

EQUIPPING CHILDREN TO BE

Wholeheartedly

DEVOTED TO GOD

CHILDREN'S EQUIPPING CENTER

PARENT GUIDE 2024

EQUIPPING CHILDREN, SERVING FAMILIES, REACHING COMMUNITIES

Dear friends,

We believe that children should be taught how to develop a relationship with God at a young age. The impact a child can make in their Christian walk is just as important as any adult's. However, children's ministry is often viewed as little more than a babysitting service, while it should equip children to take their place in the Body of Christ and to love and serve God.



Our children are bombarded with many things that distract them from pursuing a personal and ongoing relationship with Jesus. It is no surprise that many grow up without knowledge of the power and ministry of the Holy Spirit; even still, they are no less capable of knowing God in a deep way.

Because of the cultural and spiritual barriers that children encounter while growing in God and because of His high calling for their lives, we must make our approach to children's ministry a relevant one. We must search for divine guidance, face and contend with the generational patterns of our culture, and empower children to live in wholehearted devotion to Jesus.

More than simply ensuring that children have supervision and entertainment while their parents attend a church service, our goal in the Children's Equipping Center (CEC) is to create an environment in which children learn the Word of God; learn to preach, teach, and prophesy; and thirst to see the sick healed and the lost saved.

As we partner with parents, children, the global prayer movement, and the wider Body of Christ, it is our hope that this handbook will offer an understanding of the mission, values, priorities, and program strategies that we practice at the International House of Prayer CEC. We consider it to be a privilege to lead with such a gifted team of ministers at the International House of Prayer, and we consider our staff to be one of the finest ever assembled.

Let us know how we can serve you further. Email cec@ihopkc.org if you have any questions.

May God pour out many blessings on your family,

Lenny and Tracy La Guardia
Executive Directors, Children's Equipping Center

LENNY LA GUARDIA
PASTOR, VP MINISTRIES & OUTREACH DIVISION
LEAD CHAPLAIN, POLICE & FIRE DEPARTMENTS, GRANDVIEW, MO

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What People Are Saying

“Before I came to CEC, I didn’t really know God and didn’t think my church was fun. When I came here I thought everything was really cool. We could sing, dance, and pray on the microphone. God showed me that there’s more than just going to church for one hour a week. He is with me all the time.”

—Melody, CEC graduate

“My favorite part about CEC is worship. I love dancing around like a little girl who is just learning to enter in and beginning to know God. I laugh with Him and find so much joy in worship that I just can’t stop smiling!”

—Sydney, CEC graduate

“I’ve learned that I have to spend time with God because that’s when I hear Him speak to me, like a friend would. He helps me to understand the Bible, and I really like learning more about Him.”

—Taylor, CEC graduate

“When you see kids around you go after God, it provokes you to jealousy, and you want to go after Him like they are. CEC has helped me to meet God in prayer and worship, and God is making me fall in love with Him. He is more than Sundays, and if you search for Him, you’ll find out He’s better than Xbox and TV—He is beautiful and the ultimate friend.”

—Samuel, CEC graduate

“The CEC and the Signs & Wonders Camps have had more kingdom impact on our ten-year-old daughter’s spiritual growth than anything else. She is looking at people and situations with spiritual eyes and keeping her commitment to spend more time with the Lord.”

—Karen, a mother from Mississippi

“After attending an IHOPKC conference, my son told me, ‘God is really changing me!’ His hunger and excitement for prayer and preaching have significantly increased; we’re excited to see how the Lord will continue to change him!”

—A father visiting from out of state

Our Values

At the very core of the Children’s Equipping Center is our mandate to establish a culture that equips and releases children to be fully devoted to a lifestyle of wholehearted devotion to God.

Our desire is to see children all over the earth involved in the prayer movement and experience the power of the Holy Spirit. To this end, we have set in place priorities and programs that will pass on the biblical values of prayer and the Word of God, which are foundational to night-and-day prayer.

The heart of our vision is to intentionally develop opportunities for children of all ages to be equipped to heal the sick through the laying on of hands; to prophesy, preach, and teach; to give from their heart to the poor; to worship; and to evangelize the lost. Finally, we want to provide opportunities for them to express and grow in their gifts as musicians, singers, and prayer leaders.

Core Beliefs

Bible Literacy

We equip children with a heartfelt knowledge of the Bible through godly content and creative teaching methods.

We believe that the sixty-six books of the Bible are the inspired and, therefore, inerrant Word of God. The Bible is the final authority for all we believe and for how we are to live (Mt. 5:18; Jn. 10:35; 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16–17; 2 Pet. 1:20–21).

Prayer

We teach principles of enjoyable prayer that assist children in developing an intimate dialogue with God and a thirst for communion with Him.

Children are taught to understand that the Holy Spirit is orchestrating a global prayer movement, and that they are part of it.

Children can hear from God and understand more than many might give them credit for. As Misty Edwards said in March 2012, the uncreated God has made a sacred space in us for the Holy Spirit to occupy.

We teach that Jesus made a way for all to come to Him, and that all are accepted into His house, according to Isaiah 56:7: “Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer . . . for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

Praise and Worship

We aspire to create an environment where all children receive the opportunity to express their love for God and receive His love for them.

King David listed three responses of people who act with wisdom: they tremble, rejoice, and “kiss the Son,” or welcome Him in with open hearts (Ps. 2:10–12).

Each week, we focus on the following:

- His majesty. We teach children that they can enter into the presence of the Lord and begin to understand His majesty.
- His redemption. We teach children to celebrate and rejoice in the benefits of His redemption.
- His heart. We teach children that they can know and experience His heart for them.

Power, Signs, and Wonders

We teach children that they can walk with boldness and zeal, ministering to others in the power of the Holy Spirit. We believe God’s power is not just for adults to experience.

We teach children that Jesus expressed what is in the Father’s heart when He called them to come to Him and stated that all must receive the kingdom of God as little children (Lk. 18:15–17).

“Here am I and the children whom the LORD has given me! We are for signs and wonders.” (Isa. 8:18)

The Prophetic – Holy Spirit

We teach children to believe the promise given to us in Acts 2:17, that in these last days His Spirit will be poured out on all flesh, and that they can receive the Holy Spirit’s ministry.

We seek the Lord daily for wisdom, strategies, and opportunities to operate in the promise of Acts 2:17, and to proclaim the power of the Holy Spirit to young people worldwide.

We believe that children can be like the sons of Issachar, “who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do” (1 Chr. 12:32).

Our Staff



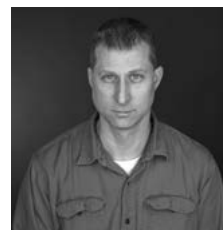
Lenny La Guardia
Executive Director



Tracy La Guardia
Director of Camps & Camp Kitchen



Nadia Bricco
Assistant Director



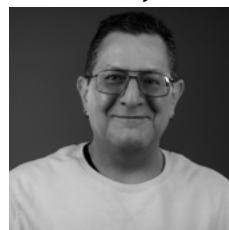
James Bricco
Facilities & Security



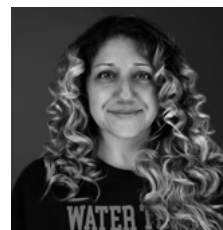
Athena Runyan
*Senior Ministry & Executive
Assistant to Lenny La Guardia*



Jeffery Taylor
CEC Operations



Bill Mares
Director of Assimilation



Juanita Taylor
Manager Camp Kitchen

Our Staff - *Tender Shoots (Early Childhood)*



Amy Szu
Pastor (Ages 1–2)



Desiree Ditto
Sunday FC Coordinator



Rebecca McNutt
Pastor (Ages 3–4)



Alex Hazard
GPC Coordinator/Friday FC Coordinator



Kristina Dech
Pastor (Ages 5–6)

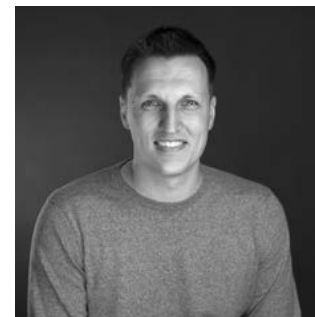


Kimery Hicks
*Tender Shoots Coordinator/
Early Childhood Pastor*

Our Staff - *Young Messengers (Elementary)*



Sari Robinson
Pastor (Ages 7–8)



Brad Carlson
CEC Director/Pastor



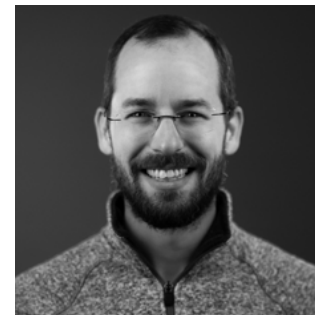
Julianna Staub
Pastor (Ages 9–10)



Joshua Hulkkonen
Assistant Director



Zoë Bootsma Reis
Pastor (Ages 11–12)



Stephen Wick
Trail Life Scouting Coordinator

Our Staff



Aaron Back
*Director, KidCity 7
& CEC Worship*



Francisco Morales
Site Pastor, Ruskin Heights



Lauren Sliker
Site Pastor, Daisy Walnut



Salemah Wong
Site Pastor, Calico Farms



Kindra Back
Site Pastor, Raytown



Ryeon McClenton
Music Coordinator

CEC Programs and Events

The Children's Equipping Center facilitates many different programs that run alongside IHOPKC's services and events. Each age group falls within an established CEC department and has age-appropriate facilities, along with trained leaders and teaching teams. Times and locations are subject to change.

Staff Service (Ages 1-12)

Fridays, 5-7pm
Forerunner Church

We want to teach children to have understanding and might in their inner man and to be a generation that knows and understands their God (Jer. 9:24). We have designed the Children's Equipping Center to teach and equip children in a foundational way on topics such as the love of God, the Word of God, who we are in Christ, the cross, prayer, healing, prophecy, and Jesus' second coming.

Forerunner Church (Ages 1-12)

Sundays, 8:45am, 11am
Forerunner Church and CEC Blue Ridge Building

During the International House of Prayer's Forerunner Church services, children are taught foundational, biblical truths and nurtured in understanding God's Word. Directors for each age group will create a list of curriculum themes and topics, which they will provide to parents each quarter.

Malachi 4:6 Family Prayer Meetings (All Ages with Families)

Fridays, 5-6pm
CEC Blue Ridge Building

Our family prayer meetings provide a place for families to engage in prayer together and for CEC to partner with parents to raise up their children as intercessors, worshipers, and musicians. These prayer meetings give the children an opportunity to learn how to actively engage in prayer meetings, participate on a team, and lead a group of people in intercession. Children of all ages are encouraged to participate; all children must be accompanied by a parent.

Baby Dedication

Every quarter, families are invited to register for a baby dedication ceremony, which takes place during the 11am Forerunner Church service on Sunday. Families who register receive a short teaching on the biblical value of baby dedication, as well as a certificate of dedication, a Bible, and a gift from the CEC. For more information and to register, please email cec@ihopkc.org.

Family Harvest Festival

October 31, 4–9pm

Each year, the CEC hosts an evangelistic outreach and family fun night at the CEC Camp and Training Center. All ages are invited to come and enjoy free hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy, bounce houses, pony rides, a petting zoo, activity booths, a blacklight room, gospel presentations, and prayer. Prizes are awarded to the winners of the biblical costume contests for ages 0–12. Admission is an unopened bag of individually wrapped candy.

Trail Life Scouting Program (Ages 5–17)

The CEC offers year-round scouting programs that prepare young men and women to become godly leaders and discover the Lord through a wide variety of age-appropriate fun and challenging activities. These activities, which include service projects, games, campouts, hikes, and weekly meetings, also teach character development, service to others, mental and physical fitness, and good citizenship. Our goal is to develop men and women of integrity who wholeheartedly love God and others—not only in word, but also in deed. Boys ages 5–17 may participate in Forerunner Scouts.

For more information, please email cec@ihopkc.org.

Tender Shoots Classes (Ages 1–5)

Tuesday–Friday, 9am–12pm

Tender Shoots programs are designed for early childhood, to equip toddlers and preschoolers in the Word, worship, and prayer. We currently offer a selection of programs.

Tender Shoots Classes | (Offered two times a year)

Tuesday–Friday, 9am–12pm

Visit ihopkc.org/cec/tender-shoots for more information.

Young Messengers Classes (Ages 6–12)

The CEC offers a children's ministry school with morning, afternoon, and evening courses in the spring and fall. Young Messengers Institute is designed to impart an understanding of God's Word and train children to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit through prayer and worship. Course options include Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey, Life of Prayer, Life of Worship, Teaching and Preaching Practicum, Harp and Bowl (Levels 1 and 2), and Children's Choir.

Visit ihopkc.org/cec/young-messengers-classes for upcoming classes and registration.

KidCity7

KidCity7 is an initiative to reach children and youth in our local neighborhoods with the truth and love of God. We use our Sidewalk Sunday School trucks to travel and communicate the gospel. Each truck goes out with a team and is equipped with a self-contained stage, a sound system, and more. Our KidCity7 evangelism and discipleship program has four components: Outreach, Family Restoration, Life Skills Courses, and Church Shuttle Transportation.

A. Outreaches

1. Weekly

Our weekly outreaches, each led by a site pastor and team, take place on Wednesday evenings, 4:30–7:30pm. The neighborhoods we are currently ministering to weekly are Calico Farms, Daisy Walnut, Ruskin Heights, and student after-school programs in Hickman Mills and Grandview schools.

2. Chapels

Once a quarter we gather all the neighborhoods together at the CEC Blue Ridge Building or Camp and Training Center for a special time of worship, gospel presentation, and ministry to the children.

3. PAL (Police Athletic League)

On Wednesday evenings, 5–7pm, we partner with the KCPD at South Patrol Station to offer a youth program that includes a meal, life lessons from various community leaders, creative crafts and thoughtful exercises, and fun activities in the gym. The children have a positive experience with law enforcement and develop a healthy respect for authority that will impact their neighborhoods now and in the future.

B. Family Restoration

Family Restoration consists of monthly and biannual outreaches where our outreach neighborhoods gather for a celebration service at different citywide locations. Through the relationship and trust that has been built with the families, we have the opportunity to help meet practical needs, give guidance and encouragement, and bless them with prayer and God's Word.

C. Life Skills Courses

Life skills courses are given on a quarterly basis. Locations are at IHOPU, Forerunner Church, and Camp and Training Center.

Church Connections: Various local Grandview churches.

D. Church Shuttle Transportation

To serve our parents and children, KidCity7 provides transportation services from our outreach sites to our Sunday church services and monthly/biannual outreaches.

For more information, visit ihopkc.org/cec/kidcity7.

Immerse Program Children's Tracks (Ages 1-12)

For families participating in the Immerse program

The Children's Equipping Center offers children's tracks for children ages 1-12 for families participating in the Immerse program during select dates. These tracks include the same content that the adults receive, but at an age-appropriate level. We do not provide transportation or shuttles for children's tracks; it is the parents' responsibility to drop off and pick up their children. Find out if children's tracks will be offered for the Immerse program you are considering. You may register your children when you sign up for the program; children must be registered by the Saturday before the start date.

Intro to IHOPKC Children's Tracks (Ages 1-12)

For families participating in the Intro to IHOPKC internship

The Children's Equipping Center offers children's tracks for children ages 1-12 for families participating in the Intro to IHOPKC internship. Our goal is to teach children the same truths that their parents are learning, but at an age-appropriate level. Children receive 15 hours of training per week while their parents attend the internship. Teachers equip children using a curriculum built around themes such as intimacy with Jesus, the end times, apostolic prayers, the harp and bowl model of worship and prayer, and intercession. We do not provide transportation or shuttles for children's tracks; it is the parents' responsibility to drop off and pick up their children.

Sound and Screens Training (Ages 10+)

CEC Blue Ridge Building

This training event, offered multiple times a year, includes basic training for becoming a screens or sound technician at CEC functions. No registration is necessary.

Signs & Wonders Camps for Children

Camps for Ages 4–5

We offer Little Edition Camps during our Signs & Wonders Camps. Orientation is at 9am on the first day. Drop-off on the following days is at 9am with pickup at 2pm.

Find out more and register your children at ihopkc.org/signsandwonders.

Camps for Ages 6–12

At our Signs & Wonder Camps, children are trained and released to be wholeheartedly devoted to God. Our vision is to see children radically committed to Jesus, experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit, and moving in signs and wonders. At our camps, we teach children to value:

- the knowledge and love of God
- the power of the Holy Spirit,
- the commandment to love, respect, obey, and honor their parents,
- living by the Word of God, and
- encountering God in worship and prayer.

Visit ihopkc.org/signsandwonders for more information and to register your children.

Regional Signs & Wonders Camps

For more information and to register, visit ihopkc.org/regionalcamps.

CEC Tracks at IHOPKC Events

We encourage children and parents to be equipped together during their time at the International House of Prayer. Children's Equipping Center tracks are provided for children ages 1–12 at IHOPKC events. The theme of each event is taught at the child's comprehension level.

CEC Resources and Training

The Children's Equipping Center hosts training events at the International House of Prayer throughout the year. Join us for one or more of the these events. For more information about events and registration, visit ihopkc.org/cec.

Family Enrichment Services

We invite the families of our community to attend our Family Enrichment Services throughout the year, which are designed to bring our families together for a night of praise and worship, vision-casting for the next season, and strong

teaching on marriage and family. Guest speakers from various professional and ministry backgrounds are invited to encourage and strengthen our families. Topics include marriage and family mentoring, teaching, and counseling. Childcare is provided for children ages 1–4. Email cec@ihopkc.org for more information.

Rites of Passage

Rites of Passage is a six-week class for adults that casts vision and provides practical tips on raising up and transitioning adolescents into young adulthood. Topics include imparting a father's blessing, and defining and affirming a young adult's new biblical identity. Email cec@ihopkc.org for more information.

CEC Leadership and Parent Enrichment Summits

This summit will help equip and empower pastors, parents, and leaders to pursue the knowledge of God, passion for Jesus, and enjoyable prayer and to teach children to do the same. We share resources that will unlock a child's heart for intimacy with God through prayer, praise, power, and the prophetic. Register at ihopkc.org/cecministrysummit.

Next Generation On-Ramp

Third Sunday of each month

At the heart of the Children's Equipping Center is a vision to gather and equip church leaders, parents, and others who desire to impact and mentor the next generation. This on-ramp is a prerequisite for those desiring to equip, lead, impact, and teach the next generation at IHOPKC and Forerunner Church. Registration is not necessary. See the events page (ihopkc.org/cec/events) or church bulletin for more information.

How to Connect with CEC

The CEC leadership team has set out to recruit and train those who have a desire to impact the family and equip children to be devoted to a lifestyle of wholeheartedness before God. If you are interested in getting connected and placed into an area of ministry within CEC, please follow these steps:

1. Attend a Next Generation On-Ramp available monthly at Forerunner Church. For dates, times, and locations of training classes, visit ihopkc.org/cec/events.
2. Fill out a ministry application, available from the CEC office or any of the CEC buildings. A screening and background check will take place, and a 20- to 30-minute interview will be scheduled after training.

Policies and Procedures

Welcome Center – Family Registration

The Welcome Center is a vital part of the Children's Equipping Center. Every week we welcome new families that are first-time visitors to Forerunner Church as well as greet all of the families as they come into the Children's Equipping Center.

Our mission is to ensure that each parent and child has a loving, welcoming, heartfelt experience. With care and compassion, we register each child and explain our safety policies and check-in and check-out procedures to ensure that all parents feel comfortable that their children are safe and cared for.

On occasions when a family needs temporary name tags and wristbands for the children and parents, we are happy to serve whatever the need may be.

A parent or guardian must fill out a family information form before dropping their children off at a CEC location. The information assists us in managing the security and safety of all the children and helps us relate to each family.

Children's Check-In Procedure

Each child receives a security name tag and each parent or guardian receives a parent ID. Children can be dropped off 15 minutes prior to an event. Parents/guardians are always invited to attend the first few times a child comes, in order for trust to develop between the child and the CEC staff. Parents/guardians will be contacted if their child has cried inconsolably (consistent crying without brief stops) for 15 minutes. If a parent/guardian wishes to be contacted sooner, please let your child's teacher know.

Pick-Up Procedure

For security reasons, only individuals with security IDs matching the child's

security name tag will be able to pick up that child. Parents are encouraged to list on the family information form anyone who is allowed to pick up their child from CEC. Additionally, only approved children's ministers and parents are allowed into CEC classrooms.

Health Policies

If a child has special needs, including allergies or physical challenges, these needs should be communicated on the family information form. Sick children will not be allowed to attend. Sickness includes fever, diarrhea, vomiting, congested cough, pink-eye, contagious rash, and lice. Children with special needs may attend class; however, a parent, guardian, or CEC-approved buddy must accompany them. Due to various nut allergies, CEC will not allow any snacks containing nuts.

Fever and infection: Children and staff members who have a fever will not be accepted into class until they have been without a fever for twenty-four hours. Children and staff members who have been diagnosed with an infection will not be allowed back into class until they have been on an antibiotic for at least twenty-four hours or until they are no longer contagious.

Medical Emergencies

In the case of a medical emergency, parents and guardians will be contacted immediately. Under no circumstances will staff administer medication to a child. If a child requires medication, a parent or guardian must administer it. We ask that all parents and guardians fill out the emergency medical treatment section on the family information form.

Fire and Building Evacuation

In case of a building evacuation or fire, all children will be ushered out through the appropriate exits. A plan has been established to ensure this process runs smoothly and safely.

Equipping the Staff – Screening Process

All Children's Equipping Center staff must complete a thorough screening process, which includes the following seven steps:

Step 1. All applicants are required to attend an on-ramp orientation class. This class should provide training in all policies, procedures, and protocols, along with an understanding of the ministry's vision, values, and program practices.

Step 2. All applicants will then complete a ministry application. This gives the staff permission to review the applicant's history and run a local, national, and international background check which will then be reviewed by the director of children's ministry and the screening/deployment team. This will include vetting the applicant with public registries of state, national, and international sex offenders.

Step 3. Applicants who are cleared and who have passed all background checks are interviewed by senior-level deployment directors only. Prior to or just after the interview process, a director will also review and contact all references listed by the applicant.

Step 4. If an applicant is approved to continue in the process of being deployed, the applicant's name should be vetted through other senior-level directors and leaders within the church.

Step 5. Finally, the applicant's information will be reviewed by deployment directors, who will go over the application, background checks, interview responses, and reference responses, as well as all internal review processes.

Step 6. This senior team will make a final decision to approve or deny the individual's placement.

Step 7. If approved, the applicant will be deployed to a department director for observation and assignment.

Discipline Policy

We believe that discipline should be a positive experience. We believe that discipline is involved in the process of making a disciple. We follow these guidelines each week:

- A complete description of the classroom rules will be presented regularly.
- No swats or physical contact will be administered by CEC staff.
- Fighting, cursing, vandalism, stealing, and malicious behavior require an immediate conversation with parents and/or guardians, with the possible removal of the child from the environment.
- If a child is in need of correction, he or she will always be reminded by the teacher of the rules in the learning environment.
- If a child continues to need correction, the situation will be referred to a children's director or department leader. Parents may be contacted during this process.

Children's Counseling

This ministry does not have any professional or clinical children's therapists or psychologists on staff. If you would like to meet with a CEC staff member and your child, appointments can be made by calling (816) 763-0200 x.2525.

Water Baptisms

We believe in water baptism. Dates and times for water baptisms are communicated through IHOPKC ministry bulletins.

CEC Resources List

Lenny and Tracy La Guardia, along with the CEC team, have developed resources, training materials, and full curriculum for children. For a complete list of online resources, visit ihopkc.org/cec/resources. CEC resources may also be purchased online through Forerunner Bookstore at ihopkc.org/store.

Curricula

Available at ihopkc.org/cec/resources.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- CEC's Scope & Sequence
- Age Group Characteristics
- "The Kingdom of God and Children," Lenny La Guardia
- "The Unavoidable Need for a Paradigm Shift in Children's Ministry," Lenny La Guardia
- "Understanding the Heart of a Pioneer," Lenny La Guardia
- "It's Not a Hobby: Experiencing a Leadership Shift in the 21st Century," Lenny La Guardia
- "Releasing Children in Praise and Power," Lenny La Guardia

TENDER SHOOTS—EARLY CHILDHOOD, AGES 1–5

Ages 1–2

- Glad Heart Series for Ages 1–2 Quarter 1: Who Is God?
- Glad Heart Series for Ages 1–2 Quarter 2: Jesus, Son of God
- Glad Heart Series for Ages 1–2 Quarter 3: Holy Spirit & Prayer
- Glad Heart Series for Ages 1–2 Quarter 4: Jesus Is Coming Back

Ages 3–5

- Glad Heart Series for Ages 3–5 Quarter 1: Who Is God?

YOUNG MESSENGERS—ELEMENTARY RESOURCES

- The Person & Ministry of the Holy Spirit —5-Lesson Student Manual for Ages 8+
- Knowing Jesus —11 Lessons for Ages 6+
- Prayer Manual and Prayer CD
- Praise Manual and Praise CD

Additional Resources

- *A Mother's Manual for Schoolday Survival*, Kathy Peel and Joy Mahaffey
- *Children at Risk*, Dr. James Dobson
- *How to Really Love Your Child*, Ross Campbell, MD
- *1,001 Ways to Introduce Your Child to God*, Kathie Reimer
- *Let's Make a Memory*, Gloria Gaither and Shirley Dobson
- *Making the Most of Your Child's Teachable Moments*, Wanda Pelfrey
- *Money Matters for Parents and Their Kids*, Ron and Judy Blue
- *Parenting Isn't for Cowards*, Dr. James Dobson
- *Parenting with Love and Limits*, Bruce Narramore
- *Power of a Parent's Words*, Dr. Norman Wright
- *Single Parenting*, Robert G. Barnes, Jr.
- *The New Dare to Discipline*, Dr. James Dobson
- *The Shaping of a Christian Family*, Elisabeth Elliot
- *The Way They Learn*, Cynthia Tobias
- *The Hurried Child*, David Elkind
- *The Word Parents Handbook*, Lawrence O. Richards
- *Train Up a Child*, Rolf Zettersten
- *Who's in Charge Here?*, Robert G. Barnes, Jr.

Parent Enrichment

We desire to help you in raising your child to understand God's relationship to our lives. A child's constant questioning and learning can be quite challenging! How do you begin to explain God to a young child?

Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Tim. 3:14–15)

From this scripture we can see that Timothy was taught about God from the time he was a baby and that he was raised to know God. A newborn baby does not have the same learning skills as a six-year-old, but a child is always growing, learning, and processing new information.

As you raise your child for God, it is important to know that each layer builds upon the previous, and that in understanding the nature and character of God, it is never too soon to discuss and teach these things to your child. A small child can understand many truths from the Bible, and although he may not be able to understand a truth completely, he will grow in understanding as he matures.

On the next few pages you will find biblical concepts for each age group, along with some brief tips to help you appreciate how most children in each group understand the foundational teachings of the Bible. Each child is an individual;

therefore, each child will grasp different truths at different times in their development. We hope that this will serve as a tool for you to use in your home.

It is critical in the development and presentation of a quality program that we familiarize ourselves with those biblical concepts that can be grasped by children at various developmental stages. That is why we establish teaching objectives in the Children's Equipping Center. These objectives provide the framework for working with children at a given level. Parents are urged to clearly understand these biblical concepts in order to ensure that we are teaching within the guidelines.

Basic Age Group Insights

Infants—Two-Year-Olds

2–12 months: A child of this age is in the process of establishing trust and has complete dependence on the caregiver.

1-year-olds: At this age, children are beginning to walk. Managing the child's desire for autonomy is important. The child seeks a little independence while still being dependent on the caregiver.

2-year-olds: At this age, children are developing a sense of curiosity about the world and are still quite egocentric. They have a strong need to know they belong.

CONCEPTS TO TEACH THIS AGE GROUP

About God: Children should learn that God loves them and takes care of them and their families. God made the world and each one of us. He does good things for all of us. They can talk to God in prayer and can praise God in song and worship. They can tell God they are sorry for the bad things they do, and they should be learning to obey and please God.

About Jesus: Children should learn that Jesus loves us and is our friend, that He is God's Son, that He was once a child like them, and that He lived on earth.

About the Bible: Children should learn that it is God's special book, given to us to tell us about Him and how much He loves us.

About home and parents: Children should learn that God gave them parents and families, and that they should obey their parents.

About church: Children should learn that they can come to church to learn about God and Jesus, and that it is a place to see friends and enjoy others. They learn that the church is God's house, and that they can give money to God's house to help buy things and give to others.

About others: Children should learn that God gives them grown-ups to care for them, and that people can be good friends. Children learn that though others may be unkind, God wants them to be kind to others and share with them.

About other biblical concepts: For example, children should learn that angels are messengers from God, that they were sent to tell people when Jesus was born, that they protect God's children, and that they worship God.

Early Childhood (Ages 3–5)

3-year-olds: Their language continues to develop. Peers play a larger role, especially in play. They cannot grasp abstract concepts yet. They learn primarily by doing.

4-year-olds: A greater sense of self is being developed. They are learning that they belong in the world. Peers are more important to them. Their vocabulary is growing. They enjoy different words and use them to exaggerate. Their ideas move beyond home and life.

5-year-olds: They enjoy dramatic play and pretending, including role-play. They are beginning to prefer companions and may now have a best friend. They like to feel independent and can be demanding at times.

CONCEPTS TO TEACH THIS AGE GROUP

About God: Children should learn that God loves them and others. God cares for and loves their families. He made all things, and He is everywhere. They can trust and depend on God. God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for their sins and they can talk to God any time. God wants them to talk to Him, worship Him, and be thankful for all He has done. God wants them to be obedient to their parents and to Him.

About Jesus: Children should learn that Jesus loves them and wants to be their best friend. Jesus came to earth to be their Lord and Savior, and He died for their sins. He lives in heaven, but He will always be with them. Jesus wants them to love and obey Him and do the things that He taught us to do. Jesus will help us to obey and to do good to others.

About the Bible: Children should learn that it is God's special book given to us to tell us about Him and His love for us. They should know that the stories in the Bible are true.

About home and parents: Children should learn that God gave them parents to care for them and teach them. God cares for each member of their family. They should obey their parents. When they are disobedient, they sin.

About church: Children should learn that they come to church to learn about God and Jesus. It is a place to see friends and enjoy others. Church is God's house. Church is a place where we can come to worship God and pray.

About others: Children should learn that God made all people to love Him. God wants them to tell others about Jesus. He wants them to pray for others, even those who may be unkind. God wants them to share with others, give to others, and be kind to others.

Early Elementary (Ages 6–8)

6-year-olds: They can be moody, bored, and restless when confined indoors. While they may take criticism poorly, they still crave affection and need their parents' approval and affirmation. They have best friends and small groups of friends are forming.

7-year-olds: They may not demand companionship as much and they can spend more time by themselves. They are moving from concrete thinking to abstract thinking. They are establishing what they believe.

8-year-olds: They may spread themselves too thin, and things may wind up in a mess. Relationships with their parents may get complicated. They do well with other siblings. School is important because their friends are there.

CONCEPTS TO TEACH THIS AGE GROUP

About God: Children should learn that God is all-powerful and all-knowing. He is everywhere and is with them at all times. He loves them and wants to have a relationship with them. He wants them to know that each of them is special in His sight. God cares for and loves their families. God wants them to talk with Him in prayer every day. He always answers prayer with a yes, no, or "wait." He provides all they need. He can be trusted for all things.

About Jesus: Children should learn that Jesus is the Son of God, who came to earth to be our Savior and died for our sins. Jesus wants all people to come to Him as their Lord and Savior. Jesus is the only way to God. Jesus wants to take the sins from our lives. Jesus was perfect and never did anything wrong. He rose from the dead and now lives in heaven. He will return some day to take us home forever. He loves us and is our best friend. Jesus wants us to love and obey Him and do the things that He taught us to do.

About the Holy Spirit: Children should learn that when Jesus went to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit as our Comforter and Teacher. The Holy Spirit will give us the power and desire to do the will of the Father. Through the Holy Spirit, we can participate in the things that Jesus did and told us to do. The Holy Spirit will speak to our hearts and show us where there is sin. He will help us worship the Lord and give us things to say to the Lord. It is through

the work of the Holy Spirit that we will see healings, miracles, and changed lives. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, others will come to know Jesus.

About the Bible: Children should learn that it is God's Word to His children. The Bible tells them what God wants and how they are to live with Him. The Bible reveals His perfect love for them. It tells them about how He worked with others. It tells them about who they are and why they were created. The Bible has two major parts, the Old and New Testaments. There are sixty-six books in the Bible. They should read and memorize God's Word so that they will be built up and strengthened.

About home and parents: Parents have rules, and God also has rules for them to follow. God wants to be at home in their household and to be in authority there. He wants to restore their home when there is sin present. They can go to the Father in prayer to receive help and restoration for their home and their relationships. They can be ambassadors in their home to any non-believers.

About church: Children should learn that they come to church to learn about God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It is a place to see friends and enjoy others. It is a place where they can feel loved, warm, and safe. It is a place where other people really love and care about them. Church is God's house and is a place where we come to worship God and pray for one another. Church is more than a building; it is also the people that make up the church. They can give money to the church to help buy things and provide outreach to others.

About others: Children should learn that God loves all people, and He wants them to show love and compassion to others. He wants them to lead others to Jesus in love. He wants them to pray for others. He wants them to be able to turn the other cheek and do good to those who mistreat them. He wants them to forgive others. God wants them to share with and give to others.

About other biblical concepts: Children should learn that angels are messengers from God. Fallen angels are the demons that work for Satan. Satan will do anything within his power to tempt us and cause us to sin.

Upper Elementary (Ages 9–12)

9-year-olds: For the most part, they like school. They are apt to forget unless reminded. They are critical of themselves and tend to think they could do better.

10-year-olds: They are fond of friends and like to tell people who they are. Simple companionship rather than competition motivates this group. Physical stamina is at a higher level.

11-year-olds: Peers continue to take up more of their time at this stage. They can often seem intense and can fly into a rage at short notice. Acceptance is very important to them.

12-year-olds: They are still concrete thinkers; they perceive things as good or bad, right or wrong. They are just beginning to imagine possibilities, recognize consequences of their actions, and anticipate what others are thinking. Moodiness is common as they struggle to search for an identity.

CONCEPTS TO TEACH THIS AGE GROUP

About God: Children should learn that God is all-powerful and all-knowing, and that He is everywhere and with them at all times. He loves them and wants to have a relationship with them. He wants them to know that each of them is special in His sight. God cares for and loves their families. He wants them to talk with Him in prayer every day. He always answers prayer, either with a yes, no, or "wait." He provides. He can be trusted for all things. God desires their worship. He wants them to trust Him in all their needs and problems, and to be thankful for all He has done. God wants them to obey their parents and those in authority, and to share His love with others. He wants them to go to His Word to learn about Him, hear His voice through the Word, and learn how to live for Him.

About Jesus: Children should learn that He wants to be their Lord and Savior. Through His death on the cross, He conquered sin and death once and for all. He can and desires to forgive them of their sin. Jesus will give salvation to all who ask. Jesus loves them even when they sin. He wants them to be His disciples, to follow Him, and do the works He commanded. Jesus is the only way to God and heaven. He is their best friend. Jesus wants them to love and obey Him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

About the Holy Spirit: Children should learn that when Jesus went to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit as our Comforter and Teacher. The Holy Spirit will give us the power and desire to do the will of the Father. Through the Holy Spirit, we can participate in the things that Jesus did and do what He told us to do. The Holy Spirit will speak to our hearts and show us our sin. He will help us worship the Lord and teach us how to pray. It is through the work of the Holy Spirit that we will see healings, miracles, and changed lives. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, others will come to know Jesus. Children can operate in the gifts of the Spirit. God wants us to live by the fruit of the Spirit.

About the Bible: Children should learn that the Bible is God's Word to them, that it is true and can answer their questions. The Bible tells them what God wants them to know and how they are to live for Him. The Bible reveals His perfect love for them. It tells them how He worked with others and showed mankind that He desires to bring us back to Him. It tells them who they are

and why they were created. The Bible was written by men who were chosen by God and inspired by the Holy Spirit to write what God told them. The Bible has two major parts, the Old and New Testaments. There are sixty-six books in the Bible. The Gospels tell of the life and works of Jesus. Children should know the breakdown of the other major sections of the Bible. They should read and memorize Scripture so they can be strengthened by God's Word.

About home and parents: Children should learn that God gave them parents to care for them and bring them up in the ways of the Lord. Parents have rules to follow and should be obeyed. If their parents are non-believers, they should still honor and obey them. Their parents love them, and they should love their parents. God cares for each member in their family. God wants to be the authority in each household. Children should know they can ask God for help in restoring their family situation, and God cares very much about their family life.

About church: Children should learn that church is a place to worship God and learn about Him. It is a place for them to be equipped and trained as a part of the Christian Body. Church should be a place where they feel secure and loved.

About others: Children should learn that God loves all people equally, whether they believe in Christ or not. God wants children to learn how to show love and compassion to people. They should know how to lead others to Christ and pray for friends and peers. Children should know that they can minister to others.

About other biblical concepts: Children should learn about Bible truths, including the nature of sin in us, the forgiveness of God through Christ, baptism, communion, death, and heaven. They should be taught about Satan, that he is the tempter and deceiver. They should know that God has power over all things, including the works of Satan. Children should also learn about Christ's second coming and how it affects their lives.

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Locations

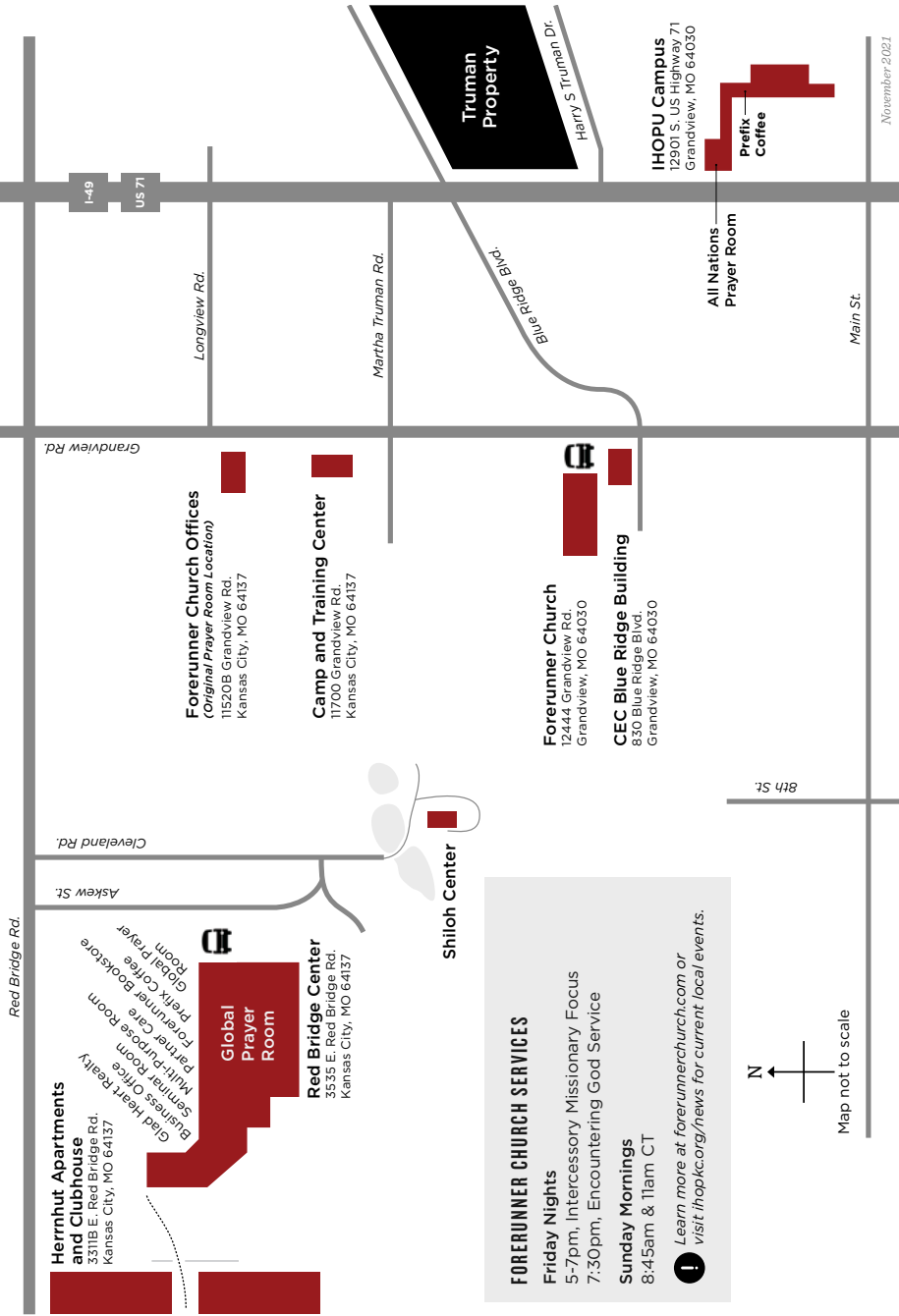
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FORERUNNER CHURCH SERVICES

Friday Nights
5-7pm, Intercessory Missionary Focus
7:30pm, Encountering God Service

Sunday Mornings
8:45am & 11am CT

 Learn more at forerunnerchurch.com or
visit ihopkc.org/news for current local events.



Map not to scale

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