



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.



Bi-Annual Divine Service Guide for Children's Service

God's Love Reaches Everyone

[PPT Slides](#)

Guiding Bible Verse:

"I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here I am, here I am,' to a nation that was not called by My name."

—Isaiah 65:1

Message: (based on the June, 2025, DSG) **"Here I Am!" – God's Love Reaches Everyone**

Minister's Background Notes:

Key Point:

This verse expresses God's boundless grace and love, even for those who have not pursued Him. It highlights that God's initiative is not dependent on human effort. He reaches out, calls, and makes Himself known, even to those who were not originally seeking Him.

Application for Children:

Children should understand that **God's love is unconditional**, always present, and offered freely to all people, whether or not they recognize or respond to it immediately. They are also invited to reflect that love in their own lives, which supports our 2025 motto **"It's Time to Good"**.

Supporting Bible Story: Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1–10)

Bible Story Key Points:

- Jesus intentionally seeks out the outsider (Zacchaeus was unpopular and considered a sinner).
- Zacchaeus did not expect Jesus to come to his house, but Jesus took the initiative.
- The encounter with Jesus leads Zacchaeus to transformation, he chooses to do good and make things right.

Application for Children:

Children can learn that **Jesus sees and loves everyone**, even those others may overlook. They can follow Jesus' example by reaching out in kindness to classmates, siblings, or anyone who feels left out.

Summary points for the divine service:

- **God's love is constant and available to all.** He loves those who seek Him, and those who don't yet know Him.
 - **No one is forgotten by God and wants all humans to be saved.** God's call, "Here I am!" goes out to everyone, everywhere.
 - **We are invited to reflect God's love.** Encourage children to be kind, inclusive, and willing to help or befriend those who might be left out.
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Children's Service Outline:

"Here I Am!" – God's Love Reaches Everyone

Guiding Bible Verse:

"I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here I am, here I am,' to a nation that was not called by My name."

—Isaiah 65:1

Opening Activity: Light Show & Tell

Object Lesson - this activity should be done in front of the altar by a teacher / leader or young adult volunteer

Materials: Flashlight

Ask: "What happens if you turn your back to a flashlight?"

(Turn off the lights and shine the flashlight at a wall. Let a child stand with their back to it.)

Say: "Even if this person doesn't look at the light, it's still shining on them. That's how God's love works. Even when someone isn't thinking about Him, **He still says, 'Here I am!'**"

Teaching Time:

1. Bible Story – Zacchaeus the Tax Collector (Luke 19:1–10)

Tell the story:

“There was a man named **Zacchaeus**. He was a tax collector, and most people didn’t like him. They thought he was greedy and dishonest. Zacchaeus wasn’t very tall, so when Jesus came to town, he had to climb a tree just to see Him.

When Jesus walked by, He didn’t ignore Zacchaeus. He looked up at him and said, ‘**Zacchaeus, come down! I’m coming to your house today!**’

Everyone was surprised. ‘Why is Jesus going to that guy’s house?’ they asked. But Jesus saw something in Zacchaeus that no one else did. And guess what? Zacchaeus changed! He decided to give back what he had taken and be kind to others. That’s the power of God’s love. Even when we’re far from Him, He says, ‘**Here I am!**’”

Ask:

- “How do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus noticed him?”
 - “Why do you think Jesus chose to spend time with someone others didn’t like?”
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2. God is Like a Good Father

“God is like a parent who loves all His children—even the ones who don’t talk to Him very much. He still watches over them and cares for them, just like He cared for Zacchaeus, who didn’t expect Jesus to love him.”

Ask:

- How do you think it feels to know that God loves and watches over you, even when you forget to pray or talk to Him?
 - Can you think of someone you know who might feel left out or forgotten, and what could you do to show them love like God does?
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3. Let’s Love Like God Does!

“If God reaches out to everyone—even people we might forget—then we can too! We can be kind, patient, and forgiving. We can include others, like Jesus included Zacchaeus.”

Ask:

- “Can you think of someone who might need a friend this week?”
- “What can you do to show God’s love to them?”

Transition: Now we’re going to do an activity that shows how we are all connected by God’s love! Here’s what you’ll need to do: if the ball of yarn comes to you, hold onto a part of the string, toss the ball to someone in the congregation and say “God loves you too! I can show love to you by...and name a kind action, like holding a door, helping someone with their coat, sending a friendly text message.

Interactive Activity - This activity can be done with the entire congregation

Materials: a large ball of yarn, 1-2 teacher/leader or young adult volunteers

- The teacher/leader holds the yarn ball and says:
“God’s love reaches out to everyone.”
 - The teacher tosses the yarn ball (holding onto the end of the string) to a child in the congregation and says something like:
“God loves you, and I can show love to you by...(name a kind action, like sitting with you in church, playing your favorite game, sharing a snack, etc.)”
 - The child who catches it holds onto part of the string and then chooses another child to toss it to, saying:
“God loves you too. I can show love to you by...” (They can name a kind action, like “being a good friend” or “helping you if you're sad.”)
 - Repeat this process, creating a **visible web of yarn** across the congregation.
 - Try to connect as many members as possible and then say:
“Look at this web! It shows how God’s love spreads and connects us all. It reaches people close to us and even those we don’t know well yet.”
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Wrap-Up Message:

"Just like this yarn connected all of us, God’s love reaches everyone. He wants us to carry that love to others—to friends, classmates, even people who might feel forgotten or alone. Let’s remember to be the ones who say, **‘Here I am!’** to show love."

Closing Challenge: “Shine God’s Love”

Give each child the attached sheet (on the following page) with the words:

“Shine God’s love this week by...!”

Encourage children to take it home and to write down **one kind thing they can do** for someone who might feel forgotten, just like Jesus reached out to Zacchaeus. Encourage children to do the one kind thing and then to share their experiences with each other next week.

Teaching Tips:

- Use simple language and vivid illustrations.
 - Ask open-ended questions to allow participation and draw connections to their everyday lives.
 - Keep the pace moving, younger kids have short attention spans.
 - Encourage children to engage in the take home activity and be sure to follow-up personally or invite adult members, teachers/leaders, or young adults in the congregation to ask children the following week about their experiences.
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Worship Song Suggestions:

- “Jesus Loves Me” - hymnal 380
- “Shine, Jesus, Shine” - hymnal 302
- “Brighten Every Corner” - hymnal 122
- “Christ Living in Me” - hymnal 77



Shine God's love this week by...
