



Welcome to ARCC's
KID'S CHURCH!

*A Parent's COMPREHENSIVE Guide
to Church...King's Kids Style!*

Introduction

Kid's Church is ARCC's fun and educational "miniature" church service for our children age 4 through the 5th grade¹. We offer TWO Kid's Church services, one for preschoolers (age 4-KG) and one for grade-schoolers (grades 1-5, though if you have a 6th grader in grade school he or she is also welcome).

Kid's Church is only offered during the Contemporary Service (9:30-10:30am), with children starting with their parents in "Big Kids" Church and then being released usually about fifteen minutes into the Service (you'll hear the Worship Leader or one of the Pastors release the children). **They will be met in the back by their Kid's Church leaders.** You are more than welcome to accompany them back to Kid's Church the first few times, as some children might be a bit nervous about a new place and people.

"SO...what happens in Kid's Church?"

So glad you asked! ***Keep reading to find out!***

¹ King's Kids also provides a Nursery and 2's & 3's Room which is staffed during both services, from 9:15-12:15. In addition, we have a Nursing Mother's/Cry Room (**ladies & babies or young children only please**) or Rasmussen Hall is **a great place for dads who need to step out with little ones** if needed. Both locations have a live audio/video feed of the Service.

When kids arrive to Kid's Church they are first of all **greeted by people who love them like crazy and who let them know how excited they are to see them again (or to meet them for the first time!)**. If there are kids there for the first time we take a moment to have the rest of the kids welcome them (sometimes we hold off on this if a child is really shy or scared as all of that attention can make things WORSE). **Then we say a prayer thanking God for another day to praise Him and asking Him to help us learn more about Him and how we can better follow Jesus.**

Next up we have our time of **worshiping God in song**. However, this isn't your ordinary stand-still-and-sing-softly worship. This is an *honorary concert for God*, so why shouldn't we be just as animated as when people go to other concerts!?! Sometimes we use a variety of movements (sign language) to help kids learn and connect with the song's message (physical movement, or kinesthetics, is a critical component of our approach to our children's Christian education). **We conclude this time by passing the "G.G." (i.e. God's Gift) Box where they can put their offering for this week².**

After this we look at this month's "Word-Power" Scripture verse. Here we use a combination of words and images to help kids memorize one Scripture verse from the book or part of the Bible we are highlighting this month.

Then it's on to our teaching time, what we call "Story Time" since we often refer to the Bible as "God's Big Story". Each month we focus on a specific book (e.g. Luke) or part of the Bible (e.g. the Gospels). **SPECIAL NOTE: Please help your children remember to bring their BIBLE with them to Kid's Church. If they do not have one, please talk to us and we will gladly give them one!**

Story Time has the following components:

Introduction (or review) of the Book or part of the Bible we are in:

We start with a quick "**Sword Drill**" (see Ephesians 6:17) where the book, chapter and verse of today's Bible story is given and there is a friendly race to see who can find it first (*hence the importance of children bringing their Bibles*).

(KEEP GOING!)

² We believe it is important to teach kids about *financial stewardship* from an early age. This starts with their recognition that *everything belongs to God* and, therefore, *everything we have is a gift from God*. They in part show that they understand this by *giving Him a percentage ("tithe") of what they receive (via allowance, juice stand, etc.) right back to Him*, whether that is a nickel or a dollar bill.

Next we take a few minutes to talk about why the book was given that particular name³, some background on the author, and identify the overall theme of the book.

Then we answer the Six ?'s anyone should ask when reading a story:

- **WHO's** in today's story? (**CHARACTERS** such as Jesus, Moses, Mary or Ruth) - These become the different parts that the kids will get to play out.
- The next two ?'s have to do with a story's **SETTING**...
 - **WHERE (LOCATION)** does the story take place? - Jerusalem, Sea of Galilee, Egypt, etc.
 - **WHEN (TIME)** does the story take place? - We start with the "Big Picture" to see when today's story took place within the context of the whole of God's Big Story (the Bible), such as the Old and New Testament or when Israel was taken away from the Land to a place called Babylon. Then we get really specific, like "40 days after Jesus rose from the grave".
- **HOW** does the story go? - This is where the kids get to act out the basic **PLOTLINE** of the story (remember "conflict, rising action, climax, resolution", etc. in our old literature classes?). It can get kinda crazy sometimes and have some very memorable moments!
- **WHAT** is the story all about? OR **WHAT** does this story teach us? - Here's where we are starting to help the kids **INTERPRET** the story by asking specific questions that review the story and the key characters' motivations and choices, whether good *or* bad! We conclude by asking some very important general questions:
 - ➔ "What did the characters in this story know/learn (or fail to know/learn) about..." **1) God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit), 2) themselves, and/or 3) things around them (creation)?**
 - ➔ "What did the characters in this story believe about..." **1) God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit), 2) each other, and/or 3) things around them? Why?**
 - ➔ "What did the characters in this story do to show their love (or hatred) for..." **1) God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit), 2) each other, and/or 3) things around them?**

(YOU'RE ALMOST DONE!)

³ Most often it **a)** identifies the *subject* of the book, **b)** the *author* who wrote it, or **c)** the *central character(s)* in the book.

- *So WHAT?! - This is, in the end, the most important question; here is where we help the kids decide how they will **APPLY** what they have learned to **THEIR** daily lives. After all, these stories aim to **TEACH** us a **TRUTH**, **INSPIRE** us to passionately **BELIEVE**, and **IMPACT** the way we **LIVE!** (We use **HEAD, HEART & HANDS** to illustrate **THINK, BELIEVE, and DO.**) By the end of the month we want to have every kid be able to identify at least...*
 - *One **TRUTH** they have learned about God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit), people (including themselves), and/or the world around them, **OR***
 - *One **way** they have been inspired to **BELIEVE** differently about God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit), people (including themselves) and things, **OR***
 - *One **thing** they would like to **DO** to show their love for God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit), people (including themselves), and/or the world around them.*

We conclude Kid's Church by spending some time reinforcing and challenging the kids to live out ARCC's "Core Values" (see the last page of this document) and then end with a closing prayer.

"SO...what can I do to help?"

One of our core values for the King's Kids Ministry is that ***"We genuinely love and support our CHILDREN and PARENTS"*** and ***"Equipping parents to spiritually lead and instruct their children is of the highest importance to us."*** We feel that just as it is important for parent's to be engaged in their child's academic education during the week (helping with homework, attending parent/teacher conferences, volunteering for school activities, etc.), we believe it is vitally important for parent's to be engaged in their child's spiritual education on Sunday.

Therefore we strongly encourage all of our parents to volunteer on a regular basis (we suggest once a month) as a helper in either one of our Kid's Churches. Please talk to any of our King's Kids staff who can help you get plugged in. Along with this, it is our hope that several of the elements of Kid's Church can be incorporated into your own strategy for teaching your kids, as they say, "the things of God." Here are a few specific suggestions...

- **Review with your kids the Word-Power verse** and ask them what it means; share your thoughts with them as well.
- **Review the past week's Story Time by reading the story as a family;** take some time to answer the first 5 ?'s (see pg.3)

(ONE MORE PAGE!)

"SO...what can I do to help?" (cont.)

- When it comes to the sixth question, **help your kids find that one way they think the story will impact their HEAD, HEART or HANDS.** We have a special time set aside during the last Sunday of the month's Kid's Church where they will have the opportunity to share their application. Encourage kids to be diverse in their applications, such as...
 - ➔ **Create a drawing** to remind them of a truth about God or how they felt when they heard a story or depicting them helping mommy and daddy by cleaning their room! 😊
 - ➔ **Come up with an idea for a family service project**
 - ➔ **Share a story from the past month** with one of their friends or a group of friends or maybe some relatives (cousins, aunts/uncles, grandparents, etc.)

Help your kids finish the following statements to discover what your kids took away from these stories (we can give you a "Story Time Work Sheet" that the teachers use to help with this):

- ➔ *For a TRUTH - "These stories taught me that God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit) is _____" and/or "people are _____ or I am _____", and/or "things (be specific) are _____."*
- ➔ *For a BELIEF - "Because of these stories, I believe with all my heart that God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit) is _____ and/or people are _____ or I am _____, and/or things are _____"*
- ➔ *For DO - "These stories makes me want to (do what?) _____ for (or to, etc.) God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit) and/or others, and/or things around us (creation)"*

In order to help you with this, **we offer a monthly KING'S KIDS FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE (pick it up when you drop off or pick up your kids from Kid's Church OR subscribe to get it in a monthly e-mail (sign up for the King's Kids E-mail Group @ www.arconline.org; click on "interactive" and then "e-mail groups" OR check out the [King's Kids Facebook page](#)).**

SO...THAT'S IT!

So that's our *printed* parent orientation to Kid's Church. However, **ANY of our King's Kids Staff would love to answer any further questions you might have and help you in any way as you seek to fulfill your awesome responsibility to pass on the faith to your children.** May all of our kids along with all of us continue to find the "abundant life" (John 10:10) that can only be found in following Jesus.



ARCC exists to bring people together into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus by...

INVITING others to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior and to join us as we follow Him as our LORD.

CONNECTING with each other by establishing genuine friendships in which we care for and encourage one another as followers of Jesus.

GROWING in our knowledge of God through study of the Bible and in the love and character of Christ expressed in our daily lives.

SERVING each other and our community by discovering, developing and deploying our spiritual gifts, talents, and abilities.

SHARING in the financial expenses of ARCC and in meeting the urgent needs of our congregation and community as the LORD leads us.

To learn more about how you can be changed and bring change to others, check us out @ WWW.ARCCONLINE.ORG.