

## STRUCTURE & CURRICULA

During the 9:00 & 10:20 hours, we provide nursery care for children ages 0-3, and at 10:20, classroom ministry through sixth grade. Our classes are broken up into Preschool (4's-5's), Lower Elementary (1st-3rd grade), and Upper Elementary (4th-6th grade).

Our preschool and elementary classes use a curriculum called *The Gospel Story for Kids* that teaches through the entire Bible in a 3-year timetable. Each lesson seeks to teach the main point of the passage and how it relates to the main storyline of the Bible – God's plan to save sinners through the person and work of Jesus Christ.



We love the fact that each class studies the same Bible passage for that day, with older children going deeper into the meaning and application of the text. This facilitates review of the material for families with more than one child since they are all learning the same passage.

Because memorization of God's Word is so important, a new passage is assigned to the entire church each month.

### SAFETY

Security for our children is vital. Promise Kingdom volunteers are screened with an application and training process that includes background checks. Each adult who admits a child into the class is issued a tag that they must present for that child to be released to their care.

## WHY THE GOSPEL STORY FOR KIDS CURRICULUM (GSK)?

- ✓ The GSK program is gospel-centered and grounded in biblical theology. Instead of teaching the stories of the Bible as separate lessons, each with its own moral, the GSK program approaches the Bible as one story, with Jesus Christ as its main character. Every story points to Jesus and God's plan to redeem the world through sending His own Son.
- ✓ The GSK promotes biblical, gospel-centered literacy. After three years, children who go through GSK will have learned the gospel through 156 Bible stories and memorized 36 passages of Scripture. We cycle through the program again since all the children will have moved up.
- ✓ The GSK program allows children of all ages to study and learn the same Bible stories. Each class will study the same Bible story and learn the same Bible verses each week. At each level children will be challenged to learn more and apply the Scripture to the challenges at their own age level. This means that families can be discussing and applying the same Bible truths even though their children are at different grade levels.
- ✓ The GSK program allows us to reinforce the same biblical truths. Because the GSK program is designed for church and families to use together, we will become even more effective at supporting families as they teach their children about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Gospel Story for Kids



INTRODUCING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
AT OAKRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

## WELCOME TO PROMISE KINGDOM!

That's what we call our ministry to children at Oakridge Community Church. More than a fun name, it speaks of God's gospel story that begins in the book of Genesis with a promise to gather His wayward people under His loving rule, and ends in the book of Revelation with Jesus, the Lion and the Lamb, having accomplished the fulfillment of all of God's promises and bringing God's Story to a glorious new beginning.

Thank you for the opportunity to care for your children as we point them to the great promises of God through the gospel of Jesus Christ! It is also our joy to serve and equip you as parents to proclaim the gospel to your family and help them live in light of God's grace.

We have prepared this brochure for you in order to introduce you to Promise Kingdom and share what we are doing to partner with you in the training of your children. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact Pastor Jonathan at the church office, 651-439-4882.

*He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God.*

*Psalm 78:5-7*

## MISSION

The mission of Promise Kingdom is to help apply the broader mission of Oakridge, *to glorify God by delighting in, declaring, and displaying the gospel of Jesus Christ* to both children and their parents.

- ❖ Delighting in – Our highest goal is that our children would become true worshippers of our great God and Savior and find their delight in Him alone (Psalm 37:4).
- ❖ Declaring – We want our children to learn at an early age that they are called to a mission bigger than themselves. They are called not only to enjoy God's excellencies, but to share them with others for their joy (1 Peter 2:9).
- ❖ Displaying – We are saved from our sin, but not so we can continue in sin. We desire our children to understand the Holy Spirit's role in their sanctification and a life of discipleship, that His grace and glory may be seen through their life (Matthew 5:16).
- ❖ The Gospel of Jesus Christ – The glory of God is most clearly seen and displayed in the gospel: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for sinners. Our hope for delighting in God, declaring His excellencies, and displaying His goodness comes only through the gospel. This is the central message of the Bible and forms the foundation of our ministry to children and their parents.

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Oakridge Community Church believes that the primary responsibility for raising, educating, and training up a child belongs to parents. Our role is to support the parents and provide them with the tools, knowledge, and input to train their own children. Thus, Promise Kingdom is not primarily a means or forum for OCC to raise and/or train the children of the church, though we do seek to provide educational support to parents.

One way we do this is to provide families with *Long Story Short* or *Old Story New*, books of 10-minute devotions based on the lessons the children discuss on Sunday morning for the parent to lead throughout the week. Parents are welcome and encouraged to be present at functions where their children are being taught and cared for.

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH?

We do not offer a separate "Children's Church" at Oakridge. We believe that children and families are best served by kids learning to worship together with their parents during the entire service. This may mean a little more noise and activity, but we expect that in an intergenerational worshipping community!

We encourage families to pick up copies of the *Oakridge Kids Sermon Notes* each week for their children. These are designed to provide activities for the kids to work on, while at the same time helping them to listen and even take notes from the sermon.

For additional ideas, see John and Noël Piper's article, *The Family: Together in God's Presence*.