

FAMILY MINISTRY PLAN

OVERVIEW

Our Family Ministry plan nurtures faith from infancy through high school, guiding children and parents to grow in knowledge, worship, and Christian living. Through each developmental stage, our goal is to establish parents as primary faith leaders, equipping them to incorporate Bible reading, prayer, and worship into daily life, while helping children understand the gospel, experience worship, and build a personal relationship with Christ. With age-appropriate resources and meaningful church events, we aim to foster a lifelong love for God and cultivate resilience in faith, preparing youth to embody Christ's teachings as they mature.

The following stages represent a pathway for faith formation, each tailored to a child's growth and readiness. At each milestone, parents are supported in their role as primary faith influencer, while children deepen their understanding and commitment, creating a foundation for a lifelong journey of faith.



BIRTH

Stage 1:
0-3 Yr

Stage 2:
PreK - K

Stage 3:
1st-3rd
Grade

Stage 4:
4th-6th
Grade

Stage 5:
Middle
School

Stage 6:
High
School



Graduation

Stage 1: 0-3 Years - Troy Kids Babies & Toddlers

In these early years, the focus is on establishing a foundation of love, trust, and simple faith habits in the home. Parents are encouraged to begin family worship practices—reading, praying, and singing with their child—establishing early exposure to God’s word and worship.

Developmental Consideration: Babies and toddlers learn through repetition, comfort, and familiarity. Simple Bible stories, songs, and prayer routines establish comforting patterns that instill a sense of God’s presence from an early age.

Milestone	Birth
Church Event	Parent Breakfast Seminar and Baby Dedication
Family Resources	The Jesus Storybook Bible For the Bible Tells Me Series Big Theology for Little Hearts Series 
Parent Resources	• <i>Family Worship</i> - Donald Whitney (READ, PRAY, SING) • New City Catechism App (Catechism Songs)  
Core Competencies	• Establish the parent as the primary faith influencer • Establish Family Worship (Read, Pray, Sing)
What is my student learning at church?	Our goal is to create a safe, fun environment where toddlers begin learning about God through simple Bible stories, videos, songs, and crafts. The listed Bible story will guide their class learning in an age-appropriate, interactive way.

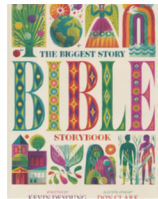
What can I do at home with my baby/toddler to help them grow in Christ?

- Read the Storybook Bible at home with your child.
- Pray for *your* child and *with* your child.
- Sing worship songs.
- Use New City Catechism Songs to introduce catechism questions early.

Stage 2: Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

As children begin to engage more with the world around them, this stage emphasizes introducing them to Bible stories and basic catechism concepts. Parents are encouraged to use daily moments to talk about God, making faith a natural part of the child's experiences.

Developmental Consideration: Young children are naturally curious and absorb stories and lessons through play and repetition. They learn through concrete examples, making Bible stories an effective way to teach about God's love and power.

Milestone	Starts PreK or Turns 4
Church Event	Promotion Ceremony
Family Resources	• <i>The Biggest Story Bible</i> ◦ (Goes w/ Troy Kids Curriculum) • New City Catechism • For the Bible Tells Me Series • Big Theology for Little Hearts Series • The Ology - Marty Machowski  
Parent Resources	<i>Habits of the Household</i> - Justin Earley 
Core Competencies	• Student: To learn about God through Bible Stories • Parent: To use everyday rhythms as opportunities to talk about God
What is my student learning at church?	In our PreK and Kindergarten Troy Kids class, students journey through the Bible in sequence, exploring 104 key stories from both the Old and New Testaments using The Biggest Story Storybook Bible.

What can I do at home with my student to help them grow in Christ?

- Read the Storybook Bible at home with your child.
- Pray for *your* child and *with* your child.
- Sing worship songs.
- Use New City Catechism Songs to introduce catechism questions early.

Stage 3: 1st - 3rd Grade

In this stage, children begin to participate in worship and engage more deeply with Bible stories. Parents guide gospel conversations and continue to introduce children to prayer, worship, and scripture memorization, helping them connect personally with God.

Developmental Consideration: Elementary-aged children are increasingly able to understand moral lessons and enjoy learning in structured settings. With growing independence, they benefit from engaging family worship routines that connect Bible principles with everyday life.

Milestone	Kindergarten Graduation
Church Event	Promotion Ceremony
Family Resources	• <i>The Gospel Story Bible</i> ◦ New Growth Press • <i>Exploring the Bible</i> - David Murray • <i>The Ology</i> - Marty Machowski 
Parent Resources	• <i>Raising Worry-Free Girls</i> - Sissy Goff • <i>Raising Emotionally Strong Boys</i> - David Thomas  
Core Competencies	• Student: To worship God through song, reading (or being read to), and prayer • Parent: To learn how to have gospel conversations with your child
What is my student learning at church?	• The Biggest Story Bible Curriculum (same curriculum as PreK & K). • Students are introduced to worship service. They come each Sunday as we worship God through song before being dismissed to Troy Kids.

What can I do at home with my student to help them grow in Christ?

- Read the Bible at home with your child.
- Pray for *your* child and *with* your child.
- Sing worship songs.
- Use New City Catechism Songs to introduce catechism questions early.
- Memorize Scripture together

Stage 4: 4th - 6th Grade

As children transition into preteens, this stage encourages them to explore the core elements of the gospel and develop foundational biblical knowledge. Parents foster a culture of questions, supporting their child's faith as they become more reflective and independent.

Developmental Consideration: Preteens start to question and seek understanding for themselves, moving from concrete to more abstract thinking. They are ready to engage in discussions about faith, values, and scripture as they start personal Bible study and prayer.

Milestone	Entering 4th Grade
Church Event	Troy Kids Graduation / Crossover to Preteen Ministry
Student Resources	• <i>The Following Jesus Bible</i> ◦ ESV • <i>Exploring the Bible</i> - David Murray 
Parent Resources	• <i>Parenting Ahead</i> - Kristen Hatton • <i>Keeping Kids Safe in a Digital World</i> - Mandy Majors
Core Competencies	• Student: To learn foundational truths about the gospel and to begin reading scripture on their own.
What is my student learning at church?	• Gospel-Centered, age appropriate curriculum ◦ Core components of the gospel • Currently, preteen students use <i>The Gospel Project</i>

What can I do at home with my student to help them grow in Christ?

- Read Bible w/ student and encourage them to read on their own.
- Pray aloud together
- Catechize (Read and Memorize)
- Memorize Scripture
- Attend and Debrief Worship Together
- Ask your child what questions they have about God, the Bible, etc. Instill a culture of lifelong learning as a faithful follower of Christ.
- Topical Talks:
 - **Purity**
 - Technology (safety and Wisdom)

Stage 5: 7th - 8th Grade - Middle School

Middle school marks a period of deeper understanding, as students explore practical gospel applications in their lives and deepen their personal faith practices. Parents continue to encourage independence while remaining available for open conversations on important life topics.

Developmental Consideration: Middle schoolers are developing critical thinking skills and a desire for personal identity, making this a prime time to discuss how faith applies to real-life situations, such as relationships, responsibilities, and personal choices.

Milestone	Elementary School Graduation / Entering Youth Group
Church Event	Preteen Graduation / Crossover to Youth
Student Resource	<i>ESV Student Study Bible</i>
Parent Resources	<i>Parenting with Hope</i> - Melissa Kruger
Core Competencies	• Student: Learn how to read the Bible on their own as a part of devotional time.
What is my student learning at church?	• Deeper Understanding of Gospel Foundations ◦ God, Man, Christ, Response ◦ Sin, Grace, Mercy ◦ Practical Gospel Application in their context • Studies through books of the Bible • Age Appropriate Topical Studies (Dating, Sex, Evangelism, etc)

What can I do at home with my student to help them grow in Christ?

- Encourage student to read Bible on their own
- Pray with them and encourage them to pray on their own.
- Attend and Debrief Worship Together
- Ask your child what questions they have about God, the Bible, etc. Instill a culture of lifelong learning as a faithful follower of Christ.
- Catechize (Read and Memorize)
- Topical Talks:
 - Purity
 - Technology (Safety and Wisdom)
 - Dating (setting boundaries and rules for dating)
 - Drugs

Stage 6: 9th - 12th Grade - High School

High school years are about maturing in knowledge of Christ and preparing for an independent walk of faith. Parents support their teens in solidifying personal faith practices and navigating complex cultural issues with wisdom and integrity.

Developmental Consideration: Teenagers seek autonomy and relevance in their faith. This stage involves a mature understanding of the Bible, making connections between faith and life choices, and engaging with church and community in ways that prepare them for adulthood.

Milestone	Middle School Graduation
Church Event	Youth Group Celebration (Wednesday Night)
Student Resource	<i>ESV Student Study Bible</i>
Parent Resources	<i>Age of Opportunity</i> - Paul David Trip
Core Competencies	• Student: Mature in their knowledge of Christ and walk with God
What is my student learning at church?	• Deeper Understanding of Gospel Foundations ◦ God, Man, Christ, Response ◦ Sin, Grace, Mercy ◦ Practical Gospel Application in their context • Studies through books of the Bible • Age Appropriate Topical Studies (Dating, Sex, Evangelism, etc)

What can I do at home with my student to help them grow in Christ?

- Encourage student to read Bible on their own
- Pray with them and encourage them to pray on their own.
- Attend and Debrief Worship Together
- Ask your child what questions they have about God, the Bible, etc. Instill a culture of lifelong learning as a faithful follower of Christ.
- Catechize (Read and Memorize)
- Topical Talks:
 - Purity
 - Technology (Safety and Wisdom)
 - Dating (setting boundaries and rules for dating)
 - Drugs