



Getting your family ready for church on Sundays can sometimes be more challenging than anything else you do all week. How can you make Sunday mornings more pleasant for everyone? Try these ideas.

- 1 On Saturday, lay out your preschooler's clothes, maybe even giving him a choice of shirts or her a choice of hairbows.
- 2 Get your preschooler to bed on time to ensure he gets a good night's sleep.
- 3 Be positive as you talk with your child about church. Comment: "We get to go to church. We get to play with our friends. We get to see our teachers. People at church love us."
- 4 Talk with your child in a positive way about how you get to go to your Sunday School classroom while she gets to go to her room.
- 5 Let your child walk to his room and knock on the door. (Or let an older baby knock while you hold him.) If your child has a diaper bag or backpack, let him carry it.
- 6 Talk confidently and happily about your child's teachers. Help your child sense that you trust her teachers to take good care of her.
- 7 Never sneak away from your child. Tell her that you are leaving and you will be back. If she cries, leave after a quick hug. If she continues to cry, a teacher will locate you.
- 8 Avoid entering the room or looking through the window (unless it is a one-way window). Both actions distract from teaching and learning and may upset your child when he sees you.
- 9 Return for your child promptly after class or the worship service so she will know that you are returning when the other preschoolers' parents begin to arrive.
- 10 After leaving church, talk with your child about what he did at church. Look at his take-home page and read the Bible phrase. Talk to him about the Bible story picture.
- 11 Review the activity on the Early Bible Steps page. This is one way you continue the emphasis on the biblical concepts your child heard at church.
- 12 Throughout the week pray for your child's teachers and friends at church.