

Welcome to
Cornerstone Kids

CORNERSTONE
KIDS

INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents,

Thanks for visiting today and entrusting the care of your child(ren) to Cornerstone Kids (CKids) over the next hour. Your kids will be loved, protected and pointed to Jesus Christ as their chief good and hope.

CKids aims to build a great city through the gospel by partnering with parents to cultivate children that genuinely enjoy God, redemptively engage the city, and reach the world. Children are a blessing from God and parents are called to be His primary agents of love, protection and instruction (Dt. 6:7-9). We want to help you, not replace you.

This introductory packet will, we hope, mark the beginning of that relationship. Included herein you will find information on our philosophy of kids ministry, how volunteers are screened and trained, further resources for parents, and what you can expect your kids to learn week-to-week.

Each week, after the gathering, you will receive a handout with a summary of the lesson and takeaways for the kids. We want to make this easy for you.

As you get acclimated, we'd love for you to consider joining the CKids volunteer team. For safety purposes all volunteers must participate with Downtown Cornerstone for a minimum of three months. But, if you're interested, please let us know and we'll get the process started.

Lastly, we're always open to suggestions on how to better cultivate Jesus-loving, gospel-centered, Bible-saturated children in a challenging context (i.e. the city). Let us know if you have any great ideas.

For the glory of God in the joy of the next generation in Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Sturm', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Craig Sturm

Pastor of Families & Biblical Care, Downtown Cornerstone

WELCOME

Thanks for checking out Cornerstone Kids! We love your children and consider them a blessing from God, and it is our prayer that you would deeply invest in them so that they may place their faith and hope in God. We are committed to partnering with you to joyfully teach, show, and model who God is and what He has done for us through the person and work of Christ. Moreover, it is our desire that every child in Cornerstone Kids may live to love Him, glorify Him, and bring hope to the next generation. Below are the foundational principles that we are devoted to in order to provide excellent age-appropriate discipleship and evangelism to your children.

VISION

The vision of Cornerstone Kids is to build a great city through the gospel for the Glory of God by partnering with parents to cultivate children that genuinely enjoy God, redemptively engage the city, and reach the world.

VALUES

Jesus. We open our Bibles to learn about Jesus, the Hero of our lives, and talk about Him together.

Gospel. We assist parents to raise up gospel-centered kids who understand the gospel and its implications in all of life by teaching who God is and what He has done for us in Christ.

City. We look to bless the families outside our communities and train up servant-hearted kids that will participate in the life of our city.

Church. We're a diverse family brought together by the gospel, and we seek to strengthen the family through age-appropriate discipleship for kids while resourcing and equipping parents and caregivers.

Mission. We assist parents and caregivers as the primary disciple-makers of their kids to make disciples who take the gospel to the next generation.

Renewal. We work to restore and equip urban families through the work of the gospel in love to our city.

Multipling. We seek to multiply Jesus-following kids and families that they may bring hope to the next generation throughout the city - and world.

PARTNERSHIP

We believe that God intends for parents and caregivers to be the primary instruments of discipleship in their child's life (Deut 6:6-7; Prov 22:6; Eph 6:1-4). Parents disciple and lead their children to Jesus, and we partner by encouraging and resourcing throughout the week, using Sunday gatherings to compliment and propel the disciple-making process.

Q: How will I be resourced to disciple my child throughout the week?

You will receive a handout for each lesson to help you throughout the week (both in digital format and hard copy). Additionally, we will provide parenting resources and suggestions periodically.

Q: I need a little more help with this discipleship stuff, can you help me out?

That is what we're here for! Please talk with us after the Sunday gathering or email us at kids@downtowncornerstone.org with any questions. We are one family in Christ, and we are here to partner with you.

SUNDAYS

Cornerstone Kids is provided for children ages six months to 3rd grade. Check-in opens at 8:45 AM or 10:45 AM. Cornerstone Kids class will start at 9 AM or 11 AM and goes until the end of the gathering (10:30 AM or 12:30 PM). As you enter the CKids gathering space, a volunteer will be ready to help you check in your child. Our time together will consist of a Bible lesson, worship, intentional play, Scripture memory, prayer, and craft creation.

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

We want kids to grow up setting their hope in God and expressing it in worship through song (Col 3:16). We joyfully sing songs of worship to Jesus, creating an environment where kids are free to express themselves in praise.

COMMUNITY

Children, like adults, desire community. Cornerstone Kids attempts to cultivate lifelong gospel relationships between the adults and children who meet together on Sundays and throughout the week.

PRAYER

We want to help cultivate in the children a fervent, dependent prayer life that they might understand from a young age that God is personally invested in them and hears their every petition.

Q: How do you implement prayer on Sundays?

We engage each age group in prayer differently, growing in prayer with them over time. Volunteers pray over infants, 1 and 2 year olds, and we invite kids into prayer with us as soon as they are able. In the Preschool class, we focus on learning to pray together with the help of volunteers or on their own as they're comfortable. In the K-1st and 2nd-3rd grade classes, we each take turns praying and work on seeing the way God answers and uses our prayers.

VOLUNTEERS

We have carefully and prayerfully chosen volunteers who are committed to faithful, accountable gospel living and can serve as role models for the children. Every volunteer has submitted an application, completed a background check, and had an interview with CKids leads. Moreover, we are committed to provide our volunteers with on-going training and resources to cultivate the best possible environment for children to grow in their faith journey.

Q: Can I volunteer in Cornerstone Kids?

YES! We'd love to have you with us. However, we ask that you be known in community and gathering with Downtown Cornerstone for at least three months. We ask all volunteers to serve every other week for a minimum of six months. Email kids@downtowncornerstone.org for more information.

CURRICULUM

Currently, we are utilizing the following:

Nursery: [A Sure Foundation - A Fragrance of the Knowledge of Christ](#)

1-2's: [A Sure Foundation - His Praiseworthy Deeds](#)

Preschool: [Jesus Storybook Bible](#)

K-1st: [ABCs of God](#)

2nd-3rd: [Faithful to All His Promises](#)

The full curriculum is viewable upon request. Please feel free to ask us for more details and family resources.

THEOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

All that we teach aligns with the [Downtown Cornerstone Statement of Faith](#) (available online).

REGISTRATION

If you know your family will be joining for a Sunday gathering, you can fill out an online [form](#) to pre-register your kids into our database. Upon completion of this form, your children will be added and check-in on Sunday should be quicker for your family. When you arrive, simply stop by the welcome desk and we'll help walk you through the regular check-in procedures at a Self Check-in station.

Q: How do I prepare my child for Cornerstone Kids gathering?

We suggest having an intentional conversation and praying with them about what they will be required to do in CKids and how they are to obey their teachers, so their hearts can be prepared to hear from the Lord.

Q: What is Downtown Cornerstone's wellness policy?

We ask that sick children do not participate with CKids in order to ensure the health of children and volunteers. The Committee of Control of Infectious Diseases of the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that a child should not leave home when any of the following symptoms exist:

- Cloudy mucus
- Fever (over 100.5F degrees)
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Any symptoms of childhood diseases such as scarlet fever, measles, mumps, chicken pox, or whooping cough
- Common cold - from onset through one week
- Sore throat
- Croup
- Any unexplained rash
- Any skin infection - boils, ringworm, or impetigo
- Untreated pink eye or other eye infections
- Any communicable disease
- Lice, including the presence of eggs or nits

These are the guidelines that we follow and we ask that a child or volunteer be free of fever for 24 hours before entering Cornerstone Kids. We do not dispense any medication to a child. If a child appears to be ill we will notify the parent immediately.

Q: What should I do with my child's diaper bags, coats, drinks, etc.?

We can store any items you would like us to hold on to for you in case your child needs them, however we'd encourage you to utilize the coat racks for their outerwear and keep diaper bags and your children's other items with you.

Q: Who can pick up my child?

Only a parent or guardian who has the corresponding sticker badge to your child's badge number that you received upon check-in may pick up your child.

Q: Can you change my child's diaper?

We prefer that the parent or caregiver change the child's diaper before or after the gathering. There is a changing pad available in the nursery and Nursing Mother's Room. We do change diapers in the nursery when parents indicate that is okay. For children older than nursery age, we will text you when there is need for a diaper change. For the Preschool - 3rd grade classes, we offer a potty break part-way through the gathering for those who are fully potty trained.

Q: Are snacks provided?

We provide gluten-free snacks (Rice Chex) during a designated snack time for the 1-2 's and Preschool classes. We do not provide snacks for the other age groups.

Q: When should I pick up my child?

You are welcome to pick them up at the close of the gathering or at any time of your choosing.

Q: Can I stay in the classroom with my child?

We prefer that you either leave your child with us or take them to the Sunday gathering, but if you feel it's appropriate for a specific Sunday or to help your child acclimate, you're welcome to stay.

Q: Can my child stay with me in the Sunday gathering?

Yes! In fact, we believe the most beneficial thing for your children is to sit, listen, and worship alongside their parent or caregiver. Please let us know if you would like age-appropriate resources to help you disciple your children throughout the gathering. We want to partner with you in this!

CHILDREN TO VOLUNTEER RATIOS

As we continue to grow, we want to strive as a ministry to make displaying and declaring the glory of God to your kids and to you as families our primary goal. One of the practical ways that we get to do this is making sure all the children in our care are safe, well-cared for, and in an environment where they can joyfully learn about our great God and King! The policy that we have in place to help make this possible uses specific volunteer to child ratios for each age group. These ratios are based on DCC's insurance guidelines and best practices from other churches. The ratios we use are as follows:

- **Nursery:** 1:3 Adult to Kid ratio
- **1-2 Year Olds:** 1:4 Adult to Kid ratio (with 16 kids as the maximum)
- **Preschool:** 1:6 Adult to Kid ratio
- **K-1st Grade:** 1:6 Adult to Kid ratio
- **2nd-3rd Grade:** 1:8 Adult to Kid ratio

These ratios are automatically monitored through our check-in system and checked by our Service Leads.

BATHROOM POLICY

When taking kids to the restroom, adhere to the following guidelines:

- Kids should never go to the restroom without two adults present.
- Two volunteers are needed to take children to the bathroom. A man/woman volunteer team can take children to the bathroom, or a woman/woman volunteer team can take children to the bathroom.
- The volunteer team **can not** be:
 - A married couple
 - Two men
- The volunteers must remain within sight of each other and the children at all times.
- The Service Lead or Support Team Member can step in as the second volunteer.
- No one – man or woman - should ever be in a restroom alone with a child.
- Wait outside the stall for kids. Do not enter the stalls unless absolutely necessary.
- If the child says that they need help on the toilet, try to verbally coach them through what to do next, if they require hands-on help, page the parent.

PARENT RESOURCES

We thought it would be helpful to create a single place listing some of the most helpful resources and recommendations we've come across for loving your kids to Jesus, in the every day. This isn't exhaustive, but it is a great place to start.

Sermons

A few DCC sermons specifically on the gift of parenting from a gospel-centered perspective. You can get the audio and notes here:

- [The Heart of Parenting](#)
- [The Practice of Parenting](#)

Reading

- [Shepherding a Child's Heart, Tedd Tripp](#)
- [Instructing Your Child's Heart, Tedd Tripp](#)
- [Give them Grace: Dazzling Your Kids with the Love of Jesus, Fitzpatrick and Thompson](#)
- [Gospel-Powered Parenting, William Farley](#)
- [How Children Raise Parents, Dan Allendaer](#)
- ["Don't Make Me Count to Three!" A Mom's look at Heart-Oriented Discipline, Ginger Plowman](#)
- [Parenting: Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family, Paul Tripp](#)
- [Marriage & the Family: Biblical Essentials, Kostenberger and Jones](#)

Bibles

- [The Rhyme Bible](#) (birth+) — focuses on individual stories of the Bible, is well illustrated and has short rhyming chapters. It keeps things very simple for even the youngest of kids. To be honest, I've been tempted to rip out the chapter on Jonah due to its moralistic message but its solid otherwise.
- [The Big Picture Story Bible](#) (2+ years old) — is an excellent children's Bible. Transition to this Bible once your kids are able to listen a bit longer and grasp more. The chapters are a little longer, but it is the best children's Bible when it comes to presenting the overarching storyline of the Bible.
- [The Jesus Storybook Bible](#) (2+ years old) — is also an excellent children's Bible, probably the best all around. The chapters are longer with more text than the previous two, but is the best children's Bible when it comes to showing how Jesus is the hero of the story of God. I literally wept when I first read the introduction. It is beautiful. I recommend reading this in rotation with The Big Picture Story Bible.

- [The Big Picture Interactive Bible Storybook](#) (4+ years old) — includes a “Christ Connection” at the end of the story to bring it back to Jesus every time.

As your kids get older (5+ years old) I recommend transitioning to a Bible that sticks closer to the actual text of scripture, such as [ESV Children’s Bible](#) or the [ESV Seek and Find](#). However, I do recommend rotating in The Jesus Storybook Bible and The Big Picture Story Bible from time to time to reinforce the unified story of God with Jesus as the hero.

Devotion

- [Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing](#), by Sally Lloyd Jones, is an excellent, gospel-driven, beautifully illustrated devotional (short devotionals, at that).

Catechism

- [The New City Catechism](#) — There are 50 or so questions, making for one question for every week of the year if you stick with it. Each question also comes with recommended scripture, topical prayer and a really well done song.

Children’s Books

There are a growing number of good children’s book written from a distinctly Christian perspective/worldview. Instead of listing individual titles, here a few of the solid publishers we’d recommend you look at...

- [The Good Book for Children](#) has been publishing well-written, beautifully illustrated children’s books in recent years. Trivia...one of their primary illustrators is Catalina Echeverri — the woman who painted the mural in our CKids space!
- [10 Publishing](#) is publishing a number of sound, beautiful resources for kids & parents.
- [New Growth Press is not only a publisher of many great kids books, but also a distributor of many other publishers, including some of the above.](#)

Parenting is not easy, but it is a gift. By God’s grace, He’s given us tremendous resources, and one another, to lean on and learn from as we seek to point our littles to Him. We are praying for you all as you navigate this impossible, yet beautiful, gift of parenting, in Him. Know that you’re not alone. We’re with you and, even better, He is.

Check out our Idea List on Amazon: [Cornerstone Kids | Book Recommendations](#)

If at anytime you have additional questions or concerns, please email us at kids@downtowncornerstone.org