

“I Have to Go to the Bathroom!”

Have you witnessed the same things I’ve seen? Determination, desire, focus, strength, exertion of the will over the body, ability beyond their years. No, I’m not talking about the Olympics in Beijing. I’m talking about bladder control. Yes, that’s right, a child’s ability to, uh, “hold it.”

You see, I’ve just returned from a 2-week vacation during which we put about 2000 miles on the ‘ole’ minivan. I’ve spent enough time taking long trips (Disney World, Chicago, South Carolina) in the car the last couple of years, portable DVD player keeping the kids quiet, to recognize a trend when I see one. Time and time again I’ve noticed that if you keep a kid occupied with something he enjoys (like a movie), then he’ll be able to tune out everything from mom’s voice to the call of nature. However, woe to you if there isn’t a rest area within a mile of the place the movie comes to an end.

It’s absolutely amazing to me that kids can ride quietly, distracted by a movie, completely unaware of their body’s need to use the restroom, for nearly 2 hours. But the moment the movie ends, the first words out of her mouth is “I have to go to the bathroom.” And they mean RIGHT NOW!

There’s something to this, though. I wonder why it is that a child is able to sit through a movie with no problems; yet, they can’t make it 30 minutes into a corporate worship service without having to get up. Are they disengaged? Do they not care? Are they not paying attention? Do they hate worship?

There is nothing more important all week long in the life of your family than corporate worship on Sunday. Parents, if your child comes to love Jesus and worshipping him, then that distraction will be enough to keep her mind off of her own bladder.

Parents, you are responsible for this. Prepare them. Make them go between Sunday school and worship. Or, prove to them that they really can hold it; call their bluff. Perhaps going once is one thing, but surely your child doesn’t have to go again! If so, I know a couple of good pediatricians.