



BETHEL KIDS

**PARENT
HANDBOOK**

Welcome to Bethel Kids!

We desire to be a safe place for your children to be loved, cared for and pointed to Jesus each and every time they are in our ministry environments.

We truly believe that God has chosen YOU, the parent, to be the primary spiritual influence in your children's lives and to nurture your kids' hearts to love and follow God. But we are so thankful and honored that we get to partner with you! When the home and the church partner together, we all have a greater ability to influence this generation to become resilient followers of Jesus in today's culture.

As we work together to disciple children in and through Bethel Church, our desire is that every child will love God, love others, and serve the world.

Thank you for entrusting your precious children to us. As you read through the pages of this handbook, we hope that you will see how intentional we are in taking your trust and our responsibility very seriously! If you have any questions, please contact any of our Bethel Kids team.

Allison Schmidlin

Director of Bethel Kids

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Bethel Kids' Vision

Love God

Bethel Kids Ministry strives to connect kids to God by cultivating a relationship with Christ through biblically sound teaching and developing Christ-centered relationships.

Love Others

Bethel Kids Ministry desires to intentionally invest in families to help them in the challenging and exciting process of discipling their children. Bethel Kids Ministry aims to instill in kids Christ's desire to intentionally love others.

Serve the World

Bethel Kids Ministry desires to teach kids what it looks like to sacrificially be the hands and feet of Christ in their everyday lives.

Sunday Morning Bethel Kids at 9:00 am Birth to 5th Grade.

*** Doors open 10 minutes before service ***

Early Childhood (Infants-4/5 year olds)

Preschoolers meet in the Children's Wing of our building. Teaching the message of God's love, the significance of each child and God's purpose for each life is crucial to preparing boys and girls to someday begin their relationship with Christ.

Elementary (Kindergarten-4th Grade)

School-aged kids will start out in the Gym for worship and hear the Bible lesson for the day together. Each grade will then travel to their classroom for small group time. Parents will pick up their kids in the Children's Wing following the Worship Service.

Preteens (5th Grade)

Preteens meet in Room 120 (off the gym). This class provides an environment for preteens to grow in knowledge, develop community, and take ownership of their faith to become transformed teens who influence their world for Christ. Class consists of Large Group Lessons, interactive activities and small group conversations.

Curriculum

Our desire in Bethel Kids Ministry is to be gospel-centered. We want kids to see that the Bible is not about us but one big story, all about Jesus! We want to acquaint each child with a great, big God.

On Sunday Mornings, a curriculum called The Gospel Project is used in all of our classrooms. The Gospel Project teaches the Bible in chronological order from Genesis to Revelation and helps kids dive into the big story of the Bible— God's plan to rescue His people through His Son Jesus Christ.

For more information on this curriculum, you can visit: <https://gospelproject.lifeway.com/kids/>

Bibles

We make it a priority to have our kids use their Bibles every time they attend Sunday School and Awana. Please help your child develop a habit of bringing their Bible to class. We use the NIV Adventure Bible in our classrooms.

AWANA Wednesday Evenings (Sept – May) Infants - 5th Grade

***Doors open at 6:15pm and pickup is at 7:45pm ***

Awana is a scripture memorization and Bible learning ministry that will mold and shape your child through the limitless power of God's Word. Awana leaders, together

with parents, create a spiritually nurturing environment to encourage kids to grow in the knowledge of Scripture and their walk of faith. Pre-registration required. For more information, visit www.bethelfc.com/awana or email Nicole at nicolelofgren@bethelfc.com

Special Events @ Bethel

Bethel Kids holds various special events throughout the year with the desire to help families connect to one another and to other families! We believe Christ calls us to build a strong community of believers who do life together.

These events are held specifically with the purpose of creating lifelong friendships that will help us grow as disciples of Christ. Be sure to visit www.bethelfc.com/kids or follow us on our Facebook page @bethelfckids to stay up to date on events coming up.

Sunday Morning Kid Drop Off

All kids must be checked in at one of our self-check-in IPAD stations located in the foyer. You will receive a Name Tag for each child along with a Parent Pick Up Tag that you will need to present when picking up your child(ren).

If it is your first time attending Bethel Kids, go to the Bethel Kids Welcome desk to get registered.

Preschool (Infant- 4 years-old)

Parents need to sign their child in with the classroom teacher and where you will be. Please keep your phone on vibrate in case we need to contact you during the service.

If your child is in the Nursery, please label your child's belongings each week and label your child's small diaper bag with the second name-tag printed at the kiosk.

Help your child develop the habit of using the restroom before he/she enters the classroom. If your child is potty-training, please be sure to make your child's teacher aware. For younger children, we strongly suggest you bring a change of clothing in a labeled bag, in case they have an accident.

Elementary (Kindergarten-5th grade)

Parents will drop their child(ren) off in the gym at designated tables for each grade and sign in their child. Please indicate where you will be so we know how to reach you and keep your phone on vibrate in case we need to contact you during the service.

Please help your child develop the habit of using the restroom before he/she enters the gym. We will strongly discourage the children from leaving the room unless it is an emergency!

Sunday Morning Pickup

In all classrooms at pick-up time, show your parent pick up tag that was printed at check-in.

Preschool (Infant-4 years old)

You will pick up your child in the classroom where you dropped them off.

Elementary (K-5th grade)

You will pick your child up in their Small Group Room located in the Bethel Kids Wing. Look for signs in the hallways that will direct you to your child's classroom.

Security

Security Badges

Our classrooms are located in secure areas of the building. You will need to show your Parent Pick Up Tag when picking up your child to ensure that your security code matches your child's. If you misplace your tag, you will be asked to show a form of I.D.

Contacting Parents

If your child has a need during the ministry hour that we are unable to meet, we will contact a parent/guardian initially by text. At the check-in station, you will be prompted to identify a contact person for the day who is designated to receive text messages.

If we cannot reach you by text, the security code from your Parent Pick Up Tag will display on each projection screen in the front of the Worship Center. If you are elsewhere in the building, a team member will be sent to get you.

Two-Worker Rule

Two approved workers must be present in a classroom of children at all times. Please do not drop your child off in a classroom without two workers. It is our policy that no child ever be alone with a volunteer.

Screening

The volunteer screening process includes a volunteer application, an extensive criminal background check, a meeting with the children's director, and required training sessions for all children's ministry volunteers.

Background Checks

All volunteers 18 years and older will undergo a background check in order to serve in the children's ministry.

Background checks are valid for 5 years. No one will be able to serve in any area of the children's unless they pass the national criminal background check or if there is a record of sexual abuse of any kind, or any other violent crimes.

Parental Responsibility

Parents are responsible for the direct supervision of their children, except when children are checked-in and participating in a Bethel Kids program.

Open Door Policy

A door must have a see-through window, or the door must remain open at all times.

Bathroom Policy

No adult is to be alone in a bathroom with a child at any time.

Volunteer Identification

All Bethel Kids volunteers must wear a lanyard, shirt, or name tag identifying themselves as volunteers.

Emergency Evacuation Instructions

We have procedures in place for several emergency scenarios. Your child will be taken care of by the classroom team and exit the building with his/her class. **DO NOT** go to your child's classroom. Exit according to the evacuation plan for your section of the building and meet your child at in the parking lot of Ed Clapp Elementary School.

Please **DO NOT** take your child from the parking lot without letting the classroom team know. They will release him/her to you after attendance is taken and you show proper identification (Parent Pick Up Tag or photo ID).

Once you have picked up your child, please proceed to your vehicle. However, you must remain in your parking spot until all emergency vehicles have arrived and the authorities have given you permission to leave.

Health & Wellness Policy

Is your child healthy today?

In an effort to provide a healthy and safe environment for all of our children and staff, we ask that children and adults not be in our classrooms if they have any of the following symptoms or illnesses:

- Pink Eye
- Persistent coughing
- Diarrhea
- Fever-within past 24 hours without medication
- Thick green or yellow mucus
- Vomiting -within past 24 hours without medication
- Children should be on antibiotics/medicine for at least 24 hours before coming to class.

If a child exhibits any of the above symptoms, we will contact you and ask that you remove your child from class.

Epi Pen

If your child needs an Epi Pen, please bring it in a sealed plastic bag and labeled with the child's name. Speak directly to the classroom teacher about the Epi Pen and put it in their possession. Remember to pick up the Epi Pen each time you pick up your child. Epi Pens cannot be left in the classroom overnight.

Allergies & Snacks

Please make sure we are aware of your child's serious allergies. When registering your child for the first time you will be asked about allergies. Your child's nametag will display the allergies you inform us about. Please also personally inform your child's teacher each time about the allergy.

Snacks are only served at Awana on Wednesday Nights in Preschool Classrooms. For health and safety reasons, we enforce a Nut Free Environment.

Classroom Behavior

Preschool

In the Early Childhood classrooms, the children will be taught to honor God. When a child makes a dishonoring choice we will move through the following steps, progressing to the next only as needed:

- Clarify expectations and remind child of a better choice.
- Ask child to take a "break"- a quiet time removed from the group to think about **what** he is doing wrong, **why** it is dishonoring, and what he will **do differently**. For our younger children, our caregivers will sit with the child, explaining this in a short, simple conversation.
- As needed, issue a consequence such as missing out on an activity, or when necessary, calling the child's parent.

After each step, we will bring discipline times to a positive conclusion and give the child a fresh start. This is done by asking three basic questions:

“What did you do wrong?”

“Why was it wrong?”

“What are you going to do differently next time?”

The child will then be encouraged to try again.

For our younger children, we answer these three questions for and with them. We ask the questions so that the child can get used to hearing the questions and answers, and one day answer them on their own.

Elementary

As children make honoring choices, not only do they shine, but far more importantly, God shines through them.

When a child makes a dishonoring choice we will move through the following steps, progressing to the next only as needed:

- Look at the child. Often just catching his eye is all the reminder needed.
- Move towards the child. Gently touch him on the arm if needed.
- Address the student gently and quietly, without embarrassing him or interrupting the activity. Remind him of a better choice and clarify expectations.
- Move the student away from the problem or remove the distraction from him.

- Ask him to take a “break” - a short, quiet time removed from the group to think about what he is doing wrong, why it is wrong, and what he will do differently.

Any time we address a student or give him/her a “break”, we will follow up with a *positive conclusion* by asking:

- What did you do that was wrong / dishonoring?
Help them identify whether they were dishonoring God, His Word, a leader, others in the room, or property that doesn't belong to them.)
- Why was it wrong / dishonoring?
- What will you do differently?

In our classrooms, our desire is to help each child learn to make choices regarding their words and behavior that will honor God, His Word, their leaders, their peers and even those who have to clean and take care of our facilities.

FAQ's

What should I bring to the Nursery?

Bring a **small** diaper bag with only items needed for the day.

We recommend:

- Diapers
- Change of Clothing
- Comfort Item such as a pacifier or blanket
- Bottles - Have water in the bottle and provide pre-measured formula so that it can be easily mixed.
- Cup labeled with your child's name

What age can my child be left in the Nursery?

You may leave children with us as early as you are comfortable doing so. Every September, there is a promotion out of the Nursery and into the toddler room if your child is walking and ready for more structure.

Does my child stay in the same Preschool Room all year?

In order to maintain safe ratios and provide age-appropriate learning materials, kids remain in the same classroom the entire year. Promotions take place in September.

What if my child needs me?

We will not let your child cry for more than 15 minutes before contacting you via text message.

What kind of health or hygiene procedures are used?

Our volunteers use standard precautions to help keep your child healthy. That means:

- Gloves when dealing with bodily fluids.
- Washing hands often.
- Caregivers do not serve if they are sick.

Will you change my child's diaper or toilet my child?

It is our goal to check each child's diaper at least once while they are with us. If your child is potty training, please let the teacher know and take him/her to the bathroom before class. Feel free to use the child-size toilet in our class bathroom. Bring a change of clothes in case of accidents.

Is a private Mother and Baby Room available?

A mother and baby room is available in the Women's Restroom located closest to the main Worship Center. You can view the Worship service live on the screen there.

Child Dedication

Child Dedication at Bethel is a public commitment made by parents indicating their desire to give their child the best spiritual opportunities they can provide. To participate, you must first attend a Parent/Child Dedication Class designed to introduce basic principles of spiritual parenting and to acquaint your family with Bethel Kid Ministries. For more information and to register for the class, visit

www.bethelcf.com/kids.

Photography & Video

We want our parents to understand that we will often take pictures and videos of events and ministries. We will provide parents and volunteers a general opt-out form for all events if they do not want their image used. A failure to turn in a completed opt-out form constitutes consent for pictures or video footage to be used.

We will seek to honor opt-out requests for images of individuals or small groups, but cannot ensure that the request can be adhered to for pictures or videos of large group events. Anyone who sees their picture posted on the church website and would like it removed, can send a written request to the church office. Please indicate where the picture is located.