

FAMILY TOOLBOX



SERIES

TEACHING KIDS ABOUT OUTREACH



Children's Ministry

Golden Hills Community Church

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A Note to Families

The Children's Ministry of Golden Hills Community Church exists to "*Glorify God by helping families develop age-appropriate disciples who impact their world for Christ*".

In order to accomplish this task, we at GHCC have attempted to describe the discipleship of a believer, which includes these three elements:

- **Worship**
- **Grow**
- **Serve**

We believe that children, as followers of Christ, can also participate in the discipleship process. We have further identified twelve specific spiritual growth issues within these three elements of discipleship.

It is our desire in Children's Ministry, to create a balanced program, which addresses all of these spiritual growth issues, helping to produce a healthy, age-appropriate disciple.

However, statistics tell us that the national average for children attending Sunday school is 26 hours each year (that's only half of the time). And our church is no exception to this. Our average Sunday attendance is roughly half of our total registration. What does this mean? Well, we could have the best programming, the best teachers and staff (which, by the way, I think we do) and we would still have a very hard time in accomplishing the goal God has set before us. But there is a way.

The way in which we can realize the goal of making age-appropriate disciples is stated in our purpose: "...by helping *families* develop age-appropriate disciples..." In fact, the best approach to aiding your child's faith development is *not* in the formal setting of the church, but in the informal, everyday life of your home. God's Word clearly reminds us of this in Deuteronomy 6:4-7:

"Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. The commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress (teach) them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home, and when you walk along the road, when you lie down at night and when you get up."

We encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity to "impress upon your children" spiritual truth. Use dinner conversation, driving in the car, bedtime routines and getting ready each morning as times to reflect and teach about God and his faithfulness.

To help you in these discussions, we have developed a series of tools for you to use. These tools are series of booklets (**THE FAMILY TOOLBOX SERIES**), each addressing the spiritual growth issues. In them you will find information, discussion questions and activity suggestions to help you guide your children on their spiritual journeys.

Dear Parents,

All Christians need to be involved in outreach. Outreach is the practical working out of being “salt and light” to the world (see Matthew 5:13-16). We want to be intentional about reaching our friends and neighbors for Christ. That is what this little booklet is all about.

This booklet (part of the **FAMILY TOOLBOX SERIES**) is designed to offer a basic understanding of what prayer is and some practical ways you can teach your children how to come before the throne of God in fellowship and communion with Him.

God bless you as you teach and model outreach to your children.

Pastor Mark

Teaching Kids About Outreach

All Christians Need to Be Involved in Outreach

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise”

Proverbs 11:30

Outreach means using your life and resources to reach other people for Christ. Sharing our faith must be stressed, taught and modeled to our kids. All Christians are encouraged to share their faith and eventually lead their non-Christian friends to Christ. So, everyday witnessing skills need to be developed and practiced by every believer. All believers must be encouraged to follow Christ’s example and become “the friend of sinners” for the purpose of reaching them for Christ.

Your Salvation Story (your testimony)

The most effective ways for your kids to share their faith is by telling their salvation story, called their testimony. A testimony is more than just “I asked Jesus into my heart when I was six.” Your testimony is a story of your life including details before you got saved, how you got saved, and what has happened since.

Encourage your child to think through their testimony and write it down. Remember to write as though the person hearing it doesn’t know anything about church, the Bible or Jesus. Don’t be alarmed if your child has difficulty saying what their life was like before Christ. This may be too abstract for them to verbalize. Parents, have you shared your own testimony with your kids? Use the following outline as a guide:

My Life Before I Received Jesus.

- * Describe the Christian influences in your home and extended family.
- * Before you received Christ, what behaviors and attitudes were wrong in your life?
- * Don't glorify your past, but mention how you were before Christ.

How I Received Christ.

- * What caused you to want to accept Christ as your Savior?
- * Did you pray with someone else when you prayed to accept Christ?
- * When you prayed to receive Christ, what did you say? (Since this testimony is to be shared with non-believers, be sure to include key elements of the Gospel such as the following)

1. I realized that I'm a sinner and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)
2. I recognized that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins (Romans 5:8)
3. I repented, or turned away from my sins (Acts 3:19)
4. I received Jesus Christ as Lord of my life (Revelation 3:20)

My Life After I Received Jesus.

- * What is different in your life since accepting Jesus as your Savior?
- * How are you learning more about Jesus? (Bible reading, prayer, family devotions, Sunday school, Awana, etc.)
- * Who would you like to thank for impacting you to

accept Jesus? (Parents, Grandparents, teacher, pastor, neighbor, etc.)

Be sure to update your testimony as God works through you and as you learn more about Him.

Planning for Outreach

There are also ways you and your family (including kids) can reach out to your neighbors. Consider some of the following activities and plan on carrying some of them out.

* Have a birthday party for Jesus. Plan a party around Christmas to focus on the real meaning of Christmas. Plan games, decorate, and bake a birthday cake. Have your children invite their school and neighbor friends.

* Backyard Bible Clubs. Consider hosting a Backyard Bible Club. This is a great way for your kids to be actively involved in reaching out to the kids in your community. For more information contact our local chapter of Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)

They have wonderful resources for you, perhaps even someone to teach!

* Plan a block party. This may be a great way of reaching children in your neighborhood. It offers opportunity to witness about the lord and build bridges with neighbors.

* Do you have a neighbor that needs some yard work done or other needs some other type of assistance? Perhaps your family can target such a family, with the goal of opening the door to be able to share the gospel.

Outreach Events

Another part of this process is inviting them to church where they can experience corporate worship, hear God's Word, and respond to the Lord's invitation. Besides your kids inviting their friends to Sunday school, consider also the following:

- * Vacation Bible School. The main purpose of VBS is to provide an activity to which kids can invite their friends to hear about the good news of Jesus.

- * Bring a Friend Night. Our Awana program periodically sponsors "Bring a Friend Night". If your child attends Awana, this is a great time to bring a friend.

- * Halloween Alternative. Our Harvest Carnival is a wonderful way to reach out to the community. Have your kids invite as many friends as possible to this great annual event.

Be Intentional

Obviously, the above ideas are not exhaustive. They should be only a starting point for your own creativity and the leading of the Holy Spirit. The point is that we need to be intentional in our outreach. At the same time, people need to see that we genuinely care for them. God bless you as you teach your kids to reach out to the lost for Jesus.

The Spiritual Growth Issues:

Worship

- Salvation
- Worship

Grow

- Bible knowledge/Application
- Bible Memory
- Stewardship
- Healthy Relationships
- Using Gifts, Talents and Skills
- Church Commitment

Serve

- Outreach
- Missions Involvement
- Christian Service