

Going to Church in Africa

Being in church is an act of worship to God!

It is a privilege to worship God with our African brothers and sisters!

When preparing for going to church in Africa with your children, here are some things you or they can do:

- Get a good start the night before by preparing for church and getting a good night's sleep. Pray together, lay out clothes and what you need to take with you.
- Sit near the front of the church. It's easier to stay involved in the service up front.
- Get to know the pastor and the elders who will be up front. It's more fun to listen to them when you know them.
- Learn the Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed or any other words that are said or sung every Sunday, so that you can participate.
- Greet the people sitting around you. In some churches, you sit and say a prayer to yourself before turning to the people near you or joining in the service. Look around and try to see if this is the case in your church.
- Take your Bible and try to find the scripture references that the pastor covers.
- If the service is in another language, try to listen for a certain word. Mark on a piece of paper every time you hear that word.
- Play an eye spy game of words you know in the song book.
- Try memorizing a scripture in whichever language you are learning.
- Keep a list of all the interesting things people bring for the offering instead of money.
- Draw a picture of the Bible passage from the sermon.
- Take language flash cards and quietly go through them.
- Memorize the words to a chorus that is commonly sung in worship.
- Prepare a song or testimony for the service. The church will love to hear you, even if you don't feel you are particularly good!
- Make a list of people to pray for during the prayer time if the prayer will be in a language you don't understand.
- Some services in Africa end with the Grace. Learn the words so you can join in.
- Be sure you go to Sunday School and make friends with the African children.

Have a good attitude and it won't seem so long!