



Children's Ministry Handbook

VERSION 1.0 (APRIL 2024)

Grace Baptist Church Singapore
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY | KIDSMIN@GRACEBAPTISTCHURCH.SG

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1. Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

We give thanks to the Lord for your children and desire to come alongside you in raising your children in the way of the Lord.

We hope this handbook will help you understand our approach to teaching your children on Sundays and how we can work together for God's glory.

Yours sincerely,

The Children's Ministry Team

2. Vision and Mission

Vision

For our children to become disciples of Christ, trusting Him for salvation and bearing fruit for God's glory.

Mission

Our mission is:

- To share the love of Christ with all who come through our doors.
- To point children to Jesus as their one and only Saviour who can forgive sin.
- To teach the whole counsel of God and in so doing, proclaim the great works of the Lord to the next generation (Psalm 145:4) and build a strong foundation of Bible truths and knowledge of Scripture.
- To come alongside parents in nurturing the faith of the children, while recognizing that the primary responsibility rests on parents (Deuteronomy 6:5-9).
- To prepare children to be faithful congregants in the future.

3. Curriculum Overview

As our goal for the ministry is to make disciples of Christ, preparing and delivering a Sunday school lesson creates the opportunity not just to disciple children, but teachers as well. Hence, we have chosen to adopt The Gospel Project Curriculum by Lifeway Christian Resources for our Sunday School ministry because it is theologically sound and has a Christ-centred focus.

The Gospel Project curriculum provides us with comprehensive lesson plans for all ages, teaching resources for teachers, home devotions for families, and many other features.

The Gospel Project

The Gospel Project is a chronological Bible study that will take the children through the entire Bible over 3 years. The curriculum is organized into 12 volumes, with each volume covering a specific portion of the Bible. The volumes are as follows:

- Vol 1: From Creation to Chaos (Genesis, *pictured below*)
- Vol 2: From Captivity to the Wilderness (Exodus - Deuteronomy)
- Vol 3: From Conquest to a Kingdom (Joshua - 1 Samuel)
- Vol 4: From Unity to Division (1 Samuel - 1 Kings)
- Vol 5: From Rebellion to Exile (1 Kings - The Prophets)
- Vol 6: From Captivity to Restoration (The Prophets, Ezra, Nehemiah)
- Vol 7: From Heaven to Earth (The Gospels)
- Vol 8: From Wonder to Rejection (The Gospels)
- Vol 9: From Death to Resurrection (The Gospels)
- Vol 10: From Many People to One People (The Gospels, Acts)
- Vol 11: From One Nation to All Nations
- Vol 12: From This World to the World to Come



Figure 1: Volume 1 – From Creation to Chaos (Source: The Gospel Project)

Referencing Figure 1, each volume is further divided into units that focus on a specific theme contained within the biblical narrative. For example:

- Unit 1: In the Beginning – *Theme: Creation glorifying God*
- Unit 2: Creation is Ruined – *Theme: The Fall, Man's rebellion against God*

- Unit 3: God's Rescue Plan – *Theme: God's rescue plan to save sinners*

The number of sessions within each unit may vary. The last session of each unit is called the "Big Truth Session", which is specially designed to reinforce the main theme or key theological concept of the unit. It serves as a summary and reflection on the material covered throughout the unit. The Big Truth session is an important component of The Gospel Project curriculum as it helps students consolidate their learning, deepen their understanding of the overarching biblical narrative, and apply biblical truths to their lives in a meaningful way.

If you are keen to explore the curriculum more in detail, the curriculum overview is available [here \(in printable PDF form\)](#), or [here \(as graphics on slides\)](#).

Key Components of Each Session

Each session aims to show how each Bible passage fits into the broader storyline of God's plan for redemption through Jesus Christ. We have standardized the format of the lessons taught across age groups. Each lesson comprises:

- a) Story lesson – What the Bible says.
- b) Christ Connection – How the passage points to Jesus.
- c) Big Question & Answer – What the Bible tells me about my relationship with God.
- d) Key Passage – What verse can I remember in my heart?

Take Home Activity Sheet

Each child will receive an activity sheet for them to bring home. The activity sheet contains age-appropriate activities and questions to help children reflect on what was taught during the lesson. For example, these are five helpful reflection questions from the Older Kids Curriculum:

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?

4. Sunday School

Operating Hours and Admission

We run a Sunday School for children between the ages of 3 and 12 years old from 9:30 am to 10:30 am.

Children are expected to stay with their parents during the service until dismissal from the sanctuary. Please train your children to wait until the service leader verbally dismisses them.

11- and 12-year-olds are expected to join their parents for service every first Sunday of the month so that they can learn to participate in congregational worship.

There will be Sunday School (and Nursery) every Sunday unless otherwise specified.

Children with Additional Needs

At GBC, we strive to create an inclusive environment for children with additional needs. We will partner with parents to integrate them into the normal classroom setting and routines as best as possible.

Parents of children who are observed or diagnosed to have additional needs should inform the Ministry Team and share any observation or assessment reports with the Team where applicable. This will enable us to prepare our teachers better to handle your child.

With the best interest of the child, and as our teachers are not trained professionals, we may not be able to accept every child.

Sunday School Rules

We will teach our children to abide by these Sunday School Rules, which are based on God's Word, from Matthew 22:36-40:

36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

- Love God by listening attentively to the teaching of God's truths.
- Love your teachers by paying attention and raising your hand if you want to speak.
- Love your classmates by being kind and not distracting them during lesson time.

Behaviour Management

We believe in a respectful and positive approach when dealing with all cases of behaviour management. No physical punishment will be used.

Where necessary, we will inform parents of their children's behaviour and seek your cooperation to address it.

Please inform us if your child requires special attention.

5. Responsibilities of Parents

"We will endeavour to raise the children and youth under our care in the training and instruction of the Lord. (Eph 6:4)" (Members' Covenant)

We encourage parents to maintain a close walk with God and to model Christ in speech and actions, and priorities and attitude towards God and His people.

We encourage parents to talk about their faith and have spiritual conversations with their children daily.

We encourage parents to teach their children about Jesus through Family Devotions, Worship, and Scripture Memory. (The Gospel Project includes an "At Home" curriculum that is designed for parents to use as a Family Devotion. It comprises a Bible lesson video, a recap of the Big Question, a short-written devotion, and a closing prayer.)

6. Partnering Our Teachers

We hope that parents can actively partner with our teachers in preparing their children for Sunday School by:

- Reiterating classroom rules;
- Reminding their children to bring a physical copy of the ESV Bible to class every week;
- Cooperating with our [Check-in and Dismissal Policies](#);
- Praying for our teachers and classes regularly and at 8:55 am on Sundays outside the sanctuary; and
- Reviewing the lessons with their children during the week.

7. Check-in & Dismissal Policies

Parents are required to check their children in at the Welcome Table before service begins on Level 4 (outside the Sanctuary), for security purposes.

Each parent will be issued 2 name tags per child; one for the child to wear while in Sunday School and the other for the parent to retain and return to the teacher when they pick up their child after class. Parents are to ensure that their children are wearing the appropriate name tags before being dismissed from Sunday School.

Children without a name tag will not be admitted into the classroom.

Children will only be released if their parent is present with the name tag. If the parent chooses to appoint a sibling/ relative to pick up the child, please inform the teacher in the parents' WhatsApp group chat.

8. Nursery

Operating Hours and Admission

Parents may drop off their infants at the Nursery (Room 502/503, Attic) from 8:45 am and should pick them up promptly after the service.

Your child will be promoted to Sunday School in the month that they turn 3 years of age.

Nursery Program

After settling the children, we run a short program to teach even the youngest of our children God's Word, before they are allowed to engage in free play.

- 0 to 1-year-olds: We sing worship songs and attend to their physical needs. We encourage our nursery volunteers to say "grace" with the child before feeding (if needed) and "thank you" after feeding.
- 1 to 3-year-olds: We conduct a short Bible lesson, following the Sunday School curriculum. Nursery volunteers will teach and encourage the children to settle down for their lesson.

Responsibilities of the Nursery Volunteers

We have a standard set of operating procedures for our Nursery Volunteers, some of the key ones are listed below:

- Pray for the babies and children.
- Ensure security and sign-in procedures are adopted.
- Supervise children closely in the nursery/ classroom, attending to their needs when necessary. Children are never left unattended in the nursery.
- Contact parents in the worship service when a child is having difficulty in the nursery or need parental attention.
- Demonstrate good hygiene and change diapers as needed according to the diaper-changing procedures.
- Clean and sanitize all toys before and after each Nursery session.
- Report (and remove) damaged toys/ equipment or safety hazards.

9. Health Matters

General

If your child is unwell, please do not send him/her to Sunday School or Nursery. Children who display symptoms like runny nose, chesty cough, spots, fever, etc. will be turned away out of love and care for the other children and volunteers.

Contagious Medical Conditions

If your child is diagnosed with a contagious medical condition e.g. chicken pox, Hand Foot Mouth Disease (HFMD), COVID, etc. after attending Sunday School, please inform the Ministry Team so that we can inform parents of other children to look out for similar symptoms.

Please ensure that your child has fully recovered before sending your child to Sunday School or Nursery.

Standard Protocol on Sundays for Nursery Volunteers

Before receiving the children, our Nursery volunteers use wet wipes to clean the floors of the Nursery and disinfectant wipes to clean and wipe all surfaces in the rooms. Suitable toys are selected from the toy cupboard and are individually sanitized using disinfectant wipes.

Incidents/ Accidents Involving Children

We will keep parents informed of any accidents that happen to your child during the Sunday School Session.

For minor injuries, our first aid certified/ medically trained volunteers will attend to your child and thereafter follow up with you.

For major injuries and medical emergencies, our medically trained volunteers will attend to your child, and you will be informed immediately.

10. How You Can Pray with Us

Our heartfelt prayer is for the gospel to be presented clearly and consistently to all children week after week. For the teachers, we are trusting that the Holy Spirit would kindle in their hearts a love for God's word and God's children.

Keep praying that God will grant us wisdom and faithfulness to steward the young hearts that God has placed in our midst. And for the Holy Spirit to do His wonderful work of transforming hearts, so that more souls may be won for Christ.

11. Opportunities to Serve

We are constantly looking for volunteers to serve as

- Teachers;
- Hall monitors; and
- In the Welcome Team (Registration table)

The commitment is once a month and training will be provided for new volunteers.

If you are keen to find out more, you can contact us at kidsmin@gracebaptistchurch.sg.