



Divine Service Guidelines for Children's Service

Children's Services are now recommended to be held twice a year, rather than quarterly as in the past. This change allows for greater flexibility in scheduling and planning within local congregations.

When planning a Children's Service, it is important to use the special **Children's Service Divine Service Guide** provided by the Faith Arc Team. This guide replaces the regular Sunday Divine Service Guide for that day and should be used as the primary resource for the service. The purpose of a Children's Service is to:

- Provide children with a message that is clear, memorable, and meaningful to their lives.
- Make children feel seen and valued by placing them at the heart of the congregation.
- Foster connections between generations within the congregation.
- Reinforce the importance of the divine service while deepening their understanding of Christ and the Bible.

Planning

- To build excitement and ensure the entire congregation is prepared for these special services, it's important to announce them well in advance. Ideally, consider setting and sharing the dates at the beginning of the year.
- Where possible, involve the children in congregational activities such as ushering, greeting, or participating as a choir.
- The person delivering the children's message should be someone who can effectively communicate and connect with children. This could be a dedicated Sunday school teacher, a young adult, or another individual who is willing to thoughtfully prepare for this important role.

Liturgy for Children's Divine Service

1. **Opening**
 - The service begins as usual with the invocation, opening prayer, Bible verse, and response hymn.
 - The officiant introduces the theme and shares brief thoughts (no more than 3 minutes).
2. **Children's Message**
 - The designated speaker, which could include a Sunday School teacher, Youth Leader, Young Adult, etc. begins in front of the altar, addressing children seated in the front rows.
 - The **Children's Divine Service Guide** includes a special section (15–25 minutes) designed for children by the Faith Arc Team.
 - This segment may include interactive discussions, props, skits, demonstrations, or simulations. Dialogue and questions with the children are encouraged.
3. **Transition to Holy Communion**
 - Priests sit with the congregation during the children's message.
 - The segment concludes with a congregational hymn, allowing the officiant to return to the altar.
 - The officiant summarizes the children's message and transitions to Holy Communion (no longer than 5 minutes).
 - The service continues with the standard liturgy.
4. **Post-Service Fellowship**
 - Lunch or refreshments are encouraged to celebrate the Children's Service and foster intergenerational connections within the congregation.



Divine Service Guide for Children's Service

"It's Time to do Good"

[PPT Slides](#)

Bible Text:

9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. 10 Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith. (Galatians 6:9-10 NLT)

Message - based on the January 5, 2025, DSG

Do good with love and joy for God!

Introduction / Background for the Minister

Let's think of this new year as a special gift of time from God to get ready for Jesus' return (2 Peter 3:9). What matters now is using this time wisely and taking every chance to do good. That's why our motto for 2025 is: **"It's time to do good!"**

In the Bible, doing good means doing things that make God happy. It's about following what God wants and being like Jesus.

In Galatians 5 and 6, Paul teaches us about living with the Holy Spirit's help. This kind of life isn't just about what we think or say—it's about what we do and how we do it! Faith means taking action by being kind and helping others. Paul reminds us to start by doing good right where we are, like in our church family with the people we see often.

Summary points for the divine service:

- Always choose to do good.
- Doing good makes God happy.
- Good is doing what God wants.
- Do good with a happy heart!

The Good Samaritan

Tell the story of the Good Samaritan or have a group of young adults or youth act out the story as you tell it. Use the story script below. The minister conducting the service could be the narrator. If you choose to tell the story without actors, use [Luke 10:25-37 NLT](#). Be sure to end using this summary:

This story reminds us to always do good, no matter who needs our help. It doesn't matter if they're like us or different from us—God wants us to be kind to everyone. When we do good, we follow God's will and make Him happy. Let's help others with joyful hearts, just like the Good Samaritan did!

All Together: Let's remember: **"It's time to do good!"**

The Story of the Good Samaritan

(Child-Friendly Script)

Characters:

- Narrator
- Jesus
- Lawyer
- Robber
- Hurt Man
- Priest
- Levite
- Samaritan

Narrator: One day, Jesus was teaching people about God's love and how we should treat each other. A man who studied God's law stood up to ask Him a question.

Lawyer: Teacher, what do I need to do to live forever with God?

Jesus: What is written in God's law?

Lawyer: The law says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus: That's right! Do this, and you will live.

Narrator: But the man wanted to know more.

Lawyer: Who is my neighbor?

Narrator: So, Jesus told this story to help everyone understand.

Jesus: A man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho when suddenly, some robbers attacked him.

Robber: (laughs meanly) Give us everything you have!

Narrator: The robbers took the man's clothes, beat him up, and left him on the side of the road, badly hurt.

Hurt Man: (weakly) Help... someone, please help...

Narrator: After a while, a priest walked by.

Hurt Man: Maybe he'll help me!

Narrator: But the priest saw the man and quickly crossed to the other side of the road.

Hurt Man: (sadly) Oh no...

Narrator: Next, a Levite, someone who worked in the temple, came down the road.

Hurt Man: Surely he'll stop to help.

Narrator: But the Levite also crossed to the other side and kept walking.

Hurt Man: (sighs) No one cares...

Narrator: Finally, a Samaritan came along. Now, Samaritans and Jews didn't usually get along, but when the Samaritan saw the hurt man, his heart filled with kindness.

Samaritan: Oh no! You're hurt! Don't worry, I'll take care of you.

Narrator: The Samaritan cleaned the man's wounds with oil and bandages. Then he lifted the man onto his own donkey and took him to an inn.

Samaritan: (to the innkeeper) Please take care of him. Here is some money to pay for his stay. If it costs more, I'll pay the rest when I come back.

Narrator: Jesus finished His story and asked the man a question.

Jesus: Which of the three people was a neighbor to the man who was hurt?

Lawyer: The one who helped him.

Jesus: That's right! Go and do the same.

Narrator: This story reminds us to always do good, no matter who needs our help. It doesn't matter if they're like us or different from us—God wants us to be kind to

everyone. When we do good, we follow God's will and make Him happy. Let's help others with joyful hearts, just like the Good Samaritan did!

All Together: Let's remember: **"It's time to do good!"**

Thank the "actors" and allow them time to go back to their seats. Adding a musical element here could smooth the transition.

Continue the divine service by "dissecting" the story to cover the summary points. Ask the following questions and allow children or adults to share their answers. Be sure to bring out all of the points in italics.

- **When did the Samaritan man do good?** *when he saw someone hurt, it did not matter that the man was Jewish (Jews did not treat Samaritans well), no matter our circumstance we should always respond by doing good*
- **Why did the Samaritan man do good?:** *because doing good for our neighbor, is pleasing to God and makes Him happy*
- **How did the Samaritan man know what good thing to do?** *God gave us His commandments which tell us what good things we should do, this man did the commandment of LOVE, "love your neighbor as yourself"*
- **How did the Samaritan man do good?:** *he helped the man in a very kind, gentle, loving, and patient way, he took his time, used his best oil, paid for his lodging, he wasn't stingy or quick to leave the man*

Use the scenarios below to discuss being "***a modern good Samaritan***" and how this applies to our life today:

Modern Good Samaritan Scenarios - read the scenarios and allow the children to share what they would do:

1. Helping a "not so nice" classmate in need

- You notice a classmate, who normally is not very nice to you, trip and drop their books in the hallway. **What do you do?**
- Even though you're not close friends, you should stop, help pick up the books, and make sure the classmate is okay. This shows self-control and goodness because this person hasn't been nice to you in the past, and you might have been tempted to act another way.

2. Standing Up for Someone

- On the playground, you see a group of kids teasing a new student who doesn't speak much English and dresses oddly. **What do you do?**
- You step in, tell the group to stop, and invite the new student to play, showing kindness and courage because you might have been encouraged to join in the teasing.

3. Being a Friend to someone Alone

- At lunch, you see someone sitting alone without any friends. **What do you do?**
- You sit with the student so he/she is not alone. This shows goodness and care because you know everyone needs a friend and you give up time with your friends at lunch, to be a friend to someone else.

4. Helping a Neighbor with Joy

- You notice an elderly neighbor struggling to carry groceries while you're on your way to play video games at your friend's house. **What do you do?**
- You offer to help carry the bags, and walk with the neighbor to their door, smiling and chatting along the way. This shows patience because it delays you in getting to play video games especially because the elderly neighbor moves slower and likes to chat but you take the time to help.

Summary:

God has granted us another year to prepare ourselves for the return of Christ. Let's use the time to do good. No matter our circumstances, we should do good, doing good is what God wants from us, and when we do good, we should do it with a happy heart.

Teaching Tips:

- As children grow, they move from being told what to do to making their own choices. Younger children may need guidance on what is good, while older children may do good things but not always for the right reasons. This service encourages children to do good not just because they are told, but with the right attitude and for the right reasons—out of love for God and others.
- Allow children to turn and talk to someone next to them when answering the questions from the **Modern Good Samaritan** activity. This allows them time to process the information and practice what they want to say.
- If possible, pair younger and older children together so they can turn and talk together.

Supplemental Activity Idea for After the Divine Service:

Intergenerational Matching Game

Purpose:

This fun activity helps everyone—kids and adults—learn that God wants us to follow His commandments with love and joy in our hearts. It connects the Ten Commandments with the Fruit of the Spirit, showing how following God’s rules with a happy heart helps us to do good. This activity could be done during a lunch fellowship following the Children’s Service.

What You’ll Need:

- Ten Commandments Chart: One for each table (attached)
- Index Cards: 9 per table, each with one Fruit of the Spirit written on it (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control)
- Markers

How to Set Up:

1. Place a Ten Commandments Chart at each table.
2. Write each Fruit of the Spirit on individual index cards. Make a set for every table.
3. Put 1 or 2 cards at each seat (depending on the number of people at the table).
4. Assign months of the year to each table (e.g., January birthdays at one table, February at another) so people of all ages sit together.

How to Play:

1. Introduction (5 Minutes):

- **Explain:** The Ten Commandments are God’s loving rules to help us live good lives. The Fruit of the Spirit are the good qualities we grow when we follow God’s guidance with a joyful heart.
- **Ask:** “What happens when we follow God’s rules with joy and love?”
- **Encourage answers, then share:** “That’s right! We grow closer to God, and He loves when we do good with a happy heart.”

2. Game Time (15-20 Minutes):

- **Step 1:** Each table takes turns reading one of the Ten Commandments from the chart.
- **Step 2:** The table discusses: Which Fruit of the Spirit could grow when we follow this commandment?
- **Step 3:** Participants check the Fruit of the Spirit card at their seat. If it matches the commandment, they share their answer and explain why.

- **Examples to Share:**
 - "Honor your father and mother" → Love, patience
 - "Do not steal" → Goodness, self-control
 - "Do not lie" → Faithfulness, gentleness

2. Wrap-Up:

- Each table shares one commandment and the Fruit of the Spirit they matched with it.
- Remind everyone that answers may vary, and all thoughtful answers are great!

3. Close the Activity:

- Invite everyone to say the 2025 motto together:
"It's time to do good!"

This activity brings generations together to learn, share, and grow in understanding God's love and His desire for us to do good.