

Guidelines for Children's Homilies

A Children's Homily is never just for the children. Whenever possible, all conversations should be directed to the entire congregation (in volume, eye contact, engagement), even if the focus and questioning is geared toward the children who are present. **(A technic for making this goal easier is to sit on the steps or a stool facing the congregation, asking the children to sit down in front of you rather than on the steps. This way, the children are facing you, which will make them less self-conscious and distracted by the congregation, and you will be more easily heard by the congregation.)**

Some basic points to remember when creating a children's sermon:

- **Keep it Biblical**
 - This is a time to teach about God, His Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, not simply ethics or good behavior.
- **Keep it Fun**
 - Try to set a relaxed tone by introducing yourself and thanking them for being with you.
 - Humor goes a long way.
- **Keep it Interactive**
 - Visuals, props, questions back and forth, and personal story telling all help children apply the lesson being offered to them.
 - Try directly engaging them rather than reading to them from a script. They might tune out otherwise.
- **Keep it Short and end in prayer.**
 - Most children have short attention spans, which Sunday School teachers know well. Whenever possible, **keep the lesson to about 5 minutes**, and remember to **end with a short prayer** before sending the children to sit with their families in the congregation.

Resources:

- The church office should send you the readings for the week, but if you are preparing in advance, you can know readings for the Sunday you will preach by clicking on the link below or googling *The Lectionary Page*.
 - www.lectionarypage.net
- **Check out these trusted websites** for lessons that are short, fun, visual, and engaging to both children and adults. Simply search for the applicable reading on each site. At some sites, the appropriate reading and suggested lesson will pop up for the week immediately.
 - <http://www.sermons4kids.com/>
 - <http://www.childrenssermonsonline.net/>
 - <http://childrensermons.com>