

# Children's Ministry

## Information

### Our mission:

Jesus holds children very close to His heart and we at Calvary Chapel do so as well. Our highest calling is to partner with parents and teach God's word so that all children can come to the saving knowledge of Christ and deepen their personal relationship with Him. We want to make little followers of Christ, who in turn grow up to be big followers of Christ. We want our children to thrive!

Our nurturing and loving volunteers minister to children by using developmentally appropriate, Bible based curriculum to sow God's word in their hearts.

We also prioritize the physical well being of our children. Thus we maintain clean and orderly learning environments, and have safety policies in place for the good of our church body as a whole.

For more information about our ministry to children here at Calvary Chapel, please contact our children's director, Ana Clark at [ana@calvarycsm.com](mailto:ana@calvarycsm.com).

### How can I get involved?

The love for Jesus, and for the kids given by our volunteers is our most treasured resource. Serving with children is at times hard work, but it is always a blessing that brings eternal fruit for the kingdom of God. When we serve in Children's Ministry, we are doing a lot more than simply providing childcare. We are planting seeds and laying a foundation in a child's heart and life that will last for an eternity.

As a healthy church grows in its adult population; it grows correspondingly in its child population. There is ALWAYS a need for additional help. The more help we have, the greater and more effective our ministry can be.

If you would like to use your gifts and sense the Lord's calling to serve with children, we have a spot for you. Whether you would like to hold babies, teach a class, work the soundboard during children's worship, or set up or clean up the classrooms before and after services -- the opportunities are many.

## Where Do I Start?

If you are interested, please contact Ana Clark at the church office at 770-736-2828 or via e-mail at [ana@calvarycsm.com](mailto:ana@calvarycsm.com). Then, simply fill out a Children's Ministry questionnaire. Once you have filled it out, simply return it to the church office and we will take it from there.

*Here is how the process works:*

1. We receive a ministry questionnaire.
2. We conduct a criminal background check.
3. We set up an appointment to review our policy and procedures and answer any questions you may have concerning serving in Children's Ministry.
4. We discuss the time, place and details of the ministry you will serve in.

## Other Ministries or Activities Available to Children and Families:

1. **Heartbeat Moms Ministry:** These fellowship gatherings offer support and encouragement to all moms. Through the gift of friendship we celebrate each other's triumphs and lift each other up in times of struggle. Call the church office for more information or contact Amie Davie at [amieseana@bellsouth.net](mailto:amieseana@bellsouth.net) to find out about upcoming activities.
2. **Kid's Camp:** During the summer, children (who have completed 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade) come together for one week away at camp. This is a great opportunity for children to mature, to get away from the day to day...to focus on Jesus and see Him more clearly, love him more dearly and follow him more nearly.
3. **Vacation Bible School:** During the summer, children (ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) come together for one great week of exciting Bible-based instruction, worship, skits, and activities.
4. **Hallelujah Fest:** On October 31<sup>st</sup>, families within our church and our community are invited to enjoy an evening of games, food, music and candy, as we share the love of Christ during this alternative to Halloween. Don't miss this opportunity to dress silly, hand out and have a blast!
5. **Calvary Chapel Christian School:** K5 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades. Please call 770-736-2828 for more information.

6. **WAY Street:** Children preschool through 5th grade join us for WAY Street on Sunday nights at 6:30 p.m! WAY Street stands for **W**hat does the Bible say? How does it **A**pply to me? And what are **Y**ou going to do about it? Hebrew 4:12 tells us that God's Word is powerful and alive and we believe that!

We communicate God's truth through skits, worship and small groups by making sure everything keeps pointing to the main thing: Jesus and God's Word. Small groups are a big deal to us. This is where friendships are nurtured. Friendships are important because they determine the quality of your life! We help children apply what they learn by giving them a clear and easy next step. We always keep in mind what it is we want kids to walk away with and do. After all, the lesson really begins when they walk out the door. We know that teaching is a head and heart issue so we teach with the end in mind. Remember, God wants us to love Him with all our minds and hearts (Matthew 22:31). The heart is where the real change takes place.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

**Q: What is offered during each of the services for my child?**

**A:** At each of the morning services on Sunday, at 9:00 and 11:15 we offer ministry to children birth through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Your child will read, experience, explore and investigate through the Bible in classes divided into age appropriate environments to help nurture your child's growth and encouragement. From preschool on your child will bring home a family devotion that reinforces this Sunday morning teaching throughout the week.

During our Sunday evening service at 6:30 we again offer ministry to children birth through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Children in preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade come together to see the Bible come alive through skits, worship and small groups at **WAY Street** where we take a look at **W**hat the Bible says, how it **A**pplies to you, and ask what are **Y**ou going to do about it?

**Q: When do I take my child to class and pick him/her up?**

**A:** Infants through Kindergarten go directly to their classroom where you will sign them in. We require that all children birth through Kindergarten be signed in and receive a pager or security wristband. The nursery/toddler room, preschool and Kindergarten classrooms are opened 15 minutes before each service. In the event that a teacher or assistant is not immediately available, please do not leave your child in an empty classroom.

In the morning, children 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be dismissed to their classrooms from the sanctuary. After service is done, please promptly pick up children in the nursery through First Grade. No child will be released without the parent or designated adult (16 years or older)

presenting their numbered pager or security wristband. Children 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and above will be dismissed from their classrooms to find mom and dad after the service is done.

In the evening all children will start in their classrooms and then rotate to the different activities. Children in the nursery/toddler room, preschool and Kindergarten will need to be signed in and receive a pager or security wristband. Children 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and above will be dismissed from their classrooms to find mom and dad after the service is done. Children in the nursery through First Grade will need to be picked up by mom or dad. No child will be released without the parent or designated adult (15 years or older) presenting their numbered pager or security wristband.

Please make sure that all possessions (Bibles, coats, diaper bags, etc.) are marked with your child's full name.

**Q: How does your paging system work?**

**A:** We use the paging system for parents with children in the nursery/toddler room. When you drop off your child, you will receive a pager. If your child needs your during the service, we will activate the pager. We page parents for the following reasons: persistent crying, sickness or behavior problems.

**Q: What are your guidelines for colds and other minor illnesses?**

**A:** We want to protect our children and volunteers from illnesses, therefore we ask that you refrain from bringing your children if they've had the following symptoms within the last 24 hours:

1. Fever
2. Vomiting or diarrhea
3. Inflamed or sore throat
4. Croupy cough
5. Unusual rash

If your child develops any of these symptoms during the service you will be called immediately. We will not administer any medication (except prayer 😊).

**Q: What should I do if my child cries when I drop him/her off?**

**A:** There is an adjustment period for every child when he/she is placed in new surroundings. To lessen the effects of this adjustment period we suggest the following:

1. Pray for and with your child.

2. Come early so you are not rushed to leave your child in the classroom.
3. Attend regularly so your child becomes familiar with the routine.
4. Our experience is that the longer the parent delays in leaving the child, the longer the child will cry and be unhappy.

If for some reason the child does not adjust and continues to cry, we will come and find you.

**Q: What if my child is potty training?**

**A:** If your child is in underwear and is potty training, we ask that you inform the teacher of your child's progress, take him/her to the restroom just before class and bring an extra change of clothes. If there is an accident, we will change your child with the clothes you have provided.

**Q: When do you promote a child up to the next age group?**

**A:** Elementary age children are promoted to the next grade level in the summer after they have completed the school year. We do this in order to move children up with their familiar classmates and when they have a change of their class level at school.

Children in the infant and toddler rooms, and the preschool classrooms are promoted based on their physical development or age.

Infants are promoted when they have mastered walking.

Toddlers are promoted to preschool after they are potty trained (wearing underwear). This promotion is discretionary.

**Q: Is there a private area for mothers to nurse their babies?**

**A:** We provide a Nursing Mother's Room. This room is equipped with rocking chairs and a changing table. From this sound proof room, moms and their nursing babies can see and hear the teaching in the sanctuary through a privacy window.

**Q: What do I need to do if my child has food allergies and special concerns?**

**A:** When signing your child into the classroom, there is a space provided for special instructions regarding your child. If you feel the information is too private to write on the sign-in sheet or should be discussed with a teacher face-to-face, please request to speak to the teacher away from the children.

**Q: What do I do about my children who are in class if an emergency arises and everyone must exit the building?**

**A:** Should and emergency arise that requires evacuating the building, please follow the directions of the person in charge of your area.

All children's classrooms have diagrams posted for evacuation routes for particular classrooms. All children's ministry volunteers have been instructed to use the proper evacuation routes for their specific classroom and to take role and do a head-count of children in their class.

**Parents do not go to your children's classrooms.**

**This could cause bottleneck hallways and confusion.**

You can be reunited with your children once everyone has exited the building and Children's Ministry volunteers have verified they have all of their children out of the building.

**Q: Can my baby or young child sit with me in the church service?**

**A:** We believe that it is vital that God's Word be shared with people of all ages, thus we have church services that are geared towards the different developmental levels of our church population. For this reason, we prohibit children under the age of six from being allowed in the sanctuary during our services. It may not be what you are accustomed to, but we believe that our reasons are practical, loving and Biblical.

Our services in the sanctuary are designed for adults and it is important that there be minimal distractions that might hinder the focusing on Jesus Christ through worship and teachings. First this reason is practical. Do you realize how many preschoolers we have in our church? One or two well-behaved children in our service would cause little disturbance and go unnoticed, but what if all the children were present? It would be impossible to do anything that required any level of concentration or mental challenge as does worship or Bible study.

While adults are worshipping in the sanctuary, children have the opportunity to worship Jesus and study the Bible too in their own classes. We've found that we are able to do a much better job of ministering to your kids and helping them to grow spiritually in these environments where they are able to be more active and social, and they are learning through multi-sensory lessons. Second, this policy is loving. Pre-schoolers are naturally inquisitive and fidgety; they are busy exploring their worlds. It is unfair and discouraging to them to strap them in a seat and force them to be still for an hour and a half, when they could be worshipping at their own level. This simply teaches them that church is dull, boring and irrelevant. And the other traditional way of handling problems - by providing small children with distractions - is unsatisfactory. Children who color and scribble their way through childhood in the main sanctuary will become teenagers who goof off in the back row, and adults who, if they attend church at all, will have learned how to sit there and not listen. Every age group deserves a ministry geared to its capacity to respond and participate.

Third, this policy is Biblical. Jesus said to allow the little children to come to Him. Our policy is designed to do just that by giving our children the opportunity to learn of Jesus in a way that they can understand. We want to minister to you and your child.