

# Why should your child attend church?

**10 To broaden your child's worldview.** Because we support international teachers, missionaries and workers as well as promote humanitarian efforts, your child will regularly gain exposure to the geography, cultures, customs and needs of children and families around the world. We routinely welcome guest speakers and we welcome all people regardless of ethnicity, social status or economic background.

**9 To interact with mixed-age groups.** Unlike a school or child-care setting, where adults typically assume authoritative roles, at church, children interact and join together with teens and adults of all ages as equal learners and participants. Coaching and natural mentoring take place each week as younger and older share together. We take great effort to ensure that our church is a safe place for everyone.

**8 To develop your child's talents and gifts.** We believe God uniquely gifts each person with talents and abilities. As each individual adds his or her strengths, we grow together as a church family. Through the years children have contributed through puppetry, singing, handbells, drama, recitations, art and many other avenues.

**7 To instill moral values.** We teach children moral values such as love, honesty, kindness and respect. We honor the Ten Commandments—the moral foundation for many of our nation's laws and social policies.

**6 To engage in service opportunities.** Because our core values—the teachings of Jesus—place high worth on children and in caring for those in need, we involve children in service to others. Whether its filling a shoebox with gifts for a child on the other side of the world, or cleaning a neighbor's backyard, we challenge children to give, to care and to go beyond the "me" zone.

**5 To gain biblical knowledge.** Yes, we teach from the Bible. We believe it is God's Word and we entrust it as our rule book for life. But we also teach children about the Bible from a literary and historical perspective. A general knowledge of the best-selling book of all times is a proven educational plus.

**4 To receive religious instruction.** We teach children the basic tenets of the Christian faith and the reasoning behind them. Children not only learn prayers, but also how to pray, speaking to God in their own words. Medical, psychological and sociological analysts continue to study the positive effects of these kinds of prayers. Our pastor regularly shares a children's sermon, highlighting his message through an age-appropriate and often sensory-related presentation.

**3 To help your child find true self-worth and value.** Every child is special in the eyes of the Creator. We believe and teach that value as a person is not based on what we do, but rather in who we are. We find our worth in realiz-

ing that every aspect of our goodness comes from God—not in following a list of rules or in meeting the expectations of others. Worth is found not in outward appearance but through inward life change.

**2 To assist you as a parent.** We know parenting can be tough. Most of us are parents ourselves. And we want to enrich and support you in this role. One of the first Bible verses a child in our church learns is "Children, obey your parents..." You are by God's design, the single greatest influence in the molding and shaping of your child's personality, habits, strengths and weaknesses. We're here to help you anyway we can—through prayer, one-on-one mentoring, intervention, or simply through connection, friendship and/or a listening ear. We care about you and your family. We extend a special welcome for you to attend church along with your child.

**1 To experience love and acceptance.** God loves you. He loves your child. That's the heart of the gospel, the message we seek to communicate and the very reason our church exists. We want everyone to know and experience this love. We understand that our own wrongdoing created a wall or gulf of separation between us and our loving Creator. Yet, because God so loved the world, He sent His only son, Jesus to be born into this world, to bridge the gap and remove the wall through his death, burial and resurrection. Anyone who willingly believes this can experience forgiveness and know a life of love and acceptance and the promise of a life forever with our loving God.

# Connect 2011

@Johnston City First Free Will Baptist Church



*healthy and growing  
and full of love*

## Connect With Us

First Free Will Baptist Church  
Corner of Broadway & Monroe  
(PO Box 55)  
Johnston City, IL 62951  
618-983-5254

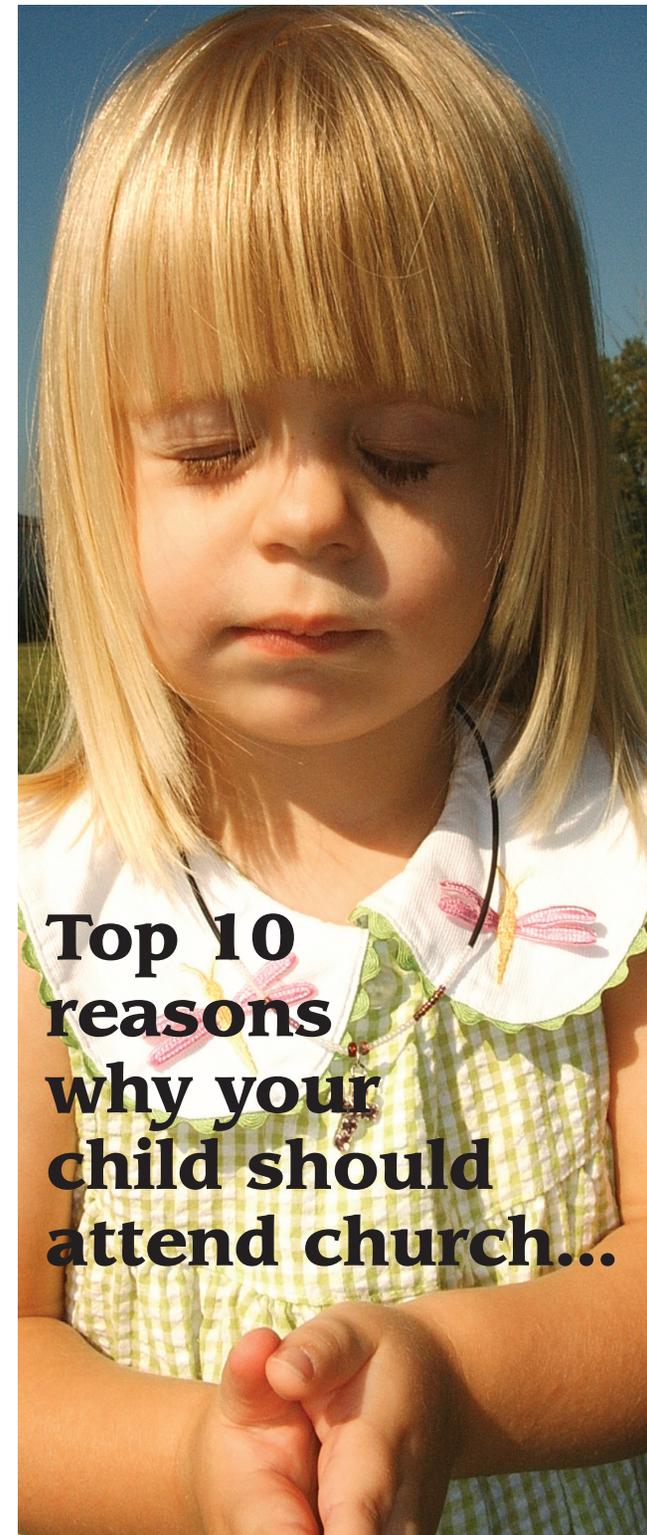
Keith Fletcher, pastor  
pastor@jc1fwb.com  
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First Free Will Baptist Church of Johnston City

## Opportunities

- Sunday School (classes for all ages)—9:30 am
- Morning Worship (includes Children's & Junior Church)—10:30 am
- Sunday Night Family Worship—6:00 pm
- Wednesday Night Bible Studies (includes groups for children, teens, women & men)—7:00 pm

Van transportation available  
Sunday mornings & Wednesday  
evenings.  
Call 983-5254.

First Free Will Baptist Church  
P. O. Box 55  
Johnston City, IL 62951



**Top 10  
reasons  
why your  
child should  
attend church...**