



JOURNEY KIDS
PARENT GUIDE

WELCOME



We are so glad you have chosen to visit us today! In Journey Kids, we exist to see kids far from God become passionate Christians who make a difference in the world.

We are committed to creating a place where children ages six weeks through fifth grade can learn about Jesus and build spiritual community. Your kids will discover the wonder of God's truth through worship, Bible teachings, small groups, and a variety of fun activities.

We believe the best way we can help your kids develop a strong spiritual foundation is by partnering with you, their family. Together, we can help encourage, train, and pray for them as they grow in their faith.

YOUR JOURNEY KIDS TEAM

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”

3 JOHN 1:4 NIV

JOURNEY KIDS

JOURNEY JR.

Our Journey Jr. ministry is specifically for children aged six weeks through kindergarten. Our Sunday morning services are a place for the youngest of our church to begin building their faith foundation.

During service, your child will engage in a thoughtfully planned learning experience that includes worship songs, Bible stories, and activities.

We learn that Jesus got up very early in the morning to spend time with His Heavenly Father and pray. Jesus had a specific time every day that He always knew was His time to spend with God. We can help our kids do this as well from an early age.

JKIDS

Kids in first through fifth grade will have the opportunity to engage in dynamic worship and biblical teaching through our age-appropriate worship experience and small group model.

During service, your kids will spend time in a small group connecting with a consistent leader and group of kids. Together, they will dive deep into God's Word as a small group, as well as enjoy time in a large group worship experience. In our large group, kids will experience worship, games, memory verses, a message, and a time of reflection and response.

Each Sunday, your kids will learn about the Bible, prayer, and how to have a relationship with God. They will memorize scripture and have fun developing friendships with one another.



WHAT TO EXPECT

CHECK-IN

To make your first visit as easy as possible, we have created both an online and in-person registration process for you and your family. During registration, we will get to know things like how many children are in your family, what allergies your child(ren) may have, and the best way to contact you.

Once you are registered and checked in, both you and your child(ren) will receive a set of stickers with a matching code—this is their security tag.

On the tag you will also find your child's corresponding room (number and/or color). This sticker is what you'll use to pick up your child after the service. If for any reason we need to reach you, you will see your child's code on the screen in the Worship Center during the service or receive a text message from a staff member.

DROP-OFF/PICK-UP

Once your child(ren) are checked in and arrive at the room printed on their sticker, our leaders will be ready to greet your family and engage your child in an age-appropriate activity. At the end of the service, a team member will verify that your security tag code matches the code on your child's tag before he/she is released into your care. In the event of a lost sticker, we will use your driver's license as an alternative to the security tag to verify information and check out your child.

SAFETY

In Journey Kids, we are committed to safety. It is the heart of our children's ministry to make every effort to ensure the safety and well-being of each child in our care.

With this in mind, we do not allow anyone into our classrooms without a corresponding security tag, and all team members serving in a Journey Kids area go through a screening process before serving. All team members serving in Journey Kids are background-checked and trained in safety and security protocols.

Once in our care, a child is not allowed to be picked up by anyone who does not have a sticker with the code that coincides with the one on his/her sticker. If a security tag has been lost, photo identification must be presented and matched with the guardian information on the registered account. If a need arises or you have any questions, please contact a staff member and they will be happy to assist you.

SMALL GROUPS

In class, your children will be taught age-specific biblical truths and practical lessons through a learning plan and collection of series topics throughout the year.

The learning plan will be taught by their Small Group Leader. Each week in their small group, they will work together on learning objectives like memorizing scripture and understanding biblical principles.

Series topics will be presented through a video Bible lesson and message, followed by an age-appropriate guided discussion/activity with their small group.

In the pages that follow you will find our 2024 lesson topics and key Scripture for Journey Kids.

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS

We believe the best way we can help your kids develop a strong spiritual foundation is by partnering with you. Together, we can help encourage, train, and pray for them as they grow in their faith.

Here are some practical ways you can help us make the most of your child's time at church:

- Pick a consistent service time to help your kids build relationships with their Small Group Leader and other kids in their class.
- Practice the current memory verse with your kids.
- Join our Journey Kids Parent Partnership group on Facebook and follow us on Instagram (@journey.kidsmin).
- Pray for your children each week as they come to church and pray for our teams as they serve and care for your kids.
- Participate in the church-wide *Bible in a Year* plan with your child. Engage and have daily discussions about what God is teaching you through your reading.

Each week, your kids will be guided with the Journey Kids values:

GOD KNOWS ME.

God, the Creator of all, knows me. He has always known me. He has had me in mind from the very beginning. He made me and I am His masterpiece. He made me in His own image to do the amazing things He has prepared for me to do.

I am KNOWN by the Creator and that means I BELONG. I get to be part of His family.

PSALM 139:13-14 NIV

JESUS LOVES ME.

Jesus' perfect life, death, resurrection, and promised return are God's love story. Jesus came to fulfill God's promises to His children. Through Jesus, I have salvation. Jesus loves me no matter what. His love for me has no beginning and no end, and I get to love Him back. Jesus is God's love in person. God's love is big and generous, and it is for me! Jesus is the way to God's love. Choosing to follow Jesus means choosing God's love and God's way.

I am LOVED by Jesus and I get to share His LOVE too.

JOHN 13:34, 35 NIV

THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS ME.

God gives me the gift of His Holy Spirit when I choose to live for Jesus. The Holy Spirit invites me to live in God's Kingdom—now and in the future. When I accept Jesus as my Savior, I receive the Holy Spirit as a gift and He lives inside me. When I let the Holy Spirit lead, He strengthens me and I grow in belief. As I learn that God's way is the best way, my faith grows too. The Holy Spirit helps me be more like Jesus—the me I was made to be.

Because I am LED by the Holy Spirit, I can FOLLOW Him.

ROMANS 8:14, 15A NIV

I AM A CHILD OF GOD.

God's amazing story changes my own. Because God knows me, Jesus loves me, and the Holy Spirit leads me, I get to be a wonder-filled reflection of God to the world. I get to know who I truly am and who I was made to be. The Bible tells me that I am fearfully and wonderfully made, created by a loving God who knows all about me and loves every inch of me. He delights in me and I will celebrate His wonder!

I am a **WONDER**. I get to **BE** part of God's story and my life **TELLS** of God's wonder.

1 PETER 2:9 NIV



SUNDAY MORNING EXPERIENCE

WORSHIP

We invite God's presence into our lives through praise and worship, and we want your child(ren) to grow up experiencing the joy and benefit of worshipping Him.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

God designed us for community and we want your kids to build healthy relationships with other kids their age. Making friends and learning alongside their peers is an important part of their spiritual growth.

SCRIPTURE

God tells us to hide His Word in our hearts (Psalm 119:11 NIV). One of the most important ways we help your children build a biblical foundation for their lives is by filling their minds and hearts with God's truth through Scripture memorization.

AGE-SPECIFIC LEARNING

Kids have different needs at different ages, and we want to help your child understand and learn God's Word at the right pace. Each year they will grow by participating in age-specific learning that is relevant and engaging to them.

CONSISTENT SMALL GROUPS

We want your kids to look forward to seeing a familiar face at church each week. As they build a relationship with their Small Group Leader, we hope they will share, ask questions, and feel supported and cared for as they grow in their faith.

AGE GROUPS

JOURNEY JR. | EARLY CHILDHOOD

Six weeks to kindergarten

INFANTS

Infants include children six weeks of age through 14 months of age. This area is characterized by low teacher/child ratios, gentle play, and a place where faith is introduced to babies through simple Bible conversations and music and movement to songs.

When dropping off your child please provide a volunteer in the room with a diaper and a premade bottle (if needed). Please label all personal items with your child's first and last name.

TODDLERS

Toddlers are children 15 months of age to 23 months of age. This area is also characterized by low teacher/child ratios, engaging Bible story videos, activities and games that relate to the weekly Bible story, snack time, and music.

EARLY PRESCHOOL

Children from two years of age to children who turn three years of age by July 31st are considered our preschool kids. This area is characterized by medium teacher/child ratios, fun Bible story videos, activities and games that reinforce that story, snack time, and music.

PRE-K/KINDERGARTEN

Our pre-k and kindergarten classes consist of children who turn four by July 31st through children currently enrolled in kindergarten. These classrooms have moderate but appropriate teacher/child ratios. In this age group, kids will begin the small group model, building relationships with each other and their leaders. They attend Rally (large group time) in our Clubhouse, where they experience the Bible through fun worship songs with motions, Bible story videos, and prayer. When they return to the classroom, we engage in activities and games that relate to the weekly Bible story.

JKIDS | ELEMENTARY

First grade through fifth grade

Kids in our elementary classes will participate in small group time with a leader and other children in their grade level. When kids arrive early, they can play games, connect with leaders, and make new friends. Once the large group begins, they will enjoy high-energy worship, interactive Bible teaching, prayer, and an offering. The service wraps up with more time with their small groups for a guided discussion and activities that will help them deepen their faith and reinforce the Bible story.



2024 SERIES TOPICS

HEART OF JESUS

MATTHEW 5:8

JESUS' WAY IS DIFFERENT

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5)

JESUS TEACHES US TO BE SALT & LIGHT

Salt & Light (Matthew 5)

JESUS TEACHES US TO LOVE EVERYONE

Loving our Enemies (Matthew 5)

JESUS TEACHES US HOW TO LIVE

Worry (Matthew 6)

WHAT DID HE SAY?

LUKE 10:27

JESUS' WORDS MATTER

The Wise & Foolish Builders (Matthew 7)

JESUS WANTS US TO HEAR & OBEY

Seeds & Soil (Mark 4)

JESUS TEACHES US TO SHOW COMPASSION

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10)

GOD WELCOMES US NO MATTER WHAT

The Lost Son (Luke 15)

EASTER: RISEN

TITUS 3:5

GOD HAS GOOD NEWS FOR HIS PEOPLE

Ezekiel & the Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37)

GOD HAS GOOD NEWS FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

Jonah (Jonah 1-4; Matthew 12)

JESUS HAS POWER OVER DEATH

Lazarus (John 11)

JESUS IS KING

Triumphal Entry: Jesus Enters Jerusalem (Mark 11)

JESUS IS RISEN!

Crucifixion & Resurrection (Matthew 27-28)

TRANSFORMED

ROMANS 12:2

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US BELIEVE

Thomas Questions (John 20)

THE HOLY SPIRIT CHANGES US

Paul's Conversion (Acts 9)

THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US POWER

Paul & Barnabas (Acts 13)

THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVE US COURAGE

Paul's Shipwreck (Acts 27-28)

KNOWN, LOVED, LED

1 PETER 2:9A

BECAUSE I AM KNOWN, LOVED, AND LED, MY LIFE CAN TELL OF GOD'S WONDER

Be WonderFILLED (Ephesians 1:4)

THINK AGAIN

2 TIMOTHY 2:13

GOD REDEEMS

Cain and Abel (Genesis 4)

GOD IS ENOUGH

The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)

ONLY GOD IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP

The Golden Calf (Exodus 32)

ONLY GOD SAVES

The Bronze Snake (Numbers 21)

GOD IS MERCIFUL

The Judges (Judges 2-3)

PROBLEMS AND PROMISES

1 CHRONICLES 16:15

GOD PREPARES THE WAY

Rahab and the Spies (Joshua 2)

GOD CAN MAKE A WAY THROUGH ANYTHING

Crossing the Jordan River (Joshua 3-4)

GOD LEADS US

Joshua and Jericho (Joshua 5-6)

GOD LISTENS TO US

The Sun Stands Still (Joshua 10)

GOD HELPS US BE COURAGEOUS

God Calls Gideon (Judges 6-7)

KINGS AND PROPHETS

PSALM 46:10-11

GOD IS IN CHARGE

The Rise and Fall of Saul (1 Samuel 8-10, 13, 15)

GOD HELPS US

David Spares Saul's Life (1 Samuel 26)

GOD IS GOOD

Building of the Temple (1 Kings 8)

GOD DELIGHTS IN OUR OBEDIENCE

Josiah and the Book of the Law (2 Kings 22–23; 2 Chronicles 34)

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND TO HIM

Jeremiah and the Scroll (Jeremiah 36)

GOD IS THE ONLY TRUE GOD

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18)

CHRISTMAS: THE JESUS FAMILY TREE

ISAIAH 7:14

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

Abraham (Genesis 15, 17)

GOD HONORS FAITHFULNESS

Ruth (Ruth 1, 4)

JESUS IS GOD'S PLAN TO SAVE US

Jesse and David (1 Samuel 16)

GOD SENT JESUS TO SAVE US

Joseph and Jesus (Matthew 1)

GOD'S PLAN IS PERFECT

Simeon and Anna (Luke 2)



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