

# Christ United Methodist Church Sunday School

## Age Level Goals and Objectives:

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**Our Children's and Student Ministry departments are committed to fulfill God's call to raise children/youth in the faith. We have a plan for the spiritual growth of the children here at Christ Church:**

- We have established goals, objectives, and curriculum for each age/grade level
- These are building blocks that build upon one another to help raise children to be Spiritual Champions. In other words, raise children to be champions of the faith.
- Each grade's curriculum is relevant to the child's current culture and developmental level.
- We never use the same format of presenting God's message for more than 2 consecutive years so that the unchanging message of God's Word is always fresh for our children.

**What is our Goal?** To make disciples of our children by raising them to be Spiritual Champions.

**How do we do this?** Through wonderful **volunteers** who step out in faith and intentional based curriculum.

**Why is it so important?**

- Because we are called by God
- Current research shows us that to be most successful at making spiritual champions of our children that we should reach out to them with the basics of Christianity, **the foundation** in the first 8 years of their life.
- The next few years from 9-13 also known as the "tween" years are what we call the **transition** years in which our children are encouraged to discover what being a Christian truly means to them.
- We want them to explore their many questions about Christianity so that they can take ownership of their own faith.
- Research tells us that most people who are Christians accepted Christ as their Lord and savior by the age of 13.
- From 14 on we work to help our youth to **transform** into mature Christians so that they will be strong Disciples, Spiritual Champions, who Glorify God on their life's Journey.

### **Volunteers**

Many people would like to help in children's ministry but they think they:

- Don't know enough about the Bible
- Don't think the kids will listen to them
- Don't have time (to be there or prepare)
- Don't think they are worthy.

But our awesome volunteers bring all their doubts, passions, insecurities and gifts and allow the power of the Holy Spirit to work within them and as they bring God's Word to our children the Hand of God reaches out to each child. If you are here, God can use you. Will you let HIM? Our leadership team is committed to being here to give our volunteers everything they need to successfully raise our children up in the faith.

**18 months - 2 years old (Foundation):** Children experience God's love through loving volunteers and learning simple truths about the Christian faith. They learn about God's love as we focus on a monthly theme.

**3 - 4 years old (Foundation):** With an emphasis on Prayer, obedience and worship (POW) the children experience the stories of the Bible and engage in crafts, circle activities, prayer thought, snack and a key Bible verse.

**Kindergarten (Foundation):** Using *The Young Readers Bible* the children will continue to grow in their knowledge of the Bible stories and explore how to apply the Biblical teachings to their own lives. They will have a hands-on experience with the Bible as they explore Old and New Testament stories. They will know: What has God made? What has God given me? Who is Jesus? What is prayer and why do we do it? How do I worship God? Character development will include: manners, respect, and kindness.

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (Foundation):** Using the workshop rotation model the children will explore major Bible stories and concepts through kid friendly multimedia workshops (art, drama, music, games, AV, puppets, storytelling, geography, science, & missions).

**3<sup>rd</sup> grade (Foundation):** After receiving their Bibles in September the students will spend the year discovering and exploring the origin and significance of the Bible and how to use it. They will learn that the Bible is God's personal message to each one of them.

**4<sup>th</sup> grade (Transition):** Using an activity based curriculum the children will follow a road map through the Old Testament. They will learn the story of God's people from creation to Christ. They are challenged to discover the meaning of this story and how it is significant to them right now. Lesson includes: *THE BUZZ*-what the lesson is about, *THE WORD*-A Bible verse chosen for it's relevance to the lesson that day, *THE EXTREME CONNECTION*-relates the lesson to kids' lives, *RAPPING WITH GOD*-A kid friendly prayer, and *JUST DO IT*- Bible reading opportunities for that lesson. Special activities are planned throughout the year to help the children explore the Old Testament: Old Testament dramas, Noah's ark project, and Pizza and movie night.

**5<sup>th</sup> grade (Transition):** Same as the 4<sup>th</sup> grade except they map through the New Testament. Special activities include: Parable dramas, Seder, last supper dinner and drama and Popcorn Sundays.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade (Transition):** Middle school youth are given the tools needed to profess their faith in Christ and join the community of faith (church); 6<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to participate in the Confirmation program on Sunday evenings.

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade (Transition):** As middle school youth grapple with their real life situations and issues, they are shown how to look toward Jesus Christ for guidance, hope, and comfort.

**9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade (Transforming):** High school youth develop their identity in Christ through discussions that challenge them to use scripture to guide them in their interactions with others.

**11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade (Transforming):** As they wrestle with scripture and real life issues, the high school youth learn to articulate their faith and further shape who they are in Christ as they prepare to leave home.