars or famous athletes (“Generation iY: Our Last Chance To Save The Future” by Tim Elmore). They really want you to be the spiritual leaders of the family even if they don't say so.