

Grace Covenant Church

Children's Ministries

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. – 3 John 1:4

Our vision and priorities:

Grace Covenant Church exists to attain unity to maturity in Christ. Christian education within the context of the local church flows from our core commitments to biblical authority, genuine worship, evangelistic fervor, ethical integrity, community atmosphere and training for ministry. Children are a gift from the Lord and parents are too. We come together here to cooperate in ministry to the whole family. Our children's ministry seeks to equip both parents and children for the work of the ministry. Our goal for our children is to raise a godly seed to mature adulthood.

Our desire is not to separate children from the adults or the main ministry of the church, but to see them as an integral part of everything we do. We encourage parents of children as young as three years old to train them to listen and participate. A worship training room is available for parents to use during this transitional period in a child's life. Nursery is also available up through two years of age but limited to a maximum capacity in those rooms.

We encourage you to come for our Sunday school and Adult Bible Fellowship hour at 9:00AM prior to our morning worship. On Sunday evenings we often have a children's ministry called CateKids. We have the following expectations for procedures, safety and wellness.

Expectations

Love for God and His Word

The most important expectation for all who are involved in our children's ministry is that we are together seeking to worship God and learn the Bible together. Your children will learn, sing, memorize and enjoy the whole counsel of God's word. Sunday school teachers especially work hard to rightly interpret God's word and apply it to all of life through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our Sunday school classes of all ages are currently using a curriculum called The Gospel Story for Kids.

Parent involvement at church and at home

Almost every family with children in this ministry also has a parent volunteering in the Sunday school room at some time. Sunday school material is often given to children for use by their parents at home. During services parents are expected to remain on location to be available to retrieve their child for any reason such as for discipline or illness. Parents should also communicate with the Sunday school about any concerns before and after the Sunday school hour, such health or behavioral concerns to be aware of.

Consideration of others

Every interaction we have with one another is an opportunity to share the love of Christ. We do not come to church to be served but to serve. Children with special needs (physical, social, etc.) are welcome in Sunday school. Staffing for each need will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Safety

Location

Nursery is available for children up to 36 months old and is located on the main floor. Sunday school is available in the basement through 12 years old and the Teens group is located on the main floor near the nursery.

Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

For Sunday school, please drop-off your child between 8:50-9:00 and pick them up again no later than 10:10. Parents must be present at both times. Do not expect children to go Sunday school or return to you unaccompanied. A teacher will remain with the child the whole time that the parent is not present.

On Sunday evenings children will be dismissed from the service to leave with the volunteers and returned to the parents by the volunteers at the end of the service.

Volunteer screening

All Sunday school teachers must be members of the church in good standing and must undergo a background check prior to serving.

Wellness policy

Parents are not to bring children to Sunday School who have any of the following:

- Fever in the last 24 hours
- Severe Coughing
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Other symptoms that indicate possible sickness or contagiousness

If a volunteer notices a child with one of these symptoms, the parents will be notified. Please also note that teachers cannot administer any kind of medication.