

GUIDANCE ON THE CHILDREN'S WORD

The Children's Word

The Children's Word at Seekers Church is a time when we intentionally communicate our Christian perspective with the children of our community. We hope that the following points will help you in your preparation.

- The Children's Word should be geared primarily towards the children even though adults always enjoy listening too. Consider your audience to be the 5 to 6 year olds and use words and concepts that they will be able to understand. Try to keep it simple. If they understand then you know that everyone will understand.
- The time allocated for the Children's Word is five minutes. Because of this time limitation it is best if you have only one or two ideas that you want to cover. Stories, concrete examples, or using objects are good ways to build interest and communicate your ideas.
- Try to consider the lectionary scriptures in what you prepare to share with the children. If you wish you may want to coordinate with the preacher for that Sunday.
- Seekers Church intentionally uses inclusive language when referring to "God" or "Christ" or "Holy Spirit." Please do not use masculine pronouns and adjectives for "God" (e.g., do not use "he" or "him" or "his") or "God the Father," especially because the Hebrew Scriptures sometimes refer to the feminine aspect of God and the Holy Spirit. Masculine pronouns and adjectives may be used when referring to Jesus but not when referring to "Christ" or "the Word" (in John's Gospel). Generally, use "Sovereign" instead of "Lord," "Child" rather than "Son" and "the Human One" rather than the "Son of Man."
- In the children's annual commitment statement to Seekers Church they promise "To take care of the air, water, and earth, and to love the

animals, birds, and fish in it...” To support this, when the lectionary scriptures speak of sacrificing birds or animals, please either omit this from the Children’s Word or state that Christian churches don’t make such sacrifices. You might also mention that many Christians have become vegetarians or vegans.

- Be sure to take the offering, which may be an envelope containing a prayer rather than money and have a brief prayer before dismissing the children.

Thank you for being willing to share with our children.