

Call to Worship

At the beginning of large group time, gather the children in a circle. In order to remind them why we come to church and prepare them for hearing the Bible/Big God Story, you might say something like this:

Now it is time to get ready to hear from God...

“We come to church because we are God’s people. This is a special place, because here we listen to God, we speak with God, we worship God, we hear from His Big Story... and we do these things together. Let’s start our time by praying...”

Read aloud this year’s prayer, which is on a powerpoint slide. (You can ask for a child volunteer to read.)



Children can then put a marble in our marble wall. (Occasionally, and if there are new children, remind them that the marble wall represents us, and together we are filling up the wall as a sign that gathering together as God’s people is important.)

Then move onto singing. You might say, “One way that we worship God and focus on Him is by singing...”

Worship response (after the Bible story...)

This is a time for kids to be with God, to talk and listen to Him through the Holy Spirit, and not to each other. We want to set this up to be a holy, and sacred time for children, giving God the space and time to speak, and an opportunity for them to respond. This is a way to worship.

After the Bible story, you might say something like this:

“You just heard from the living God, you have heard from His word, and now you have a chance to respond to him as an act of worship. We want you to quietly when you are ready find a response station or just sit quietly where you are, and talk to God and listen to God and not to your friends.”

Allow a few minutes of silence (or with soft music) for this time and finish with the Jigsaw blessing before the children move into their small groups.

Options include:

writing or drawing a prayer and sticking it on the karakia board

basket of objects to hold

whiteboard or chalk board to write God statements or questions for God

books to look at or read

playdough

plus some weeks there is an extra worship response idea in the lesson plan.