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# Parenting In The Pew: Guiding Your Children Into The Joy Of Worship



## Synopsis

"Daddy, I'd like you to meet my children." That's Robbie Castleman's attitude about taking her children to church. She believes that Sunday morning isn't a success if she has only managed to keep the kids quiet. And she knows there's more to church for kids than trying out their new coloring books. Children are at church for the same reason as their parents: for the privilege of worshipping God. Worship, Castleman writes, is "the most important thing you can ever train your child to do." So with infectious passion, nitty-gritty advice and a touch of humor, she shows you how to help your children (from toddlers to teenagers) enter into worship. In this significantly revised and updated edition Castleman includes a new preface and two new appendices that provide new perspectives on children's sermon and intergenerational community. She also provides a study guide for personal reflection or group discussion. More than ever, *Parenting in the Pew* is essential reading for parents and worship leaders who want to help children make joyful noises unto the Lord.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Castleman offers a beautiful vision of what worship can be like for both parents and children. In short, as the author says, worship for parents can become a process of saying, 'Daddy, I'd like you to meet my children.' Highly recommended." (Susan E. Richardson, Metro Christian Living, March 2013)"Compelling reading. . . . Filled with good ideas, straightforward challenges, and true-to-life examples. It's a passionate call to spiritual parenting that reminds adults to actively participate in church services themselves while leading little ones into God's presence." (Bookstore Journal review of the expanded edition)"Robbie Castleman does wonders in this book! She actually does

show how 'training children to pay attention to God . . . is one rare way to have your cake and eat it too.' Her biblically grounded theology and experientially tested practical ideas give us wonderful suggestions that deepen our own participation in worship, even while we help children truly worship instead of merely keeping quiet. This book is essential--for pastors, Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, parents and every other member of the congregation (since we all are responsible for forming the church's offspring). The Christian community could be changed by this book; read it avidly and give it to everyone you know." (Marva J. Dawn, author of *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly*) "Parenting in the Pew offers solid, practical solutions for parents who want to help their kids fully engage in Sunday morning worship. Castleman invites parents to see Sunday morning not as a challenge to keep their kids quiet, but as an opportunity to introduce their children to their heavenly Father." (Michael Ridgeway, managing editor, *Thriving Family* magazine)

Robbie F. Castleman (D.Min., University of Dubuque) is professor of biblical studies and theology at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. She previously served for several years as a staff member with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, specializing in ministry to graduate students at campuses in and around Tallahassee, Florida. She is the author of the *Fisherman Bible Guides* *Miracles*, *Elijah*, *David* and *King David* (Shaw/Waterbrook) and the IVP *Connect LifeGuide Bible Study Peter*, and she is a contributor to the book *For All the Saints* (Knox/Westminster).

While I might not have agreed with everything in here, I did find so much good info and ideas about children attending church with their parents. We recently began having all 5th and 6th graders attend church with their parents instead of offering their Sunday school class 2 hours. This has been a very positive move for us and some of the ideas in this book were great to help our parents - so much so that I bought a copy for all my 5th/6th grade parents! Thank you!

As the mother of three and a children's minister for more than 30 years I highly recommend this book. Two of my children have ADHD and I found this book to be very beneficial. I have recommended and/or given it to many an overtaxed parent in the pews.

I loved this book when it was originally published and my own children were in pre-school. As a parent, I found it an encouraging and enlightening guide to introduce my own children to worship. Over the years I have given this book as a gift to numerous parents and used sections of the book in preparation for leading parenting seminars on worshiping with children. A valuable tool for

engaging families in the worshiping community.

I was So Thankful to find this book in Kindle!!! I feared it was out of print! I loaned my only copy away 20 years ago and have recommended it to countless people! This book is practical in its suggestions and spiritual guidance. A FABULOUS RESOURCE!! THIS SHOULD BE READ by NON PARENTS TOO!!!

This is such an encouraging book for parents. It consistently reminds us of the true point of church, worship. So glad we could read this while our daughter is still young and we can establish a joy for worship from the very beginning!

I was expecting more from this book. While it was an enjoyable read, it just didn't give me the practical tips I was looking for.

Great book, highly recommend for parents wanting to teach their children how to be a part of worship.

As a pastor this is one that I keep on my office shelf to give away. It's one of the basics that we encourage young families in our church to read through! Great ideas for engaging kids in the service.

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