

STRUCTURE & CURRICULA

During the 9:00 a.m. and 10:20 a.m. hours we provide nursery care for children ages 0-3. At 9:00 a.m. classroom ministry is provided for all children up through sixth grade. Our classes are broken up into Preschool (4s-5s), 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 about a 3-year timetable. Each lesson seeks to teach the main



point of the Bible passage and how it relates to a major 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, the entire church is encouraged to learn and recite portions of the Bible each week, which we call our Fighter Verses.

SAFETY

Security for our children is vital. Promise Kingdom volunteers are screened with an application and training process that includes background checks.

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

- ✠ The GSK approach 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 curriculum 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 about 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 curriculum 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 families can be discussing and applying the same Bible truths, even though their children are at different grade levels.
- ✠ The GSK curriculum allows us to reinforce the same Biblical truths. Because the GSK material 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 the church office at 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*, both to children and to their parents.

The ministry of Promise Kingdom focuses on 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 on behalf of sinners. The good news of forgiveness of sins and the assurance of peace with God are promised to everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ alone as their only sufficient Savior. This is the central message of the Bible and forms the foundation of the Promise Kingdom ministry. We seek to help our children glorify God through Christ in the following ways:

- ❖ **By Delighting in the Gospel** - The highest goal of Promise Kingdom is for God to be glorified in the salvation of our children at Oakridge Community Church. God is glorified in us when we taste His goodness (Psalm 34:8) and delight in Him above everything else (Psalm 73:25). To see our children delighting in God through Jesus Christ above all else is the aim of Promise Kingdom.
- ❖ **By Declaring the Gospel** - The ministry of Promise Kingdom seeks to glorify God by declaring His Gospel. We teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our children so that as they hear the Word of Christ, the Gospel of salvation, they too might become proclaimers of His excellencies (1 Peter 2:9).
- ❖ **By Displaying the Gospel** - The true evidence that a person has been saved by the Gospel is the Holy Spirit's work of applying the Gospel to everyday life, causing His grace and glory to shine through us (Matt. 5:16). We desire for the children of Oakridge Community Church to grow in understanding how the Gospel of Jesus Christ impacts all of life, so they may learn to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord (Col. 1:10).

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 tended.