

# Making Sacred Space

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*One Giant Leap* – Visit me at the Kidology Table



Preparing Kids to be GIANTS for God

## My goals:

#1: **Inspire you** to Make Sacred Space

#2: **Give you useful strategies & tips**

## A. What is Sacred Space?

Definition: Any place and time where God is.  
His presence makes a space Sacred!

Scottie May, a professor of Children's Ministry at Wheaton College and co-author of *Children Matter*

### Moses – Burning Bush

God's presence is what makes a space sacred  
God wants you in that space  
Take off your shoes and stay a while

### Jacob's Dream of the Heavenly Staircase

God wants to meet us even when we are weak  
We will remember the places of our encounters  
His presence is like Oil poured out

### Peter on the Mount of Transfiguration

God is not interested in dead monuments  
Here is my Son – Jesus is the Way to relationship  
Listen to Him

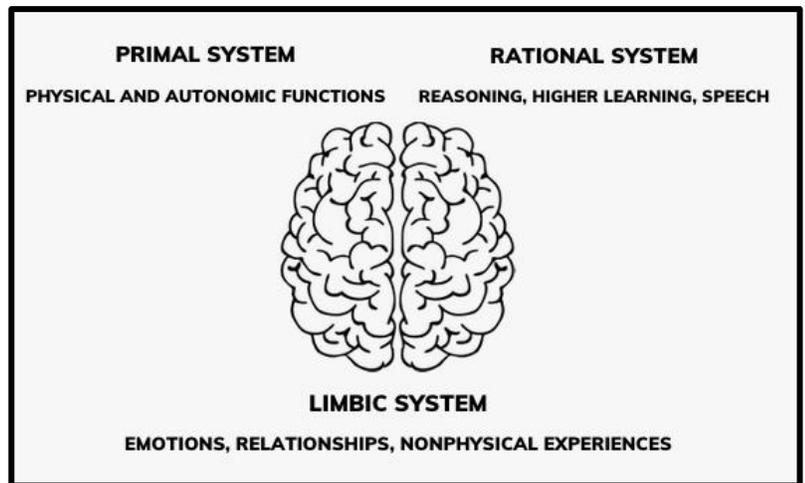
From the smallest to the greatest, they shall know Me. Hebrews 8:11

The people who know their God shall be strong and do exploits. Daniel 11:32

## B. Can Children Experience God

Areas of the brain – Primal  
– Rational  
– Limbic

- Primal is regulated
- Rational can get faster
- Limbic needs slow and quiet



*“The limbic system may well be the seat of the soul or may serve as the neural transmitter to God.” - Rhan Joseph*

*“Falling in love with the Lord Jesus through grace happens through the limbic system, whereas the experience is articulated through the left hemisphere of the neocortex.” - Jerome Berryman*

**Young children can be experiencing God even if they cannot yet articulate it.**

*“Children need to have time and space where they can provide emotional grounding and encourage desire for an ongoing relationship with this “OTHER” that they cannot experience with their rational senses alone.” - Scottie May et al*

*“I’m very concerned that our society is much more interested in information than wonder. In noise, rather than silence. How do we do that in our business - yours and mine? How do we encourage reflection? I trust that this book will do some of that but, oh my, this is a noisy world.” - Fred Rogers*

**Be still and know that I am God.**

**Psalm 46:10**

**In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.**

**Is 30:15**

**In His presence is fullness of joy.**

**Psalm 16:11**

**The joy of the Lord is my strength.**

**Nehemiah 8:10**

## C. Where and How to Cultivate Sacred Space

1. Choose the low energy times

2. Plan the Middle first

3. Choose ELEMENTS that fit best for encounters

a. Worship – Give attention and adoration to the only one who deserves it all

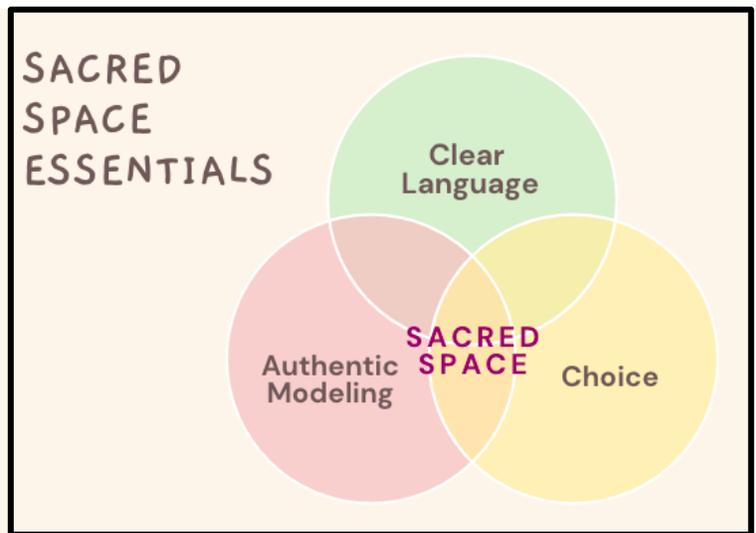
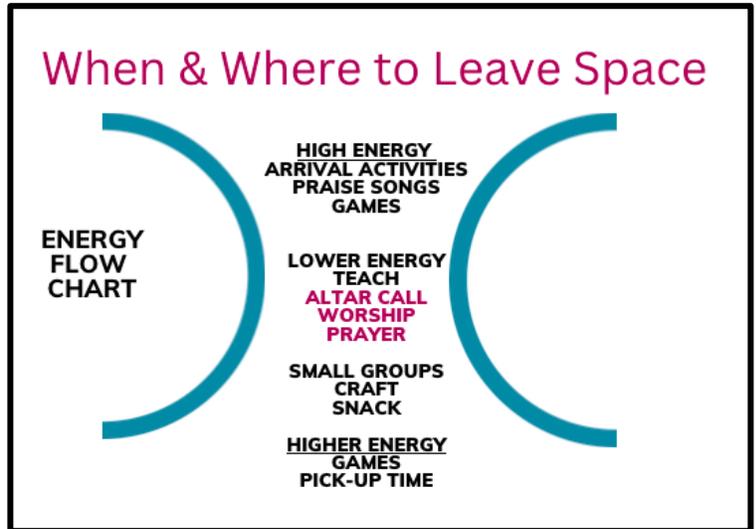
b. Altar Calls & Responses – Invite children to respond to God’s desire to be in close relationship

c. Prayer – Offer children and atmosphere to meet with God – at altar, through writing, or from their seat.

\* Develop a Culture of Choice

\* Use Clear Language

\* Model Authentic Worship & Faith

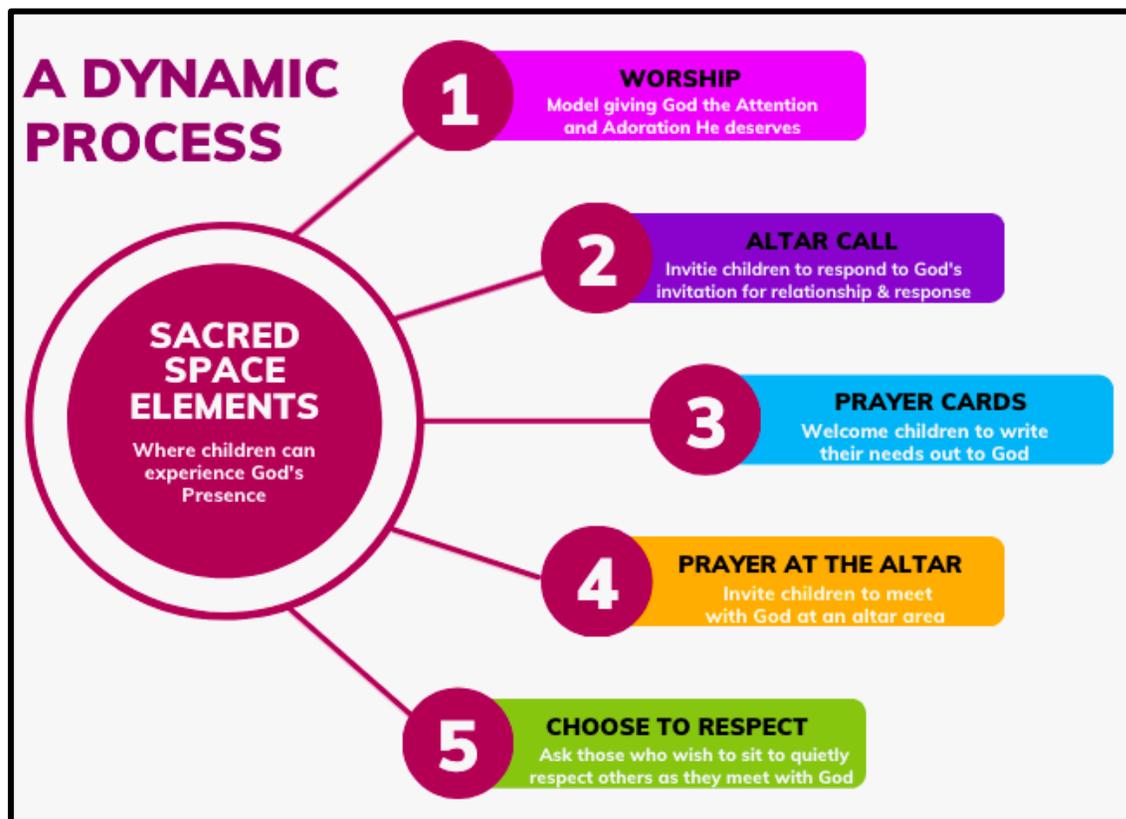


4. Consider using dynamic approach in large group setting

\*. Utilize most number of workers

\* Avoid forcing awkward scenes in smaller group

\* Allows all types of expression & different ages to be a witness to the reluctant



5. Ask the Holy Spirit

\* Listen for the Lord's plan for your kids & regularly pray for God to pour out His presence in your gatherings

\* Be Consistent

\* Stay ready to adapt for your particular setting and kids