

THE BASICS

OUR MINISTRY

OUR WEEKLY PROGRAMS

KidsChurch / SUNDAYS AT 9:00AM AND 10:45AM

During the Sunday morning services, we offer nursery, early childhood, and elementary ministry.

KidsClubs / WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM

On Wednesday nights, we offer a fun and engaging Bible program for kids.

OUR ENVIORNMENTS

There are three kinds of environments for kids in our ministry. Each one is designed to strategically invite kids and families on a journey into deeper relationships with Jesus, their peers, and our volunteers. Each one is designed with every kid in mind — the kids who've grown up in church and the first-time visitors too.

EVENTS: Throughout the year, we'll host several big events designed to help kids connect with each other, with their families, and with their small group leaders. Special events will often be the place where kids or families walk into our ministry for the very first time.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS: Our weekly programs happen every single week. They're designed to help kids grow spiritually in four key areas. (We'll get to those in a minute.)

SMALL GROUP: Small groups are the most important part of what we do in our elementary environments. They happen every week in our programs and are designed to connect every kid with a consistent trustworthy adult and community of their peers.

OUR BIG WIN

It's hard sometimes to know when you're winning in children's ministry, you know? Sometimes we wonder, "Is anything we're teaching actually sinking in? Are kids really growing in their faith?" That's why we decided to go ahead and define the big win for our ministry.

It's the one thing that we, as a ministry team, want to achieve. It's the goal we want to keep in mind at all times. And it's what motivates and guides everything we do. It goes like this . . .

WE WIN WHEN KIDS & FAMILIES
EXPERIENCE THE LOVE OF CHRIST
& THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL
THROUGH **DISCIPLESHIP**.

EXPERIENCE

There's no finish line or certificate of completion when it comes to spiritual growth. Instead, spiritual growth is a journey (a life-long journey) and no two journeys are identical. That's why our big win doesn't have anything to do with a specific skill. Instead, we win anytime we see Christ's love is displayed through the hope of the Gospel when given the opportunity for discipleship.

DISCIPLESHIP

What, exactly, does it look like for a kid to own their faith? Well, we believe there are four things that both lead to, and are a result of, spiritual growth. We call these four things our four discipleship habits.

1. SPEND TIME WITH GOD: This is an obvious one, right? Sometimes it's the only spiritual habit we can name. After all, isn't "growing spiritually" synonymous with "spending time with God"? Well, not exactly, but it's still pretty important. After all, if kids are ever going to make their faith their own, they've got to start spending time with God on their own. It means opening the Bible on their own, having conversations with God on their own, and discovering how they best connect with God through worship on their own.

2. SPEND TIME WITH OTHERS: Engaging in healthy community can, and should, be a spiritual habit we help our kids develop. But "healthy community" doesn't just mean hanging out with Christians. This spiritual habit is about growing in Christ-like relationships with everyone.

3. USE THEIR GIFTS: Kids need to know that God made them unique, and special, and with really specific gifts, talents, passions, and resources. Then they need to use those gifts to love God, love others, and influence the world around them. Because when kids begin to discover who God made them to be and then use their unique identity to love both God and others, they grow.

4. SHARE THEIR STORY: Kids need to learn how to talk about God. Sharing your story is the spiritual habit of making faith a regular, everyday, go-to topic of conversation in our lives. Because when we talk about God and His place in our story (or, more accurately, our place in His story), it helps us believe, helps us understand, and helps us take ownership of our own faith.

We count it as a win whenever a kid or their family experience the love of Christ & the hope of the Gospel through discipleship by practicing one, or maybe even all four, of these discipleship habits.

DISCIPLING KIDS

DISCIPLESHIP IS ABOUT LIVING, NOT JUST LEARNING

Rather than only asking, “What can we teach a kid about God?” we ask, “How can we help a kid live out their faith?” It’s not just about teaching them about Jesus — it’s about modeling what faith in Jesus looks like. That’s why relationships are such a key part of our ministry. Because discipleship isn’t taught in a classroom — it’s modeled in everyday life.

DISCIPLESHIP HAPPENS IN COMMUNITY

In the Gospels, we see that discipleship happens best in a community of people. That’s why we focus so much energy on getting kids plugged into consistent small groups, why we emphasize the role of parents and families, and why we surround kids with tons of Jesus followers. Because discipleship takes all of us!

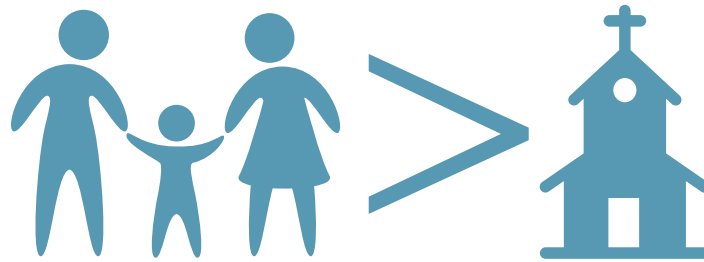
DISCIPLESHIP IS A PROCESS

Discipleship is never really complete because learning to live out our faith is a life-long process. And because we know discipleship takes time, we want to put people in the lives of kids who are in it for the long haul. We are so grateful for so many volunteers who have continued to serve faithfully for years because it is a process.

ENGAGEING WITH PARENTS

As a volunteer, you are making a huge impact in the lives of the kids in our ministry. But do you know who's making an even bigger impact in the lives of those kids? Their parents.

Before we explain any more about what our ministry is all about, we want to make sure one thing is super clear. (We even drew a picture to help you remember it.) We believe that, in every child's life, this is true: the influence of a family is always greater than the influence of a church.



Jim Burns, author of *Partnering with Parents in Youth Ministry*, says it this way: “Long after students stop attending youth groups, they are still connected to their families.”

No matter what, a kid's family (not their church) will always be the biggest influence in their lives. So doesn't it make sense for us to partner with the most powerful, influential people in a kid's life in order to influence their faith?

That's why our ministry is committed to serving, supporting, partnering with, and engaging the parents of the kids in our ministry.

As a volunteer, caring for kids isn't your only responsibility. Engaging with parents is part of your job, too.