

# Encouraging Children and Youth in Church

*Psalm 144:1-15*

**Main idea:** To inspire children and youth to actively participate in church activities and to guide parents and church leaders in nurturing their faith journey.

**Topic:** Be Happy about the Church

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Scripture Verses to Support Encouraging Children and Youth:

1. Proverbs 22:6 - "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

- This verse emphasizes the importance of guiding children in the right path, which can be applied to encouraging them in their faith journey.

2. Matthew 19:14 - "But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'"

- This verse highlights Jesus' love and acceptance of children, emphasizing their significance in the kingdom of God.

3. Ephesians 6:4 - "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

- This verse speaks to the responsibility of parents and leaders in nurturing children in the ways of the Lord.

Language Suggestions and Cross-References:

1. In Psalm 144:1-15, the phrase "my rock" (verse 1) can be further explained by referencing other passages that describe God as a rock or fortress, such as Psalm 18:2 and Psalm 62:2.
2. The word "shield" (verse 2) can be explored by examining its significance in other biblical contexts, such as Genesis 15:1 and Proverbs 30:5.
3. The term "strange children" (verse 7) can be connected to the concept of being set apart for God's purposes, as seen in Exodus 19:5-6 and 1 Peter 2:9.

#### Practical Suggestions:

1. Provide practical examples of how children and youth can actively participate in church activities, such as volunteering in community outreach programs or joining youth groups.
2. Share stories or testimonies of young individuals who have found joy and fulfillment in their involvement with the church.
3. Offer suggestions for parents and church leaders on how to create an inclusive and engaging environment for children and youth, such as organizing age-appropriate worship services or implementing interactive teaching methods.

Remember to weave these additional ideas and references seamlessly into your sermon, reinforcing the main point of encouraging children and youth to be happy about the church.