

# Children and the Local Church scale

Nothing  
to see  
here

**No children's  
work**

- ⦿ May or may not be a desire to do anything

**Children might  
not be seen as  
part of church life**

1

Seen but  
not heard

**Children present**

- ⦿ Nothing specifically for children
- ⦿ Expectation that children sit quietly through the church service

**Children seen as  
needing distraction**

2

Let me  
entertain  
you

**Children entertained**

- ⦿ Some provision for children so that adults can grow spiritually
- ⦿ Little to no Jesus content for the children

**Children might be  
seen as too young to  
be disciples**

3

It's all  
about  
church

**Children learning  
about Jesus is focused  
on the gathered  
setting**

- ⦿ The church disciples children for the parents
- ⦿ A children's programme that may be excellent but is solely focused on the event

**Children seen as  
learners**

4

Let's  
do this  
together

**Children learn about Jesus  
at home and as the church  
gathers**

- ⦿ Parents and carers are equipped to disciple at home
- ⦿ A children's programme that intentionally helps discipleship in the home flourish, acting as a springboard into the week
- ⦿ The programming is church-centric but the church disciples children with the parents and carers

**Children seen as disciples  
who learn holistically**

5

Helping  
them  
thrive

**Children thriving as the  
whole church recognises the  
importance of them**

- ⦿ Parents are seen as the lead disciplers of children and the church is the support. Parents and carers are equipped to disciple at home and are actively doing it
- ⦿ A church programme that celebrates children and invites them to participate regularly in various aspects of church life
- ⦿ The church culture encourages inter-generational discipleship of children
- ⦿ The whole church supports parents and families

**Children seen as an integral  
part of church life**

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