Lifepoint Kidz
2 Timothy 3:16-17
CHILDREN’S MINISTRY HANDBOOK
Lifepoint Kidz Ministry Handbook

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Lifepoint Kidz Children’s Ministry Philosophy

Lifepoint Kidz exists to teach children to glorify God in all things by loving Him and pointing them to belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We desire to see transformation in the next generation and for children to become followers of Jesus.

We believe that children are a gift and reward from God. We also hold to the belief that the primary teacher for children should be their parent’s. We seek to assist and encourage parents to lead the children in their homes; while partnering with them in giving their children a solid foundation to be a witness of God’s glory in their lives.

How do we do this?

- Teach the Gospel of Jesus
- Insightful teaching and interaction that are age appropriate.
- Engaging parents and their children in missions.
- Teaching of foundational skills and truth.

We know that the Gospel not only changes an individual’s life, but also the lives of everyone it touches. We seek to support the greater vision of Lifepoint Church; which is to share message of the Gospel in our community.

How will you assist me as a parent?

If you are a parent who actively seeks after Jesus then you want your children to grow up, love Jesus, and love His church. We realize that you want a church that seeks the same things for your child and we desire for Lifepoint Church to be that Church. Our goal is to assist you in building up your children in Jesus Christ daily. We desire your family to display a real-faith every day.

According to the Bible, parents have the primary responsibility for teaching their children about God.

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”.

God’s Word is clear how families should function on a daily basis. We have the responsibility to train up our children.

Lifepoint Kidz leadership recognizes that we have a responsibility as a church to walk alongside of parents as they train their children in godliness. We want to equip parents to pray and plan for the spiritual development of their kids. We will put great effort into offering as many resources and training as we can for you to be able to do that. And we hope that the ministry that we provide corporately to children serves to reinforce the teaching of our parents.

**What should I be doing at home to train my child spiritually?**

The most important influence in the life of a child is the influence of the home. In the Old Testament, it is quite clear that the father was the pastor of his family. He represented God. He was responsible not only for morals and behavior but for teaching his children.

The home is the front line of ministry to children—not our Sunday corporate worship. All the practices present in a Christian worship service—the Scriptures, prayer, and praise—should be present in the home as well. Teaching children can neither be done in a negative, repressive, or manipulative manner. This violates both the child’s personality and God’s way of salvation. Rather the truths of God should be taught in an atmosphere of love.

**Three Elements to Family Worship**

**Read** - The centerpiece of family worship is the Bible. Read a passage of appropriate length for your family, making any impromptu comments that come to mind. Those with younger children should emphasize the narrative portions of Scripture, and possibly the Proverbs. Eventually, most seem to work up to about a chapter a day, reading consecutively through a particular book of the Bible. We recommend that you ask a few questions to determine comprehension, or just ask the children to repeat what they remember.
**Pray** - Let the words of the passage you read suggest matter for prayer. The husband/father should pray, and perhaps one or all other family members. Most days this will be brief.

**Sing** - Use a hymnal and sing a cappella, or sing along to a recording, or let a family musician lead the way. Sing as little as one verse, or for as long as the family enjoys it.

**Why is the gospel so important? Can’t this wait until my child is older?**

Many children’s ministry curriculums use Bible stories (David and Goliath, Daniel and the Lion’s Den, etc.) to teach moral lessons (Be courageous!). These materials may accurately summarize the facts of the Bible story, but they can draw a lesson from the story that the biblical author did not intend. The tendency is to draw moral lessons (“do this” or “don’t do that”) rather than seeing God’s actions in history to save humanity. We believe that the story of the Bible is the cohesive story of Jesus and His ultimate redemptive work that was completed on the cross. The Bible reveals God’s plan to save humanity from sin through Jesus’ death and resurrection. The Bible is a book about Jesus. The curriculums that are used within Lifepoint Kidz make the character of God and person and work of Jesus central in every story and lesson. We also believe that children, just like adults, need Jesus’ saving love (Romans 3:23; 6:23).

When we teach children about God’s plan to save humanity, it is necessary to teach them their personal need for Jesus Christ. We do not flatter or deceive children by teaching them that their nature is good and only needs to be developed. Rather, we tenderly teach a child about his or her own failures—pointing out the specific sins to which children are prone (lying, disobedience to parents, etc.). Our goal is to teach truth. We pray that the Holy Spirit will use the truth to bring conviction to the child’s heart and conscience, and ultimately to give the gift of faith.

**What do we mean by “Insightful teaching and interaction that are age-appropriate”?**

A child’s basic attitude toward God, his Word, and his church is formed from the attitudes and actions of the adults in their lives during their earliest years.
Lifepoint Kidz seeks to teach children to love God by providing a sound foundation of biblical knowledge through instruction. We hold to the 2 Timothy 3:16-17 which states, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." Our goal is to produce passionate followers of Jesus who will take the knowledge of the Gospel to the world.

The philosophy of education for Lifepoint Kidz is modeled after the knowledge we find packed in these verses. Our desire is for children to understand that the Scriptures and written by God and that through them we will all become equipped for the every good work that is provided through Jesus. We desire for them to be taught in such a way as to reveal Jesus Christ to each child. In Lifepoint Kidz (grades K-5), there is an emphasis on knowing how the major Bible doctrines and stories fit together as one grand story with Christ at its center. Moreover, our kids at this age level are challenged to participate in God’s story by living out their faith in community. Our goal is that they will be prepared to tell the next generation God’s grand story.

1. Our Kindergarten children are also taught to see and memorize basic Bible truths. The curriculum that Lifepoint Kidz employs for ages 5-10 is designed to teach the Bible’s storyline. Our leaders tell Bible stories, play games, and practice the memory verse with the children as well as engage the children in music, skits, puppet shows, and interactive stories.

2. Our Elementary Groups (grades 1-5) emphasize knowing how the major Bible doctrines and stories fit together as one grand story with Christ at its center. Moreover, our kids at this age level are challenged to participate in God’s story by living out their faith in community. Like the Kindergarten lessons, our grade school lessons are composed of two main parts. Large Group Worship is an interactive time. The assembly teachers lead the elementary kids through to interact with video, worship music, drama, and games that introduce the weekly lesson. Small Groups provide the context for kids to make a connection to Christ and community—particularly making a connection to a caring leader and a consistent group of peers. This is the primary context in which the elementary kids study the Bible with their peers.
Policies and Procedures

What do you expect of me as a parent?

You are responsible for making sure your child brings a Bible. We also ask you to provide us with information of your child’s special needs.

General Safety and Security Policies

Ensuring a safe environment is crucial to our mission. We observe the following policies for the safety and security of all children and volunteers.

All Lifepoint Kidz teachers must be members of Lifepoint Church. High school students active in Lifepoint Church’s Student ministry may serve as classroom helpers.

All leaders must have completed a servant application, submitted to a criminal background/reference check, and have been asked to serve by a member of the Lifepoint Kidz leadership team.

Anyone convicted of child abuse or a related offense may not serve with Lifepoint Kidz.

In the event that there are last-minute servants who have not been screened, they will be approved by a staff member and placed with a servant that has a background check on file.

All servants receive training, which covers our philosophy of ministry, policies and procedures, curriculum, and guidelines for effective and age-appropriate teaching. A team of two or more servants staffs all classrooms.

Under no circumstances will a child to be left in the classroom or any ministry unattended. A parent must stay with a child until a teacher arrives.

Lifepoint Kidz has an open policy so that all parents/guardians have access to their children. If you need to check on your child, please ask for assistance at the check-in desk or registration area.
Please feel free to check on your children through the windows and/or classroom doors.

If you want to sit in the classroom to observe, please make your request at the check-in desk.

**Secure Check-In/Check Out Procedure**

Classrooms will open 15 minutes prior to regularly schedule church activities and will close fifteen minutes after the completion of the worship services.

A registration form is completed for all first time guests. The form is used to create an electronic file for your child in Lifepoint Kidz computer check-in system.

All children must report to the check-in station.

Upon check-in you will receive a claim tag that matches the alphanumeric code on your child’s nametag.

In the event you lose your security tag, you will be asked to show your driver’s license. Your child’s safety is our first priority even if it requires extra time.

- Please take your child to the restroom before checking him or her in.
- Please pick up your child promptly after the worship service.

If a child becomes upset and/or remains inconsolable for 15 minutes, parents will be notified. Regular attendance and positive conversations about church will alleviate most separation anxiety problems.

Only parents, legal guardians, or individuals they designate may retrieve a child from the children’s ministry area. Parents must present the appropriate claim tag before their child will be released.

**Sickness Policy**

If your child is sick, please respect others by keeping him or her with you. If your child shows signs of sickness (including, but not limited to, high fever, vomiting,
diarrhea, severe coughing, colored nasal drainage, pink eye, head lice, undiagnosed rash, open skin lesions, and any infectious disease), we reserve the right to ask you to remove him or her from the classroom. We define an infectious disease as any disease that spreads from one person to another person. These may include, but are not limited to, HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis, etc. We believe that God has called us to minister to all people and will, therefore, strive to provide a safe environment that is safe and accepting of everyone. Children who appear, or become, ill at church will be isolated from the other children, and the parent/guardian will be notified immediately.

Parents are asked to contact a member of the Lifepoint Kidz leadership team if their child contracts a communicable disease (such as chicken pox, head lice, etc.) after attending a Lifepoint Kidz gathering.

The medical condition of any child or Lifepoint Kidz servant will be disclosed only to the extent necessary to minimize the health risk to the person and others.

Lifepoint Church’s leadership team, Pastoral staff, and Lifepoint Kidz leadership team will be provided with the appropriate information concerning any special precaution that may be necessary.

Lifepoint Kidz will not disclose the health status of any individual without the express written consent and permission of that individual, or in the case of a child, their parent or guardian. Parents of children involved in Lifepoint Kidz activities will not be privy to any confidential medical information.

The Lifepoint Kidz sickness policy exists for the protection of the children in our care. We regret that this means denying admission to the event.

Restroom Policy

Adult staff volunteers may accompany children to the restroom and stand outside while the child uses the restroom. If children need assistance or supervision while in the restroom, more than one adult must always be present. No adult will ever be alone with a child.
**Discipline Policy**

The effective spiritual formation of all our children requires a stable environment. The role of Lifepoint Kidz is to support and supplement parental training by upholding high standards for behavior, respect and discipline. Some of the expectations we have for your child include:

- Every child participates with a willing heart, eager to learn and obey. The attitude should be respectful to authority.
- The child is to avoid being disruptive or distracting to the mission and purpose of the children’s ministry.
- Disrespect (whether verbally, by gesture, in attitude, or by action) is unacceptable.
- Misbehavior (including, but not limited to, persistent talking, distracting others, not following instructions, directions, or interacting inappropriately with others in the class) is unacceptable.

If your child becomes disruptive or unruly, volunteers are trained to give the child verbal warnings and if necessary place the child in “time out”. If these measures do not resolve the issue parent/parents will be notified.

Since our goal is to assist you in the effective training and instruction of your child, teachers and Children’s Ministry leaders will talk with you about any consistent behavioral problems we are experiencing with your child. Sometimes kids will be kids, and we’re okay with that! But Scripture does teach that proper training and expectations are crucial to raising godly children (Proverbs 22:6). A major goal during all disciplinary situations is to help children see that they have sinned against God and their neighbor and to encourage asking for and extending forgiveness.

No child within Lifepoint Kidz will be subject to: corporal punishment (including, but not limited to, rough handling, ear pulling, shaking, slapping, hitting, and spanking); emotional abuse (including, but not limited to, name calling, shaming, threatening, humiliation, or yelling); or the use of physical restraint (unless restraint is necessary to protect others from harm).
If any servant or staff is guilty of inappropriate action toward a child, he or she may be subject to discipline by the church. Furthermore, he or she may be subject to criminal and/or civil assault charges under the laws of the state of Mississippi.

**Sanitation and Hygiene Policies**

The very nature of childhood behavior can create an environment that has the potential to spread infection. Therefore, our commitment to try and maintain the safest and cleanest atmosphere possible to ensure the health and welfare of all children.

Strict hand washing with soap and water is of utmost importance in preventing the spread of infection. All personnel at Lifepoint Kidz will be instructed on proper hand washing techniques and appropriate times to wash their hands.

**Suspicion of Abuse or Neglect**

In the case of suspected parental abuse, staff and servants will report concerns to the Pastor of Children and Families. It is not the responsibility of the reporting person or the staff to substantiate any allegations or suspicions. Rather, we are responsible as a church to comply with the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and cooperate fully with the Child Protection Services and law enforcement officials in our community. At all times in such a process confidentiality will be upheld.

**Emergency Action Plan**

**First Aid** - Although we strive to maintain the safest environment possible, it is known that the nature of children's activities occasionally leads to accidents. A fully equipped first aid kit is accessible in the children's areas per the discretion of the Lifepoint Kidz leadership team.

It is the policy of Lifepoint Kidz to first notify the child’s parents in the event of a medical incident. In the event that the parents are not immediately available, childcare workers will administer appropriate treatment measures such as applying pressure or a bandage to a bleeding wound. No pharmacological treatment, oral or topical, will be administered.
Life threatening situations will, of course, be handled as emergencies with appropriate treatment measures being immediately instituted. 911 and parents will be notified immediately.

Lifepoint will not be responsible for any “Good Samaritan” assistance offered by any of its members.

**Fire** - In the event of a fire, personnel have been trained to remain calm, count all children in the room and lead the children out of the room in an organized, quick fashion. Children ages 4-12 are evacuated to the North parking lot.

**Power Outage**—Flashlights are readily available in all classrooms.

If a power outage were to occur, children will be entertained and kept secure until their parents arrive.

**Tornadoes, Storms, and Severe Weather**—Children will be calmly escorted to an enclosed part of the building, such as an inside hallway or the lowest section of the building. They will be taught how to sit with their back against the wall, knees tucked under their chins, arms wrapped around the knees, and head bent down. All children will be accounted for, and efforts will be made to calm and entertain the children.

**Earthquakes**—Personnel have been taught to keep children away from heavy hanging objects, tall or heavy furniture, ruptured hot water heaters, gas lines, flammable liquids, and electrical wires. Children will be gathered under a supported doorway or sturdy table and kept calm and secure.
Acknowledgments:

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