



EDUCATION (DISCIPLESHIP)
Committed to helping you develop a closer relationship with God
through hands-on educational & growth opportunities



EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING

As toddlers, children will

- ✓ be introduced to prayer as talking to God and will repeat prayers after adults;
- ✓ hear stories such as those of the creation, the nativity, Noah's ark... and be able to wonder about the characters and God's relationship with them;
- ✓ begin to understand that the Bible tells us about God and Jesus.

In preschool children will

- ✓ begin to retell Bible stories in their own words and be able to wonder out loud about the feelings of the people and God and their relationships;
- ✓ begin to say talking prayers to God and understand that God wants to be in relationship with us;
- ✓ have opportunities for serving others in the church (such as being greeters on Sunday mornings, or taking food to the food pantry, etc.);
- ✓ have opportunities to use their own skills and talents to help others (such as collecting coins for special offerings, or helping ushers clean up after a worship service, etc.).

In Kindergarten, children will

- ✓ have a general understanding of the Lord's Prayer;
- ✓ continue to have opportunities for talking prayers and building a relationship with God;
- ✓ be familiar with Bible stories so they can repeat the gist of them and wonder about God's relationship with the people in the Bible stories and start to understand that the stories are in the Bible for a reason — so that they can learn that God is faithful, etc.;
- ✓ continue serving others as a class and have opportunities for serving with their families;
- ✓ have opportunities to learn games and words from other cultures and understand that God loves all people even though they are different from us.

In 1st through 3rd grades, children will

- ✓ be familiar with and be able to use their Bibles;
- ✓ be able to repeat *The Lord's Prayer*;
- ✓ have an understanding of some of the Psalms and Parables and will experience what it was like in Jesus' time;
- ✓ begin to discuss why the Bible is important;
- ✓ grow in accepting responsibility for their actions and know and accept why forgiveness is needed;
- ✓ begin to forgive people who hurt them;
- ✓ experience different forms of prayer and be comfortable praying with other children;
- ✓ beginning to understand how others feel, and understand others' positions and points of view;
- ✓ begin to establish a deeper relationship with Jesus through prayer and stories from the Bible;
- ✓ start attending worship services with adults and become familiar with the parts of the service.



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In 4th through 6th grades, children

- ✓ will be familiar with the books of the Bible and know how to use the table of contents;
- ✓ will delve into specific portions of the Bible and learn ways to “experience” God through them, “hear” what God is saying, and meditate on certain passages;
- ✓ will continue to understand prayer as an important way to relate to God;
- ✓ will have experienced using devotional material;
- ✓ are beginning to see others as children of God and as brothers and sisters of Jesus;
- ✓ are growing in understanding of God’s attributes, such as his universality, power, love, and authority;
- ✓ are beginning to understand concepts such as sin and original sin, repentance, and grace;
- ✓ are growing in understanding that everything has been given by God and so we give back to God our tithes, talents and time;
- ✓ have experienced service for others through the church by acting in mission as a class, individually, and with their families;
- ✓ have had the opportunity to be regularly involved in responsibilities within the church as a class and with their own families;
- ✓ are beginning to apply the Word of God to everyday dilemmas;
- ✓ are beginning to speak words of kindness to those in need of encouragement.

In 7th through 9th grades, youth

- ✓ are thinking through their beliefs and forming their “statement of faith”;
- ✓ know and have a basic understanding of the Apostles Creed;
- ✓ are beginning to understand the trinity and how the Holy Spirit is at work today;
- ✓ are building a deeper relationship with God and with others;
- ✓ are beginning to think of ways to help in the community outside the church (with little or no prompting from adults);
- ✓ forgive people who have deeply hurt them;
- ✓ use God’s Word to seek inner peace.

Graduating Seniors

- ✓ are beginning to practice spiritual disciplines of daily prayer, devotions and tithing;
- ✓ are involved in service projects within the church and community as a class, individually, with friends, and with family;
- ✓ can find passages in the Bible easily;
- ✓ worship regularly with others;
- ✓ mentor younger youth;
- ✓ behave as if Jesus is their savior and Lord;
- ✓ use God’s Word to seek meaning and purpose in their lives;
- ✓ can apply God’s Word to defend their faith.