

Worship as Response

What are worship stations?

Worship response stations give kids the opportunity to worship God corporately and individually. In addition to stimulating godly worship and praise, response stations also spiritually affirm who the kids are in Christ, further developing their awareness that they too are a part of God's story.

How do I lead into a time of worship as response?

- After the teaching portion of your time together, let the children know there will be a *pause* (5-10 min. for elementary students, 3-5 min for preschoolers). This is an intentional time for the children to respond to the truth about God's Word.
- Instruct the children to take a few minutes to *pause* and consider what God might be saying to them. Give them permission to visit the response stations that you have prepared ahead of time.
- One church reports great success by choosing a particular worship song (about 4-5 min.) as the signal that it is response time.
- Try to create an atmosphere without expectations (other than respect) and you may be amazed by what God does with and through the children that you serve.

How do I create a response station?

There are endless designs for creating spaces that encourage and support spiritual formation and response. Here are two easy examples you can adjust to fit your ministry context.

Prayer Wall

The prayer wall physically represents the prayers of the faith community.

- Kids and parents write or draw prayer requests on sticky notes or small squares of colored paper and secure them to a corkboard, magnet board, whiteboard, or other memo board.
- Another option: Using a simple frame, small nails, and string, create a web effect (see photo below) and have kids tie strips of cloth or pieces of ribbon to the web to represent their prayers. Use colors of fabric or ribbons to correspond to different types of prayers— for example, prayers for your church, prayers for your city, etc.



Journaling

A journaling station is a dedicated space where children can express their thoughts and prayers by drawing or writing in journals or notebooks.

A few tips:

- Try not to over-complicate things. The primary goal is giving kids a space to reflect and respond.
- Provide a variety of age-appropriate pens and pencils (markers, etc.) to give kids the opportunity to be creative with their journaling.
- Pillows and appropriate lighting can be helpful as kids take some time to reflect.
- Composition books work well for this station and are readily available.