
Philosophy of Children's Ministry at Chapel Presbyterian Church

*...planted in the house of the Lord,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.
Psalm 92:13*

Vision

Chapel's Children's Ministry exists to partner with parents in raising our covenant children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

We are committed to guiding our children toward becoming...

- Lovers of Their Savior
 - Where children exhibit saving faith in Jesus Christ
 - Where children fully participate in the corporate worship of Jesus Christ
- Lovers of His Word
 - Where children explicitly trust the Word as Truth
 - Where children increasingly gain understanding of the Word
 - Where children are enabled and encouraged to read and memorize the Word
- Lovers of His Church
 - Where children identify with the covenant community as members of the Body of Christ
 - Where children are enabled and encouraged to serve in and through the covenant community.

Goal and Objective

An individual's worldview is largely established while they are young. While working alongside parents, the Children's Ministry of Chapel seeks to be intentional in the development of a *Biblical* worldview, and to seize every opportunity our covenant children are in our midst to create a Biblical and right perspective of our faithful God, who we are in relation to Him, and therefore, how we are to live in light of those truths. We desire to be used of God to make true disciples – those who seek to live their entire lives for the glory of God and the good of His Kingdom. We seek to do this by establishing vocabulary, systems, and foundations, trusting in the Holy Spirit to grow and mature their faith.

Methods and “Inputs”

Worship – All people were created to be worshippers, including children. Therefore, our children, at every age, are welcome in the corporate worship of our great God. Parents are encouraged to lead their children into worship and children are encouraged to become ever-increasing participants through the use of tools such as a Children’s Bulletin. We also encourage participation by intentionally teaching the children songs that are commonly sung in the worship service.

Sunday School – A key cornerstone of faith is knowing the story of God’s people as found in the Scriptures. During the SS hour, we seek to provide our covenant children with a solid, doctrinally-Reformed, biblical theology by using a historical-redemptive approach. Our current curricula, *Show Me Jesus* and *G2R* (both produced by Great Commission Publications), are firmly rooted in God’s Word and seek to show Him as preeminent in all things. Each lesson points to Christ and His work of redemption as the heart of Scripture. An important part of our Sunday School program is Bible memory, where children are encouraged to memorize a new verse from Scripture each week.

Kids’ Club – Another key component to a solid foundation of faith is the establishment of systems of faith and doctrine and the practice of spiritual disciplines. In Kids’ Club, we seek to lead the children into a deeper understanding of Scripture and the effect it should have on their daily lives. The children are also learning such “building blocks” as the Books of the Bible, the 10 Commandments, the Lord’s Prayer, the importance and “how-tos” of personal Bible study, and much more. During this club-style ministry, we also take time to learn about and pray for the ministries of our missionaries. Finally, Kids’ Club is an exciting time of fun and fellowship with their peers and leaders and is important in establishing their identity within a community of believers.

Communicant’s Class – We believe it is essential, not only for our children to *possess* a personal saving faith, but to *profess* it publicly, and in so doing, solidify their identification and union with our particular covenant community. Therefore, at a time that is deemed appropriate by both parents and the Session, children are welcomed into an extended Sunday School class led by elders. The goal of this class is for children to be able to articulate their own profession of faith in Christ before our Session, and to understand the particulars and practices of our Reformed faith and Presbyterian form of church government. Once a child is publicly welcomed into the covenant community, he receives all the rights and privileges of it, including admittance to the Lord’s Table. This class currently uses Stephen Smallman’s book *Understanding the Faith*.

Nursery – While we welcome children of all ages into the worship service, we recognize that there may be occasions, or perhaps even seasons of life, when it is best for all involved that a child be cared for by other loving and competent adults and teens within the covenant community. It is our goal for parents to be comfortable with leaving their children in our nurseries so that they may fully engage in worship, having peace of mind that their child is well cared for during their absence. We also know that this age is very formative, and we seek to harness the opportunities we have with even our littlest ones to point them to Jesus and start building a vocabulary of faith. To that end, we have a Sunday School class for our 3’s and young 4’s, and even our toddlers and 2’s are being read the stories of Scripture and sing songs of praise. It is never too early to start training in righteousness.