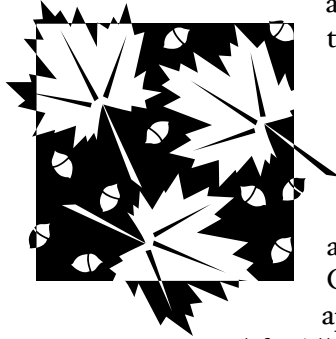


Vineyard Kids

The new season is here: what to expect

Fall and all the hustle and bustle that it brings is around the corner. Some Vineyard children have already started school and by the second week of September, most will be back in the classroom -in some form or another.

As we gear up for a new season in Vineyard's Children's Ministries, it is important to me that you know that we work hard to be a place that knows kids and where they will have plenty of opportunities to connect to God. At every level, we want to partner with parents in growing kids in spiritual maturity, who will rely on the Holy Spirit, who express loving and honoring worship to God, who develop honest



relationships with each other, and who are empowered to realize their God-given potential- so that they too will then be ambassadors of His transforming power to our community. We also want kids to learn God's Word well, applying it to their daily life. All this while kids have recently told us they want more fun, more donuts, more singing, and more games. How do we get it all done in about an hour each week?

By keeping these things in mind:

- Kids want their needs met. We can offer kids comfort, acceptance, and care.
- Kids want to understand. Kids learn in different ways so when we layer the lesson with different teaching techniques such as games, science, video clips, music, and props -we can help all kids learn better.
- Kids want community. Kids are relational so lets give them plenty of opportunities to interact and build friendships.
- Kids want to be challenged. Kids are smart. They don't respond well to the "duh" questions. They long to be challenged, so whether it's through leadership roles,

Calendar

August 31 falls on Labor Day Weekend, No Kid's Church that day, children welcome in main services; Nursery and God's Promises will remain open

September 7 Moving Day: Fall programs begin and children move to their new programs

September 7 Family Friendly Small Groups Open House Discussion after 11 am services, see bulletin

September 19-21 Dad and Kids Camp-out

September 28 Children's Ministries Rally and Picnic

October 3-5 Men's Retreat

December 14 The MerryMaking

critical thinking or creative projects, let's find ways to stretch kids intellectually and spiritually.

- Kids want to have fun. The curriculum can be deep, the teachers can be articulate, and we can incorporate fancy equipment...but if fun is not a vital ingredient in our ministry, the other stuff won't make a difference to them. Kids are wired for fun.

Moving Day: on Sunday, September 7 children move up a grade in children's ministries. This means kids entering kindergarten will be joining the

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CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS At 9 am and 11 am services

Nursery for children
4 months to 2 yrs.

God's Promises for children
2 - 5 yrs old.

Kids' Church for grades K-1-2

At 11 am service

Kids' Church for grades 3-4-5

our safety & security protocols

We screen and train-

We require each person to fill out an application, and submit to a background check. We train our staff in understanding abuse and our safety and security procedures.

Security is in place-

Volunteers wear tags of identification. Parents who hold their child's security tag are allowed in the classroom. No one else is allowed to pass through the classroom. The bathrooms in the Nursery are not for parents, any church members or public use while children are in the Nursery. Overseeing Coordinators hold walkie-talkies, watch corridors and stand by for classroom assistance.

In room visibility-

Classrooms have open doors or windows for monitoring.

Check-In/Check-Out-

We have established a security tag system that works like a receipt: adults must show their child's security tag for checking out children.

Two Adult Rule-

This rule requires volunteers to never be alone with kids.

Restroom Procedures-

Volunteers must clear restrooms before children enter. Volunteers must use the two adult rule when taking children to the restroom.

Extreme Parenting

Extreme Parenting is a VCFP support group for parents of special needs kids. We meet on a monthly basis at the church office to chat, pray for and support one another. Our children have a variety of special needs—including autism, cystic fibrosis, attention deficit, social and learning disabilities, and ongoing physical conditions that make parenting especially challenging.

We've been meeting for the past year, and have been getting to know one another and seeing how similar many of our struggles are. In May, we

had a wonderful time of pampering, where "extreme moms" were treated to a wonderful garden luncheon (another is planned for this fall). We will be having our next parent meetings at 7:45 p.m. at the church office:

Aug 20 - Wednesday

Sept 17 - Wednesday

Oct 23 - Thursday

Mothers, fathers and guardians are welcome! If you think you'd benefit from our group, please contact Vickey Kazarian at vkazarian@gmail.com / phone: 408-978-4749 or Susan Van Riesen at chovanriesen@gmail.com

Single Parent Support Network

Interested in:

- * getting to know other single parents?
- * babysitting/play-date exchanges?
- * prayer and support?
- * learning more about church and community resources?

Please contact Laurette Beeson

650-251-9006

lbeeson@stanford.edu



Arms of Love: Luis Alejandro Ramsing

Luis is being sponsored with the children's' tithes and offerings through Arms Of Love (www.armsoflove.org). He was born in September of 1997 and is going into second grade. His parents died seven years ago and he and his older sister moved in with his grandparents. After years of a loving and stable home, the grandfather became unemployed and due to financial hardship the children were placed in the Arms of Love home. The children were

aware of the circumstances and agreed to the situation. They still have a loving relationship with their grandparents. Luis' dream now is to finish all the way through high school and go to college. Luis is a shy boy with a pleasant demeanor. He struggles in school and we hope that with continued love, guidance, support and prayers this will become easier for him in time. ▲

Bible Learning Goals for Kids

Curriculum is organized in a two-year cycle that takes children through the Bible. A preschooler can go through each two-year cycle twice during their preschool career and as many as three times during their elementary career! Here is an outline of what children should be understanding as they study the Bible in stages.



Up through grade 1

Bible Facts: -The Bible is God's Word to us. It tells us right from wrong.

Characteristics of God: -God is Creator; Jesus is God's Son; the Holy Spirit is God's Spirit.

Life Application:-Follow weekly lessons and learn about life, church, family, relationships.

Biblical Doctrine:-God and Jesus are perfect and holy; we are all sinners; the blood sacrifice is the remission for our sins-Jesus was the sacrifice; the goal to be Christ-like.

Grade 2

Bible Facts: -The Bible is inspired by God and written by different authors.

Characteristics of God: -God is love; Jesus is Savior; and the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin.

Life Application: -Follow weekly lessons and learn about life, church, family, relationships.

Biblical Doctrine: -God and Jesus are perfect and holy; we are all sinners; the blood sacrifice is the remission for our sins-Jesus was the sacrifice; the goal to be Christ-like.

Grade 3

Bible Facts: -There are 66 books in the Bible.

Characteristics of God: -God is all-knowing, all-powerful, all-present, and never-changing; Jesus is God who was born and lived on earth; the Holy Spirit reveals God's will to us.

Life Application: -Follow weekly lessons and learn about life, church, family, relationships.

Biblical Doctrine: -God and Jesus are perfect and holy; we are all sinners; the blood sacrifice is the

remission for our sins—Jesus was the sacrifice; the concept of heaven and hell; the goal to

be Christ-like.

Grade 4

Bible Facts: -The division of Bible books, such as poetry, law, and minor and major prophets.

Characteristics of God: -The concept of the Trinity: God is Father, Jesus is Son, and the Holy Spirit lives within believers.

Life Application: -Follow weekly lessons and learn about life, church, family, relationships.

Biblical Doctrine: -God and Jesus are perfect and holy; we are all sinners; the blood sacrifice is the remission for our sins-Jesus was the sacrifice; the concept of heaven and hell; the goal to be Christ-like.

Grade 5

Bible Facts: -The authors of the Pentateuch and New Testament books.

Characteristics of God: -God judges our sins; Jesus is our mediator; and the Holy Spirit teaches, empowers, and gives peace to believers.

Life Application: -Follow weekly lessons and learn about life, church, family, relationships. (5th Connection ministry in the last quarter of 5th grade- discusses topics that deal with peer pressures, the challenges of the secular culture and puberty.)

Biblical Doctrine: -God and Jesus are perfect and holy; we are all sinners; the blood sacrifice is the remission for our sins-Jesus was the sacrifice; the concept of heaven and hell; the goal to be Christ-like; and church ordinances. ▲

"When deciding on the most effective course of action, the act of leadership is to expand the input of others rather than to contain it. It is extremely likely that the more diverse the perspectives brought to bear, the better the outcome, provided those participating are working within the framework of carefully designed and focused deliberation. This means that in contrast to the accustomed model of the expert atop a human pyramid consisting of the more and less non-expert, the field becomes more akin to the easy rolls of the natural landscape."
Elizabeth Coleman, President, Bennington College, Spring 2008

All to say, we welcome your comments & thoughts.

The Children's Ministries core team:
Georgina Aubin, Laurette Beeson, Jeannie Cole, Sherry Love, Debbie McDaniel and Jennifer Sampson

KIDS WORSHIP

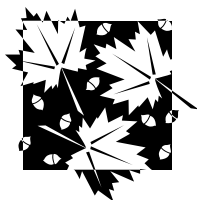
An answer to prayer in this area! Ann Wolfe is answering a call God has put on her heart and is bringing live worship into our programs. She is hoping more people will join her in this lively ministry to our children. Please let Anghelika or Ann know if you'd like to participate. Shop for the worship songs at www.vcfp.org/children-resource.html ▲

what to expect...

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K-1-2 Kids' Church in room A3. 3rd graders will be joining the 3-4-5 Kids' Church program in room A7. Please note that we will be opening a K-1-2 Kids' Church program at the 9am service.

Nursery attending children who have turned 2 years old in the last few months will move into God's Promises preschool on September 7. If your child is turning two in September or October, they too can join God's Promises on September



7. Children with later birthdays are welcome to move up on or after their 2nd birthday.

We really want children to be comfortable as they enter their new spaces so please take your time with this transition. If your child tends to be anxious about change, please talk about it ahead of time, visit the classroom a week ahead, and feel free to stay with your child a Sunday or two, or until they are comfortable.

If you are interested in the scope and sequence of your child's curriculum for this year, and even next year, please ask, call the office or send an email.

We are looking forward to a great year ahead. We have a very committed and experienced team of leaders who will be serving in the ministry. Please thank them for their continued faithful guidance! ▲

-Anghelika Maddalena
Pastor of Children's Ministries

learning

and living

If you read current college magazines, you will find quite a lot on the discussion of poverty and injustice, claiming them as key issues on our planet. It is likely that our kids' generation will be grappling with these issues at a systemic level, because a lot of what we are doing currently, does not seem to be working. As we raise our kids, we have the opportunity to help them practice bringing the message of the transforming power of Jesus Christ - a message for both those who work for justice in the world - as well as for those who seek for justice from the world. This year, as our church engages in justice and compassion in our area, consider getting involved as a family anew. These are opportunities to teach our children

how to engage in ministry while learning about the challenges. We live in a culturally and economically diverse area and I hope to see our church -and our children's ministry- be like the city on the hill (Matthew 5, 13-15) shining Jesus' transforming love, where we serve to bless, while also being involved in the discussions and actions that will bring real changes to systemic problems. As you plan your family's fall activities, don't over-schedule to the point that there is no time for your family to be involved in a regular small group, church events, and outreach. Let's bring our kids so they can be involved in all areas of the church. If you are interested in family friendly small groups, join in the conversation on September 7, after second service. More information in the bulletin.

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