

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## “Where is your children’s worship service?”

*By: Jerry Fite*

**S**ome churches of Christ provide “children’s church”. This is a separate worship service from the regular assembly of the saints. It is usually conducted at the same time when the saints in a locality are worshipping together.

Why is the “children’s church” needed? Does God in His Word authorize it?

“Children’s church” came into existence among churches who adopted the “Bus Ministry” as an evangelistic approach in saving souls. Churches bought school buses and used them to go into the communities and offer parents a ride to church for their kids with the hope that the parents would follow. Many children at worship services without parental supervision sometimes created disruptions in the regular assembly of the saints.

The idea of providing a more informal setting of worship for the children, where they would not disrupt the regular worship assembly was floated and adopted. To further enforce the need for separating the kids, was the rationale that the kids would get more out of a service that would

be more on their level. So, today an informal atmosphere of “fun and games” is provided for the children in “children’s church” hoping that when the children grow to maturity, they will be able to worship with the adults.

When we examine the practice of the New Testament church under the direction of the apostles, we learn that brethren came together for worship. They were to speak “to one another” as they sang with grace in their hearts unto God (Colossians 3:16). Prayer was made earnestly “of the church” when they were “gathered together” (Acts 12:5,12). On the first day of the week, Christians assembled themselves together to partake of the Lord’s supper (I Corinthians 11:20, 33).

These acts of worship were offered while together, not while divided into groups. We don’t read where Christians sent their children into a separate worship services. Yet, dividing into smaller informal groups seems to be the rage of people today. Separate “Contemporary Worship” services are offered because some believe the young generation will think our regular services will be too boring. Some are dismissing

the regular worship services on Sunday night when all come together for another period of worship and are dividing into small cluster groups in individual homes to appeal to a society that indicates people respond better to a small, informal, “less threatening” settings. “House churches” were separate autonomous churches, not one local church dividing up into cluster groups (Romans 16:3-5, I Corinthians 16:19).

In addition to not having Scriptural authority for “children’s church”, dividing the children from the adults is not good judgment. First, the brethren who have to oversee the children in their worship services do not worship and edify their fellow saints (Hebrews 10:25). Also, children learn by observing others. By observing the adults reverently worshipping God, they learn what is expected of them. A young child may not be getting all of the points of the sermon, but they are learning from their parents discipline and how to behave in worship. Come on in! Our children are in our adult worship services. We all are gathered together to worship as God has directed in His Word.