



PARENT
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2023-2024



HEY THERE!

We know being a parent is one of the hardest jobs on the planet, but it's also the greatest thing you will ever do.

We know your job isn't always easy, but here's what we want you to know: we're here to help in any way we can. We may be a children's ministry, but that doesn't mean kids are the only people we care about. We care about you too!

No matter how connected (or not connected) you are with our church, this Parent Handbook will show you some of the ways we're trying to care for your kid and serve you at the same time.

Thanks for letting us be another voice in the life of your child. Your trust and partnership means a lot to us.

We can't wait to see what this year has in store!

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CALVARY KIDS DIRECTOR

Carrie Macklem

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A little about me...

For the past three years I have had the honor of being the Calvary Kids director, it has been such a joy to see kids grow in their faith and love of Jesus!

I am married to my husband, Kyle, and we just celebrated our 15th wedding anniversary. I have three girls, Elliott (14), Zoey (12), and Amelia (10).

Before working at Calvary, for 11 years I was a pediatric nurse which prepared me for when God directed my path to children's ministry and stirred up a passion about raising up the next generation to be resilient disciples of Jesus who stand firm in their faith, become lifelong followers of Jesus and how God calls us as parents to LOVE God and TEACH our children to KNOW God, LOVE God, and FOLLOW God.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 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. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

OUR MINSITRY

OUR SUNDAY PROGRAMS

NURSERY | SUNDAYS AT 9:30AM AND 10:45AM

Nursery classes are offered for both hours for children aged 0 - 24months.

PRESCHOOL | SUNDAYS AT 9:30AM AND 10:45AM

Preschool classes are offered for both hours for children aged 2-4years.

ELEMENTARY | SUNDAYS AT 9:30AM AND 10:45AM

First Hour age group classes are offered during the Sunday School hour. Classes will be divided into Kindergarten-2nd, and 3rd - 5th grade)

Second Hour Kids worship is offered for Kindergarten – 5th Grade aged kids (split into 2 age groups. Meeting in Room 303 and 302, dismissed during the worship service.

CLASSROOM LOCATIONS | SUNDAYS at 9:30

Infant Nursery (birth through walking): Infant Nursery
Walker Nursery (walking - 24 months): Walker Nursery
Two Year Olds: Room 206
Three Year Olds: Room 207
Four Year Olds/Young Fives: Preschool Room
Kindergarten – 2nd Grade: Room B-2
3rd Grade - 5th Grade: Room B-5

CLASSROOM LOCATIONS | SUNDAYS at 10:45

Infant Nursery (birth through walking): Infant Nursery
Walker Nursery (walking - 24 months): Walker Nursery
Two Year Olds: Room 206
Three Year Olds: Room 207
Four Year Olds/Young Fives: Preschool Room
Kids Worship (K-2nd) Room 303
Kids Worship (3rd-5th) Room 302

OUR MINISTRY

OUR WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS

NIGHT OVERVIEW: We meet weekly during the school year where kids will experience God's love through a welcoming community, discover who God is and how to follow Jesus by engaging with the Bible personally using the Awana Brite curriculum. Yearly Dues are \$30 per child. We offer 3 different age groups:

- Preschool Kids Club (2 year olds - 4 year olds)
- Lower Elementary Brite Kids Club (Kindergarteners - 2nd Graders)
- Upper Elementary Brite Kids Club (Third Graders - 5th Graders)

FAMILY EVENTS: Additionally throughout the year, we'll host quarterly elementary family events designed to help kids connect with their families, build relationship with friends and learn about God all at the same time!

FAMILY CLUB NIGHTS: Three times throughout the year, the elementary group will have a family club night. This will be a great night where an adult gets to stay dive into God's Word and get a peak and participate at all that goes on during Brite Kids Club.

Belong

Kids will experience God's love through a welcoming community.



Choose from two unique activities, each designed so that every kid feels loved, known, and has a sense of belonging.

Believe

Kids will discover who God is by engaging with the Bible personally.



Choose from two unique activities, each rooted in the Gospel and the truth of God's Word in order that kids may know, love and serve Jesus Christ.

Become

Kids will experience following Jesus by learning to walk in His ways.



Choose from two unique activities, each designed to help kids navigate a changing culture, experience God's presence, and walk in the ways of Jesus.

OUR DISCIPLESHIP WIN

What does a WIN in discipleship look like?

We see all throughout scripture that discipleship is summed up by loving God, learning and living God's Word and loving others. Jesus clearly

Mark 12:30-31

29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Discipleship is all about—helping people learn the gospel story of Scripture, love the Author and Subject of that gospel story, and then live out their part in the ongoing gospel story

We teach kids the gospel story so they can learn about God and His ways



We help kids see that what we know about God leads to love for God



We show kids that our love for God is displayed in how we live for God



**LEARN****LOVE****LIVE**

LEARN: The foundation of discipleship is rightly knowing who God is. You cannot love whom you do not know and you cannot live out what you do not know, so in many ways discipleship has to begin with us targeting the head. We need to help kids understand who God is and His ways. We need to help them engage their minds—to think deeply—about the gospel.

LOVE: God's intention is that the truth of who He is and the beauty of what He has done to restore our broken relationship with Him (the gospel) should stir our affections for Him and others. This is why Jesus pointed to the commands to love God and love others as the two greatest in Scripture. Love is the divinely appointed conduit for us to take what we know and put it into practice. Being moved deeply—filled with gratitude, love, and awe—is the only reasonable response to what we learn. We don't just target the head, then, we also go after the heart

LIVE: Knowing and loving God rightly will result in living rightly. What we believe about God and our love for Him will show in how we live before a watching world. Living on mission is a requirement of all who believe. We want kids (and families) to live differently because of what they have come to learn and who they have come to love.

We count it as a WIN whenever a kid takes a step forward in
LEARNING, LOVING, and LIVING their Faith!

ENGAGE WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

As a parent, you are making a huge impact in your kid's life. The impact you're making is far more significant than any impact we, their church, could ever hope to make. You are the most important voice in your kid's life, both now and for a lifetime.

But in all of our time caring for kids, we've learned something really important. (We drew a picture to help you remember it.) We believe that, in every kid's life, this is true: your best chance at influencing your kid's faith and future is to recruit other adults to influence them with you.



Dr. Kara E. Powell and Dr. Chap Clark, authors of *Sticky Faith*, encourage parents to “develop a sticky web of relationships” for their kids. We love that idea!

Especially during the childhood years, when you're laying a foundation for your kid's future faith and choices, we want to come alongside you by creating a pool of trustworthy adults who can help you influence your kid.

That's why our ministry is so committed to small age group classes. Small groups are about more than just good discussions. Small groups exist to connect your kid with an adult you can trust so you can better influence their faith and future.

So, this year, engage with your kid's Sunday or Wednesday small group teachers. They can be a powerful ally for you and your family

THE FINE PRINT

SAFETY GUIDELINES

The safety of your child is a priority for our ministry, so we wanted to get you in the loop on how we plan to care for and protect them.

WE SCREEN VOLUNTEERS

Before any volunteer is permitted to serve with us, they are a partner of Calvary, complete a volunteer application and a criminal background check.

WE SET BOUNDARIES

We have set a number of guidelines for our children's ministry staff and volunteers. As a parent, you can help us make sure your child is well-cared for by helping us maintain these boundaries.

- No adult may ever be alone with kids.
- Adults may never be in a bathroom alone with kids.
- All rooms will have the proper ratios of trained adult volunteers.
- All staff members and volunteers must maintain appropriate physical boundaries with kids at all times. Volunteers will be trained in appropriate touch.

ILLNESS POLICY

To help keep kids safe and healthy, kids will not be allowed to enter the children's ministry if they have any of the following: fever of 100° or greater (children must be fever-free without the use of medications for 24 hours prior to returning to a classroom), vomiting, diarrhea, chills, sore throat, excessive runny nose, bad cough, rash, pink eye, or lice

WE HAVE PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF POLICIES

Kids are under the care and supervision of their parents until they are checked in to our children's ministry. We require all kids 5th grade and under to be checked in by a parent or guardian and escorted to their class by the parent or guardian.

We encourage parents to make drop-off quick, even with younger kids who may have a hard time. Separation anxiety is normal (and healthy!) but if you want us to contact you after a certain amount of time of crying, let the leader know.

Our check-in and check-out policies are . . .

- Kids must be checked in for services by parents, using our check-in system. When you check your kids in, you will get a claim sticker that matches your child's.
- You must show your sticker with a matching code to the volunteer in order to pick up your child.
- If you lose your sticker, see Calvary Kids Director.
- If your child has a special need or medical issue or allergy that we need to know about, let the check-in team know when you sign your child in.

WE HAVE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Our church has emergency procedures posted in every classroom and all volunteers are trained for weather emergencies, medical emergencies, and evacuations and predator situations. If an emergency occurs, kids will not be released until the area is cleared and the parents have the claim sticker.

WE REPORT DANGEROUS SITUATIONS

Our church policy is to report any signs or suspicions of child abuse or neglect.

ALLERGY PLAN

Due to the risk of allergies, we have peanut free classrooms. We will try to accommodate all allergies and will be in contact with you, as parents, to develop a safe option or plan for each child.

If your child has a medical need or allergy, please let a member of our check-in team know.

For the Nursery – Feel free to leave bottles or snacks that your baby would need during the service times. Write special instructions down on the sign-in sheet for the volunteers to know how to care for your baby in the best possible way. Please label all items.

For Preschool - Snacks are provided by Calvary in the preschool classes during the 10:45 service.

WE WILL CONTACT YOU

If we need to get ahold of you at any point during the service, we text or call your phone with the number that is put on the sign in sheet.

We will text parents if children exhibit symptoms of illness, are crying inconsolably for more than 10 minutes, or if a child behaves in a violent manner, or for questions/updates on status.

THE NURSING LOUNGE

The nursing lounge is located between the infant nursery and walker nursery and is open to be used during all services. Ask any volunteer for more information.

BRING YOUR BIBLE

Please have your elementary children bring a Bible each week.

Each week, we dive into the truth of God's Word. Please have your kids bring their own personal Bible each week, so they can learn that they too can dig into God's Words anytime, anywhere.

We will work each week on Bible skills using fun activities and interactive lessons, where we learn:

- How the Bible is arranged (organized)
- Books of the Bible
- Looking up references
- Reading aloud

If your child needs a Bible, please contact Carrie. We would love to provide them with one.

If you forget, don't worry. Each class will have a classroom set available to use.

CONTACT US

LETS STAY IN TOUCH

This year, we'd love to stay in conversation with you. Here are a few ways we're hoping we can keep the lines of communication open . . .

EMAIL

Calvary Kids sends out a monthly newsletter full of programming information, announcements, and other great resources. Please email carrie.macklem@cbcjoy.org to sign up.

WEBSITE | www.cbcjoy.org/kids

Our website is full of great information about everything happening in Children's Ministry. Make sure to check it out!

www.cbcjoy.org/kids

QUESTIONS

Please feel free to contact Carrie Macklem with any questions or concerns at any time.