

A PARENTS' GUIDE TO THE PRESCHOOL MINISTRY AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



We want to *show* Jesus to kids & families so they *grow* to be like him and *go* to tell others about him.



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A Community Lifting Up Christ by Gathering, Growing and Going.

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Thank you for letting us serve your family by teaching and caring for your children.

FBCUM Children's Ministry Philosophy

We want to **show** Jesus to children and families so they **grow** to be like Him and **go** to tell others about Him.

We believe that this will be accomplished by:

- Teaching children the gospel of Jesus Christ, and...
- Using methods of instruction and interaction that are both excellent and age-appropriate.

We believe that only the gospel can change children, families, neighborhoods, and schools. As we minister the gospel to children, we are participating in our church's larger vision of reaching people with the gospel, building up the church, and releasing the church into the world.

Our desire is to partner with parents who want to raise children who will grow up to love and trust Jesus. According to the Bible, parents have the primary responsibility for teaching our children about God. God's word must be prominent in our conversation and daily life with our kids. Training our children in godliness is not something that we can put off until they're older. In Deuteronomy 6:4-9, we read:

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

The call to training our children is comprehensive. According to Deuteronomy 6, we have the responsibility to teach our children during mealtime, drive time, bedtime, and in the morning. In addition, we have the responsibility as a church to walk alongside you as you train your children. We want to equip you to pray and plan for your children's spiritual growth. We hope that our regular ministry to children serves to reinforce what you are teaching at home, and we also want to provide you with resources.

Beginning September 6, 2015, we will begin a three year journey through the Bible chronologically. All of our DiscipleLIFE classes will be using The Gospel Project material. There are a variety of materials to use at home to reinforce the lesson taught on any given Sunday. The Gospel Project® for Kids immerses children and preschoolers in the gospel through every story, theological concept, and call to mission from Genesis to Revelation. Ultimately, the gospel message changes everything; heart transformation can only take place when a child experiences the gospel. Through The Gospel Project® for Kids, children and preschoolers will understand the Bible is not just a collection of stories, but one unified story—God's story of redemption.

Each week, every child will receive The Big Picture Card for Families.

- The front of the card has the Bible story art that children would have seen during The Gospel Project session that day.
- The card includes the Scripture reference so boys and girls will be able to find that story again in their own Bibles.
- The back of the card has The Big Picture Question and The Big Picture Answer that the children learned that week.
- Also included on the card is the Christ Connection that helps connect that story to Christ.

Parents can use the cards with their kids to help reinforce the weekly sessions Big Picture Question and Answer and Christ Connection as instructed on the cards.

Each week, every child (except babies) will receive an activity page with Bible content, Family activities and Family Discussion starters.

HOW is the preschool child-care system at FBCUM organized?

1. The Preschool Division is led by the Preschool DiscipleLIFE Director and the ChildLIFE Team Leader.
2. The Preschool Division will provide teaching and care for: Babies through Pre-Kindergarten. The age of the child on September 1 at the beginning of the church year will determine the class to which they are assigned.
3. Each Preschool Department is staffed with an appropriate number of Leaders/Teachers.
 - a. There will be at least two Leaders/Teachers in each class.
 - b. Leaders and Teachers are members of First Baptist Church.
 - c. Leaders and Teachers will be at least 18 years of age (or 15 years of age serving with an adult).
 - d. Leaders and Teachers will be vetted with a background check.
 - e. Leaders and Teachers have been trained in security/emergency procedures.
4. Childcare is provided every Sunday at 9:00 am during DiscipleLIFE (Sunday School), 10:30 am ChildLIFE (Worship), and at 6:30 pm Wednesday nights (Babies through Two-year old) Threes and Pre-K will participate in Awana Cubbies

WHEN may you drop off your child in the Preschool Division?

Classrooms will open 15 minutes prior to regularly scheduled church activities.

1. If your child is preschool age (no older than four-years old on Sept. 1 at the beginning of the church year) or younger, AND
2. If you, as parent or responsible adult guardian, are attending a church service or church-sponsored activity, AND
3. A qualified preschool worker is present in the appropriate department, AND
4. Your child has displayed no signs of illness within the past 24 hours such as a fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea. (NOTE: Any child showing additional signs of usual childhood diseases, common colds (with yellow/green discharge and productive cough), unexplained rashes, skin infections, pink eye and/or other infections should be cared for at home.) If your child shows such signs of illness while in the care of the preschool division, you will be notified and asked to take your child with you.

WHAT is the process for dropping off your child in the Preschool Division?

1. You as parent or responsible adult guardian of the child, must bring your child to the preschool division pick up/drop-off area.
2. A preschool division representative will greet you, provide you and your child a security wristband. Both wristbands have a corresponding number. In the event that you are needed in the preschool during DiscipleLIFE, we will come to your class. During Worship, the number on the wristband will be displayed on the electronic sign in the Worship center. Be very careful not to misplace the badge for it will provide secure and efficient pickup of your child when you return.
3. You will be asked to complete a registration form when dropping off your child for the first time or if there are changes to the information originally submitted on the form.
4. A child with separation issues can be troubling to a parent. Most of our teachers are parents and therefore have a lot of experience with children. More often than not, children with separation issues will cry for a few minutes when dropped off in a new setting. Once they realize that they are safe and feel loved they usually calm down.

WHAT about picking up your child from the Preschool Division?

1. Please report to the preschool division to pick up your child immediately following the conclusion of the service or event in which you are participating.
2. At the division pick-up/drop-off area, please show your wristband to the preschool division representative at the door. The representative will promptly retrieve your child and his/her belongings. (Note: PLEASE BE AWARE that for the safety and security of your child, the preschool representative IS NOT PERMITTED to release your child to anyone without the appropriate wristband.)

HOW and WHEN will your child transfer from one department to another within the Preschool Division?

1. Initial department and class assignment will be based on the age of the child as of September 1 of the current church year.
2. Babies will transfer to the one-year old department as they mature and develop in their ability to adjust to the older group.
3. All other preschoolers (twos, threes, and fours) will transfer to the next higher department each September when they meet the age requirement.

HOW can you assist the Preschool Division?

1. Parents are requested to use only disposable diapers while at church gatherings. Please bring an adequate supply of disposable diapers and wipes as well as an extra change of clothes for all infants and toddlers.
2. Please bring only plastic bottles or cups for milk, juice, or water. Parents should label all items (such as bottles, cups, diaper bags, wipe containers, clothing, pacifiers, etc.) with their child's first and last name.
3. Parents should notify coordinators and teachers of any allergy or special circumstances their child may have.
4. Parents are encouraged to keep immunizations up-to-date.

WHAT can you expect of the Preschool Division?

1. You can expect a cheerful greeting from our staff upon your arrival.
2. You can expect a light snack to be served to your child at the beginning of the Worship time. Snack of the day will be posted outside the Preschool entrance door. If you wish to provide a snack for your child, we will be happy to serve that in place of our snack for the day.
3. You can expect a clean and sanitary, fully furnished, quality child-care facility for your child.
4. You can expect quality, Christ-centered child-care and teaching from our enthusiastic staff.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact one of our preschool directors.