



From the Lips of Children God Has Ordained Praise!

by Kelly DuFour

Children's pastor at The People's Church in Salem, Oregon

When the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, 'Hosanna to the Son of David,' they were indignant. 'Do you hear what these children are saying?' they asked him. 'Yes,' replied Jesus, 'have you never read, "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise?"' (Matthew 21:15,16).

Jesus had just cleared the temple and healed many who were sick and lame. The chief priests and the teachers saw all that took place—the "wonderful things" Jesus did—but that did not move them to worship and recognize Jesus for who He was, the Messiah.

Worship with a Childlike Faith

Instead, the children stopped what they were doing and spontaneously began to praise Jesus. It wasn't their great wisdom or study of the Scriptures that motivated them to praise Him; it came from their simplicity of heart and unadulterated faith in a loving, caring, wonder-working Savior. The children had a unique ability to see Jesus for who He was (and still is today)—the Son of God—and the natural

response from their hearts and lips was *praise*.

Jesus took notice of this and confirmed and commended what the children were doing by using Scripture. (See Psalm 8:2.) I could just imagine how His eyes lit up and a genuine smile formed on His face as He saw the children. Once again the thought must have come to His mind, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven."



Tips on Children's Worship

The question has been asked, "Can kids really have a meaningful worship service? Some of them can't even stay focused for more than a minute."

Yes, I believe children can be worshipers, and I have that promise from God's Word. The key is setting aside time to teach

children how to worship and allow them the opportunity to do so.

Worship is more than just having a sing-a-long. There are many components of worship in a children's church service. Singing songs of praise, speaking praise, giving tithes and offerings, and serving others in ministry are a few of the main ones. Here are a few items to consider as you strive for a meaningful children's worship service.

Prepare Your Heart

Before I lead the children in worship, I need to make sure my heart is right before God. Do I have any unconfessed sin in my heart? Anger? Bitterness? Pride? I need to be a vessel of honor for God into which He can pour His anointing as I lead.

Order of Service

If you want to have a powerful worship experience, make sure you carefully plan your service. I prefer to do all the praise and worship songs in one setting and then go right into the offering collection and the message.

During the offering, I have a child share a "Kid Talent." This is a great way for them to share a talent that God has given them

