

WHAT DO WE WANT FOR OUR CHILDREN?

Our efforts are rooted in a deep-seated passion to see our children delight in God, cling to Jesus, and join Jesus on his mission in the world.

Delight in God

Our church is built on the firm belief that everything exists for the glory of God. This includes children. Glorifying God, in essence, is living to make much of God and delight in him. God is what is supremely valuable in this universe. We desire our children to delight in God above everything and we strive to help them see all of life as an opportunity to point to the surpassing greatness of God.

Cling to Jesus

Our children most fully and clearly make much of God when their gaze is joyfully focused on Jesus. Apart from Jesus, there is no hope in the world. In Jesus we are forgiven, set free, and brought back into the family of God. We want our children's lives to be saturated with the reality of who Jesus is and what he has done for them and for the world. If our children are going to delight in God, they must cling to Jesus as their only hope and greatest joy.

Join Jesus on His Mission

An essential part of our children making much of God and clinging to Jesus is being an active part of what God is doing in the world. Although he has begun his work of re-creation, the world is still filled with brokenness. Jesus has come to change that, not only by saving souls, but also by ushering in a new creation. Our desire is for our children to leave equipped to share the life-giving truths of the kingdom and to join in the Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20). We seek to plant the seeds of mission so that they increasingly embrace Jesus' work in the world by sharing his love and

spreading his message of salvation to others.

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*Partnering with Parents for the
Faith and Joy of the Next
Generation*



HOW DOES GRACE COVENANT PARTNER WITH PARENTS TO MAKE THIS A REALITY?

Equipping Parents

Through worship services, adult education, small groups, and other resources, our goal is to equip and encourage parents to help their children grow into men and women who cling to Jesus as their only hope.



Worship Service

The worship service is a great opportunity to help children learn to delight in God. Because worshiping in community is such a vital part of a Christian's life, it is our desire to help children learn to delight in these times. Because each child is different, we welcome children of all ages to participate in our worship services up to the time of the message, or throughout the whole service—whichever parents determine is most beneficial. Children's worship bulletins and worship bags (stocked with a Bible, crayons, and coloring page) are available in the Commons if desired. Our goal is to provide parents with resources to help make this time profitable for their child.

Nursery

Nursery provides a safe environment where infants and toddlers are cared for in a way that shows the deep love of Christ and brings encouragement to their parents. All sign-in tags come with a number. If you need to be reached this number will appear on the projection wall in the front of the Worship Area to page you.

Children's Church

During the offertory children ages 3-5 are invited to Children's Church down the hall from the sanctuary. Children's Church provides an age appropriate, gospel-centered message and activities.

Catechism Club

During the offertory older children grades K-2 are invited to Catechism Club to study the Christian faith through a series of questions and answers. Two non-age-dependent catechism levels both study the children's version of the historic Westminster Catechism. *Beginning Catechism* focuses on the first 46 questions in the children's catechism. All children new to catechism begin in this class. These are foundational questions from which the rest of the catechism flows. Once these are mastered, children move up to the *Advanced Catechism* class.

Education Hour/Sunday School

During the Education Hour children are divided into classes by age. We use *The Gospel Project* curriculum, a chronological teaching plan of the whole Bible that highlights how Christ fits into the entire story: pre-creation to eternity.



Vacation Bible School

Each summer we host a week-long VBS. This week is a great opportunity for children in our church and community to study the truths of Scripture in an encouraging, loving, fun and focused environment. We welcome this opportunity to reach out to our city and share Christ's love in the community where he has placed us. Attendance is usually half Grace Covenant kids and half kids from the wider community.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY / VOLUNTEER TRAINING

We take the safety of our children and volunteers very seriously. Every childcare provider is required to attend a detailed child safety training course and to submit to a criminal background check to serve in children's (or youth) ministry.

