

Welcome To



*Children's Ministry
Newcomer Packet*



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An Introduction to Children's Ministry

Our vision is that the children of BridgeWay Church would be equipped and empowered as disciples of Jesus Christ, moving in the power of the Holy Spirit, changing the world around them by living their lives for Jesus.

Our heart for the children of BridgeWay is to equip and empower them as full functioning members of the body of Christ. There is no junior Holy Spirit and we fully believe that our children can make a great impact in the Kingdom of God now as well as when they grow up to be adults.

We do this by relevant and impactful Biblical teaching and classroom demonstration; equipping them to hear God's voice and be independently dependent upon Him; lead them into an encounter with the King of King's; and to equip them to understand and apply the scriptures to their lives. Like BridgeWay as a whole, we believe in a dual focus on the Word and Spirit.

Our classes are hands-on where kids can practice what they are learning while they are learning it. We want them to learn to hear God's voice, heal the sick, prophesy over friends and family, and minister to those around them so we give them plenty of opportunities to practice this and the other things they are learning.

We keep parents informed of what kids are learning in the classroom by sending home a sheet with each child that outlines what they learned and gives parents practical tips on how they can reinforce what was taught during the week.

Our goal in children's ministry is to partner with you as the parents to equip your kids in the Kingdom of God. We understand and fully believe that you are the primary spiritual influence and educator with regards to your children and their spiritual walk. If there are ways that we can partner better with you, please don't hesitate to contact our Children's Pastor Jessica Wontor.

Additional Information:

Parent Helpers - We want each classroom to be a safe and happy place where they children can learn and grow in the best environment. Because of this, we ask that each family who has a child ages birth-5th grade serve in children's ministry as a classroom helper. Because every family is serving in some capacity, you would be scheduled every 6-8 weeks as a helper. Either spouse can be the classroom helper to satisfy the requirement. So mom, if you need a Sunday off to just receive in service, send Dad and visa versa. Grandparents are also allowed to step in and be a children's ministry helper in the case of a single parent. We just need to know if a grandparent will be stepping in. As much as possible we will try to have you serving in your child's classroom unless you would like to be placed in a different classroom. We understand that sometimes it isn't a benefit for you to be in your child's classroom because it might be a distraction for them or the rest of the class, or you might just like a break and be able to work with other kids for the Sunday.

Nursing Mother's Room - we have a room at the back of the sanctuary for nursing mothers.

Cry Room - we don't have a formal cry room. We ask that you use the lobby as a cry room as needed.

Questions?

Please contact our Children's Pastor, Jessica Wontor, with any questions. 303-695-8400 or jessica@bridgeway.us

Language You Might Not Be Familiar With

What is Soaking? Many times we come to spend time with God and we do a lot of the talking, but soaking is a time where we invite God to do all the talking and to come and fill us with His love and His presence. So soaking is a time where we are quiet before God and either sit or lay down in a comfy place where God can come and show us how much He loves us and talk about whatever He wants to talk to us about. Think of yourself as a dry sponge or a dry plant. Sometimes we don't spend enough time with God and we can get a little dry. A dry sponge cannot do its job, and a dry plant cannot bear fruit. But, when you soak up a whole bunch of water into a dry sponge, then it is useable for so many different purposes. When you water a plant, it is able to bear fruit. When we soak, it is like being a dry sponge or a dry plant and asking God to come and saturate us with His presence. To fill us up. And then when He fills us up, then we can spread His presence around on others and our hearts are more tender to receive from Him.

What is Prophecy? Prophecy is a spiritual gift that the Holy Spirit gives us which is listed in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. 1 Corinthians 14:1 says "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy." Prophecy is when we share, from God's heart, the amazing things that He thinks about another person. God wants us to especially desire that we may prophesy because it is a way that we can encourage, build up and comfort someone from His heart, and not just our kind words (1 Corinthians 14:3). We teach each child that they can prophesy and even better that God loves to talk to them.

What is Prophetic Art? If you look throughout the scriptures with how God spoke to people, the number one way that God spoke was through visions or pictures. We believe that God still talks to us through pictures. Prophetic art is when we draw, paint, or color the pictures that God gives us. These pictures not only speak to us, but many times speak to others in the body of Christ.

What is a Prophetic Song? Many times in worship, God will speak to His people through a spontaneous song. We believe that just as everyone can prophesy, that everyone can receive a prophetic song from the Lord

Check In

We currently use the "KidCheck" Check In System to check children into the Children' Ministry. When you check into Children's Ministry for the first time, you will be sent an e-mail requesting you create a KidCheck Account. Signing up for KidCheck is easy and free for parents. Creating a Kid Check account will ensure a quick and easy check in when you check your children in at church. It also ensures that you can give us the most up to date information about your child, add additional guardians who are authorized to pick up your children, and much more. We would encourage you to create a Kid Check account.

When you go to check in each Sunday, you will tell us your 10 digit home or cell phone number. This will pull up the check in information for your family. If you decide that BridgeWay is your new church home, please let us know and you will be issued a key tag that can be scanned in place of entering your phone number.

Check in will be held in the fellowship hall from 9:10-10:00 am EVERY Sunday. If you arrive after 10:00 am, then you will need to keep your child with you for the entire service. Please try to have your kids checked in by 9:30 each week. We give a 30 minute grace period for check in for when you occasionally run late. Arriving on time ensures that our classrooms and kid's worship have the least amount of distractions when trying to lead/teach your children.

Once you check your child in, you will either drop them off in their classroom or drop them off in Kid's Worship unless it is our Family Service.

◇ Sparrows is open to drop off and pick up your child for the entire service as we understand the need for moms to nurse or feed their babies.

◇ Doves need to be dropped off at their classroom by 10:00

◇ Kids ages 4 thru 5th grade need to be dropped off in the fellowship hall for kid's worship by 10:00

◇ **During our Family Service**, for kids age 4-11 parents will still need to check their kids in like normal. Doves will go to their classrooms like usual. Kids will be dismissed after worship and will meet their teacher at the back of the sanctuary and brought to their classrooms.

Parents will be required to pick up their children at 11:30. An announcement will be made from the front to help remind parents when it is time to go pick up their kids.

Sunday Mornings

Children's Church: Children's Church runs the 2nd thru 5th Sunday of every month. BridgeWay Church places a high value on providing an atmosphere in which the congregation can worship the Lord as they feel led. This includes waving banners, dancing, kneeling, etc. In keeping with this value, we have Children's Worship for ages 6-11 where children can learn to worship, and worship God with freedom through song and music that they can easily engage with. In Children's Worship we not only teach the children about worship, but lead them in worship. Children learn about what worship is; banners and how/why we use them; prophetic art; corporate prophetic words; prophetic songs; soaking; and so much more. Children are taken to Sunday School directly from Children's Worship. Children ages birth-5 have their instruction on worship and worship time as a part of their Sunday School class.

Family Service: The 1st Sunday of every month is our Family Service. On the 1st Sunday, your child (age 4-11) will join you for worship in the main sanctuary. Take this opportunity to worship with your child. Worship as a family as your kids can learn so much by observing you in worship as well as worshipping you. You will be able to take communion as a family during this service as well. Children will be dismissed to Sunday School after worship. Children ages birth-3 have their class from 9:30-11:30 as usual.

Sunday School Classroom Structure

- ◇ **Sparrows** - The Sparrows classroom is our nursery. This is open for kids up to the age of 2. Parents are welcome to stay in the nursery with their babies.
- ◇ **Doves** - The Doves classroom is for our 2 & 3 year olds, and runs for the entire length of service each week.
- ◇ **Eaglets** - The Eaglets classroom is for kids ages 4-5.
- ◇ **Lambs** - The Lambs classroom is for kids ages 6-8.
- ◇ **Lion Cubs** - The Lion Cubs Classroom is for kids ages 7-11.

Please Note - if your child is entering middle school in the public school system in the Denver Metro Area at age 11 then they will move up to our middle school group.

Classroom number limits - Please note that we try to accommodate all the children that attend BridgeWay each Sunday. If there are too many children in a classroom for the number of workers scheduled, you may be given the option to stay in the classroom to help or keep your child with you. We will make this determination based upon what order the kids are dropped off at the classroom, not necessarily on what order they are checked in. When our classrooms fill up, we will start a waiting list based on the order kids were checked in and will admit kids as we have room.

Our Curriculum:

We value being intentional in the ministry we are giving to your child. We do not believe that Children's Ministry is ever babysitting. We are intentional with everything that we do in ministering to your child.

Word and Spirit Based Curriculum - We use a curriculum that teaches Biblical truths of Christian discipleship, well as instruction on the gifts, fruit, and movement of Holy Spirit. Our curriculum is discipleship focused rather than Bible story focused. This means that rather than teaching just on Bible Stories like the creation story, Noah's arc, etc. as an entire lesson, those stories are incorporated into various discipleship type lessons. For instance, when talking on the faithfulness of God, we might reference various stories on the life of Abraham, ie. Abraham being willing to leave his land and family to go where God leads him and God's faithfulness through all of that. In a lesson on obedience to God, we might talk about Abraham's willingness in sacrificing Isaac even though Isaac was a fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham. In our discipleship based curriculum our children learn key Biblical truths such as salvation, baptism, repentance, the totality of scripture, our identity in Christ, hearing God's voice, how to prophesy, how to pray for the sick, and much more.

Safety and Security

The safety and security of your children is very important to us. Because of this, we have a secured children's ministry area. Every Sunday, we close off the children's ministry area so that no unauthorized individuals can gain access to the area. This ensures safety for your children during all activities, bathroom use, and free play time. After 10:00, parents who need to access the children's ministry to drop of their nursery age baby, to respond to a page, or to pick up their child early will ring the doorbell to be buzzed in. They will need to show their guardian ticket in order to gain access to the children's ministry area. Please let us know at check in if you will be needing to pick up your child early so we can make arrangements for that to happen. At 11:30, the children's ministry doors will be opened so that parents can come pick up their child. Please have your guardian ticket ready so that you can show it at the children's ministry entrance as well as when you pick your child up from their classroom.

Important Information about KidCheck

Thanks for checking your child in at BridgeWay Church's The King's Kid's Children's Ministry.

We use the KidCheck Check In system because this system not only helps us ensure the safety of your kids, but also provides you as parents the ability to act as a team with us to keep them in safe hands.

After checking in at church for the first time, Kid Check will automatically e-mail you asking you to create your Kid Check account.

Please do so by clicking on the link in the e-mail OR go to www.kidcheck.com, and select the "Signup" tab. Then follow the link called "I'm a Parent, Guardian, Employee, or Volunteer".

Kid Check request that each parent create out their own kid check account and then you add your spouse as a guardian instead of having a joint account (ie Steve & Sally Smith) and adding each of you as a guardian.

The spouse who checked in the kids for the very first time at BridgeWay will already be in the kid check system since we added you the first Sunday you checked in at BridgeWay, so you will just need to create a username and password to formalize your account. Your kids will automatically show up in your account. Your spouse needs to create their own account (do not add the kids to this second account when you link your accounts per the instructions on the back of this bookmark the kids will show up in both accounts).

To link your accounts, BOTH spouses must go to the "My guardians" tab in their separate accounts and click on the "add your spouse here" link. Search for them by phone number or e-mail address and click "select" when they come up.

When you create your separate accounts and add your spouse, your kids will be linked to both accounts. This prevents the kids from being in our system more than once

If you might want a friend or family member other than your spouse to check your child into Children's Ministry, then each of those people will need to create their own kid check account and you will need to link them using the "add your spouse here" link under the My Guardian's tab (see instructions above). Remember that both the primary guardian and the friend/family member need to follow the instructions to link the accounts.

You can add as many guardians as you want to pick up and check out your child without them needing to create a kid check account. It is only people who will be checking in and dropping your child off that needs to have their own account and have it linked to yours.

Don't forget to tell us if someone other than you will be picking up our child so we can select the appropriate pickup guardian in the system at check in.

If you get confused or have questions, contact Pastor Jessica at 303-695-8400.