

## **CHILDREN'S DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY PURPOSE STATEMENT**

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:16 may be one of the best known and most loved Bible verses, and it is this verse that Grace Blue Ridge Church (GBR) claims as the foundation for its Children’s Discipleship Ministry purpose statement. The love that God demonstrates for the world through His Son, Jesus Christ, is the same love that we wish to model for the little ones whom He has sent to us. Central to this ministry purpose are the tools that Jesus has provided us: the indwelling Holy Spirit to guide us, His Word to provide the truth that shapes our ministry and fellow believers to encourage us as we earnestly seek His will for this ministry. Based on these core principles, the purpose of the GBR Children’s Discipleship Ministry may be stated, “To partner with parents to teach the Gospel and model Jesus’ love to the next generation.”

## **CHILDREN'S DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY VISION STATEMENT**

The purpose statement drives the attitudes and actions of the staff and servants of the GBR Children’s Discipleship Ministry, producing visible fruit that is summarized in the four discipleship statements given below. This visible fruit is made manifest in the relationships that are produced in the classroom; the gospel centered truth that is proclaimed and modeled in the classroom; the love and safety that is the hallmark of the presence of the Holy Spirit; and finally, in the heart-felt desire to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the community around us.

### **FOUR DISCIPLESHIP STATEMENTS**

- To build Christ-centered relationships within each classroom: children with children, children with adults and adults with adults. (And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul... Acts 4:32)
- To faithfully teach and model gospel truth from the Scriptures. (We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praise worthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. Psalm 78:4)
- To create a place of love and safety where children can discover and begin to develop their God-given gifts. (Thou art my hiding place and my shield; I wait for Thy word. Psalm 119:114)
- To bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our neighbors through a yearly, Bible-based Vacation Bible School program. (But Jesus said, “Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:14)

## THE VISION IN ACTION – PARENTS

To build Christ-centered relationships within each classroom: children with children, children with adults and adults with adults. (And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul... Acts 4:32)

The Children's Discipleship Ministry seeks to fulfill its vision through the active participation and prayer support of the parents or, as stated in the above scripture reference, we seek to be "of one heart and soul." Parents do make excellent teachers – both at home and in our Children's Discipleship Ministry, and the staff welcomes and encourages parents to give it a try – blessings flow in all directions!

To provide an orderly teaching atmosphere on Sunday morning, there are a few guidelines that must be followed.

### 1. CHECK IN/CHECK OUT POLICY

Please follow the check-in procedures outlined below to help us provide as little disruption as possible.

#### a) First time visitor to GBR

1. Go to the staffed check-in station.
2. Give the servant your child's name, date of birth, grade and allergies or other special needs. Also provide your full name and cell phone number.
3. The printed nametag should be affixed to your child's back and you should keep the stub.
4. The number on the stub will appear on the screen in the sanctuary in the event you are needed in your child's classroom.

#### b) Subsequent visits to GBR after first visit check-in

1. Go to manual check-in station.
2. Check the names of your children who will be attending classes and make sure your child is checked in for the correct classroom and service time.
3. Put your child's nametag on his/her back and keep the stub.
4. The number on the stub will appear on the screen in the sanctuary in the event you are needed in your child's classroom.

## **2. SICK CHILD POLICY**

It is our desire to provide a healthy and safe environment for all GBR children. Parents are encouraged to be considerate of other children when deciding to place a child under our care. In general, children with the following symptoms should NOT be dropped off.

- a) Fever, diarrhea, or vomiting within the last 48 hours
- b) Green or yellow runny nose
- c) Eye or skin infections
- d) Other symptoms of communicable or infectious disease

The Director of the Children's Discipleship Ministry will be informed of children who are observed by GBR staff to be ill. After separation from other children, the parent or guardian will be contacted to request that the child be removed from the children's area.

## **3. ALLERGY POLICY**

Parents and caregivers are responsible for notifying the church of their child's allergies. This information is to be noted when signing in at the check-in station.

## **4. MEDICATIONS POLICY**

Prescription or non-prescription medications are not administered to children under our care.

## **5. ACCIDENTAL INJURIES TO CHILDREN**

If a child is injured while under our care, the following steps will be taken:

- a) For minor injuries, scrapes, and bruises, employee/servant will provide First Aid (Band-Aids, etc.) as appropriate and will notify the child's parent or guardian of the injury at the time the child is picked up from our care.
- b) For injuries requiring medical treatment beyond simple First Aid, the Children's Discipleship Ministry Director will be immediately notified in order to summon the child's parent or guardian. If warranted by circumstances, the following steps will be taken.
  - 1) Parent/guardian notified on the church projection screen.
  - 2) 911 called.
  - 3) Emergency responders notified. (An updated list is posted in each classroom.)

- c) Regardless of the severity of injury, an Accident Report Form will be filled out by the teacher/servant and counter signed by the Director of Children’s Discipleship Ministry.

6. GBR CHILDREN’S DISCIPLESHP MINISTRY GUIDE – CURRICULUM

Age or Grade	Name of Book	Publisher/Author	Purpose
2 – 3 years	“Give Me Jesus”	Great Commission Publishers	Topical e.g. God cares for me, God keeps me safe, God hears my prayers
Pre-school 4 – 5 years	“My Bible Verses From the Psalms”  “The Biggest Story”	Gospel Light	Learning to worship. Connecting the dots between the stories of the Old Testament and New Testaments with the work of Christ
Kindergarten	“Jesus Storybook Bible”	Sally Lloyd-Jones	Jesus as the center of the whole Bible, our rescuer
First Grade	“The Gospel Story Bible”	Mary Machowski	Recognizing Jesus as the hero of the whole story and how He changes lives
Second and Third Grades	“Elementary Kid’s Quest”	Great Commission Publishers	Catechism – what we believe, living together, loving Jesus, studying God’s Word
Fourth and Fifth* Grades	“Show Me Jesus”	Great Commission Publishers	Worshipping, listening to Jesus, telling others

\*Fifth grade – elementary catechism