



PATHWAYS TO

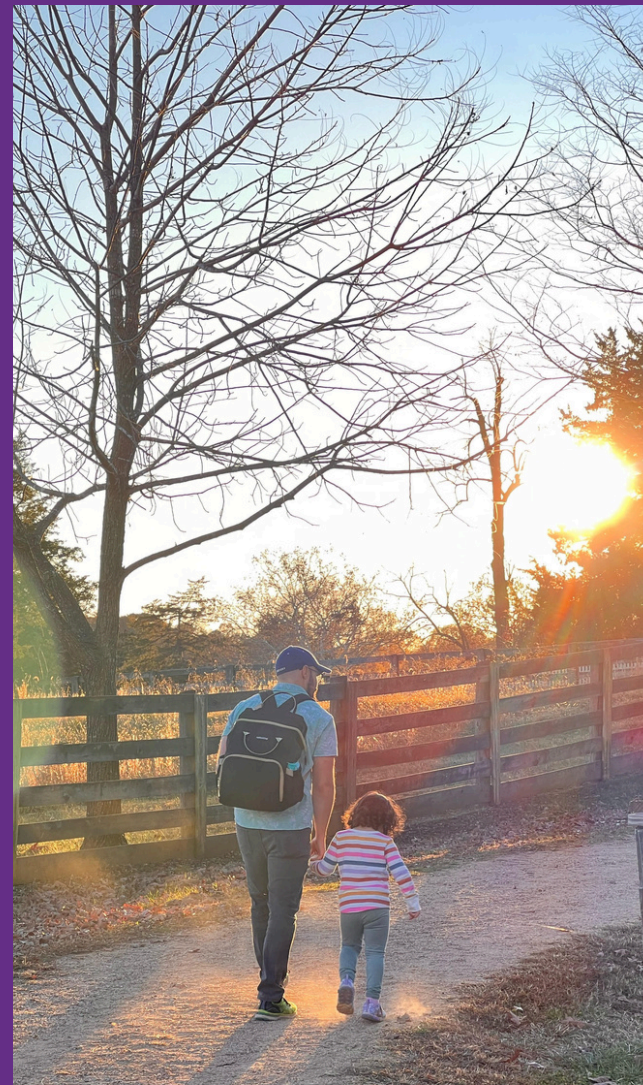
Prayer & Practice

Engaging Children in Worship

231st Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia








MEET THE GRANT DIRECTOR





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What?

- Diocesan initiative **to nurture children's faith through worship** and equip families for at-home practice
- Five focus areas     
- Cohorts: Preparation → Innovation → Sustainability
- Support: coaching, mini-grants, peer network

Why?

- Love Jesus. Embody Justice. Be Disciples.
- Welcome children into the heart of worship, equip parents at home
- Learn together across the diocese
- Sustainable, context-specific practices



Would you rather...



Once a month, kids fully lead the Scripture part of worship.

OR

Every week, kids take one small role (question, response, or verse).



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Would you rather...



Invite a brief, open mic time for children to offer prayers.

OR

Only pre-approved prayers from kids are read aloud.



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Would you rather...



Children carry the bread and wine and help set the table; a child rings one chime at the fraction.

OR

Children gather closely around the altar during the Prayer so they can see, hear, and participate more closely.



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Would you rather...



Let children rewrite one hymn stanza in their own words once a month.

OR

Keep hymn texts as written and help kids learn the meaning.



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Would you rather...



Remove one pew row permanently to make a children's circle near the altar.

OR

Keep the layout and roll out a mobile worship rug every Sunday.



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Pathways Conversations: Love Jesus.

Connect

What's a moment when a child helped you notice Jesus in worship?

Reflect

In your parish, where do children most clearly meet Jesus now (word, prayer, table, people)? What makes that moment work?

Commit

In your community, what habit, assumption, or structure most hinders children's love for Jesus? Name one small, do-able change to start undoing it.



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Pathways Conversations: Embody justice.

Connect

Tell a time you felt deeply welcomed at church as a kid, or saw a child welcomed well. What made it feel that way beyond being 'nice'?

Reflect

In your parish, where do children feel most included and least included on Sundays (space, words, roles, schedule, access, culture)? What patterns do you notice?

Commit

What's one specific change you will pursue to widen belonging for children in your parish, and who do you need to invite (or share power with) to make it happen? (Name a first step you can take in the next 30 days.)



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Pathways Conversations: Be disciples.

Connect

What church habit from your childhood still shapes your faith today?

Reflect

Where do children in your parish practice discipleship now? How are parents currently equipped (or not) to continue these practices at home each week?

Commit

What one simple practice will you help families try for 30 days? What sign will tell you it's working?



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Join Pathways to Prayer and Practice

- Your next step (today):
 - Scan the QR → Sign up for updates
- If ready:
 - Encourage your parish to apply for cohort one
- If not yet ready:
 - Pilot one practice within 30 days and tell us what happens
- Questions?
 - thenderson@episcopalvirginia.org



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