



Parkside CHURCH

Welcome, glad to have you here this morning. We hope you experience a warm welcome and will join us after the service for snacks and coffee. If you have questions, please feel free to ask one of the greeters, pastors or leaders.

More than anything, we want you to encounter God this morning in a personal way. Most people feel like they need to get their act together before coming to God. But like the loving father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), God comes to meet us in whatever condition we find ourselves. God rescues us from our troubles and renews our strength and hope. The book you got this morning, either *The Prodigal God*, by Tim Keller, or *The Jesus Storybook Bible (p 272)*, by Sally Lloyd-Jones, is a gift to you and shows more of the significance of this great story.

If you are visiting with kids, please take a look at some extra information on the back of this letter. We want kids to have a rich, multigenerational experience in the church, so we include them in parts of church life that may be different from your experiences. We have a nursery and cry-area with a video feed, but we also welcome some kid noise in the service as they learn how valued they are in God's family.

If you would like to, please fill out a visitor card and drop it in the offering box. And be sure to enjoy a drink or snack at Grant's Marketplace in South Park on us.

Yours in Christ,

Parkside Kids

When we started meeting for worship in a nearby house, the kids would have a lesson during the sermon in the backyard. As we grew and moved to a small cultural center, we expanded our kids ministries to include some classes before the service and a nursery and toddler lesson during the sermon. We are continuing to expand our classes and programs at Parkside, and we invite you to grow with us into these programs.

The most common question we get from parents on Sunday morning is, “What do you have for kids?”

First, we have **classes for kids each Sunday morning at 9:15**. These are more than just Sunday school. In many ways, they are our version of “Children’s Church”. There is singing, a lesson, and usually a craft or project.

Middle School (Ages 9-12)

In the Picnic Pavilion

Elementary School (Ages 5-8)

In room B35 – follow signs

Preschool (Ages 2-4)

In room B35 – follow signs

Nursery (Age 1)

In room B35 – follow signs

Note: Room B-35 is a big room and some activities are combined with all ages.

Second, we want to **equip parents to teach kids in homes**. This may sound intimidating at first, but we have many helpful resources to recommend that make it very accessible. *The Jesus Storybook Bible* is a great place to start. Just read a story each morning or evening with your whole family. Talk about the story when you have time. And don’t be surprised if you (parents) learn something along the way too.

Third, we are currently holding a **parenting class** at 9:15 Sundays in the conference room near the info table.

Fourth, we encourage kids at an early age to learn that **they are an important part of our worship** as a church. Read Luke 18:15-16! Jesus welcomed the children, and so do we! But that requires far more than teaching kids to sit still and be quiet. It requires parents, other members, pastors and even siblings to teach kids what we are doing. Why do we eat a piece of bread and drink wine? Why do we sing songs and pray? Why do we read so much from the Bible, and listen to a long sermon explaining what a passage means for our lives? Be sure to pick up a note page or coloring page for your kids before the sermon and encourage them to listen as long as possible, then encourage them to color or draw, and commend them during and after the service. Attention wanes at times, and little ones squirm. That’s what kids do. You are always welcome to use the cry-area in the picnic pavilion or the nursery in room B-35.

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:6-9

In the trenches with you,

The Parkside Children’s Ministry Staff and Volunteers

