



# Children's Ministry

The goals in Elementary Sunday School are to bring the children to understand salvation and embrace Christ as savior. To do this we are implementing strategies to help even reluctant students engage in this process of learning who God is.

The curriculum we use is not the typical Sunday School Curriculum. Your kids and grandkids are learning about more than just the flashy and memorized Bible stories. They are learning a theology. They are learning who God is and who man is and why man needs a redeemer and how man can be reconciled with God through Christ. Each grade level has a very specific focus. The goal each year is of course to present salvation and pray that the Children will feel the call to Jesus' salvation.

The teachers in each grade are exceptionally dedicated and have been serving for years! We are blessed to have teachers who are serving for all the right reasons and are completely dedicated.

## **Kindergarten is taught by Tami Wright, Marcia Kwantes and Dawn Moe.**

***Jesus What a Savior!*** We were created to enjoy the glory of God. But as sinners we fail to treasure Him as we should. Our hearts are full of sin and we stand in need of a Savior. This chronological study on redemption explores the incomparable greatness and worth of God, the desperate condition of helpless sinners, and the all-sufficient work of Jesus Christ to redeem sinful people. In Kindergarten the children begin with God being special and Holy and Perfect. They move to His creation. Then the fall of man is taught. Followed by the ways God reveals our sinful nature. Moving to what God did to redeem us. Culminating with how each can become a child of God.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Grade is taught by Becky Whitmer and Isaac and Stephanie DeHaan (Jon Whitmer also helps here and with directing some of the kids that have extra energy in different classes.)**

***The ABC's of God.*** Right thinking about God is essential for the life of faith. Using the alphabet as a framework for teaching the attributes of God, this study explores the delight that God has in Himself as the source, means, and purpose of all things. Each lesson asks and answers three key questions, "Who is God?" "What is He like?" and "How should I act toward Him?" as it presents a theology of God for children.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade is taught by Ted Patrick.** We'd love to have someone step in and help out here ☺ He works well with the kids and has an engaging and orderly classroom. If you feel called to help with second graders we can place you here.

***Faithful to All His Promises.*** God's promises are gifts to the believer. The challenge of the Christian life is not to simply know the promises of God, but to place unshakable confidence in them. This study teaches children that God's character is trustworthy; therefore, His promises are true and reliable.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade combine and are taught by Paul and Jolene Harris and Ron Conklin.**

This curriculum rotates. Over the course of the two years the kids are taught two full curricula.

***In the Beginning Jesus.*** The Bible is one complete true story that progressively reveals God's redemptive plan, which comes to complete fulfillment in the Person and work of Jesus Christ. In the Beginning...Jesus begins with a historical mystery—Jesus' death on the cross—and asks the questions:

"What really happened here?" "Why did Jesus die?" and "Who did it?" To find the answers to these questions, the study goes to the beginning of the Bible narrative in Genesis and then moves chronologically through the Old Testament text as students search for clues that foreshadow the coming of Jesus and His redemptive work on the cross. Special emphasis is given to showing that the Bible is God's story from beginning to end and that Jesus is the key to understanding the story.

**To Be Like Jesus.** What is salvation? How does someone become a Christian? What does it mean to become like Jesus? This curriculum helps answer these important questions by explaining elements of the Gospel message, its purpose, and promise. A major portion of this study focuses on the doctrine of sanctification - the process by which a Christian becomes more and more conformed to the likeness of Jesus.

**Club 5/6. Again this is a combination class of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders. They are kind of like a mini youth group. Shane and Sherri Kuipers and Troy and Kristi Grant are the teachers.**

In addition to teaching a two year rotation of curriculum, the Grants and Kuipers also work to build relationships among the kids. They offer many activities during and outside of church for socializing, fun and learning the blessing of service.

**How Majestic is Your Name.** The names of God are wonderful revelations of His majestic character. This study presents the Hebrew names of God in the Old Testament and the names of Christ and the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. Each lesson encourages children to see and rejoice in the goodness and greatness of God as they explore the meaning of His glorious names.

**My Purpose Will Stand.** God is not an idle God. He is continually involved with all created things, directing them to accomplish His eternal purposes. This study teaches children to recognize God's providence in their lives and to joyfully trust His good purposes for them. Each lesson reveals that God is the sovereign ruler of the universe whose eye is watching over all things, and whose hand is working in all things.

As you can see, when a child is blessed to go through the entire curriculum from Kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, they will have an amazing foundation for full and abundant faith in God and His finished work of Salvation through Christ. They will truly learn to Glorify God!

There is so much to tell of the many blessings. We are grateful to you for letting us show Christ to your kids!

In each classroom, children are being pointed back to God-focus. We desire to turn them away from self-focus and teach them the supremacy of God and why they and we were created. That is to glorify God. It is true that our goal is to learn for ourselves and **instruct** the children how to **grow** in godliness, and, thereby, **delight** in Him.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The descriptive theme for each titled curriculum is taken from the descriptions provided by Children Desiring God. Wording is the same as used in Children Desiring God's literature.