



~Youth ministry at Covenant Community Church~

In Deuteronomy 6, Moses gives instructions to the nation of Israel before they cross over into the Promised Land. He casts an exciting vision of children and grandchildren growing up to know and love the Lord, while passing on His blessings to succeeding generations. How is this supposed to happen? Moses outlines a simple plan of action: Parents are to train their children continually, in the course of everyday life, to love God with all their hearts, to fear Him and to keep His commands.

At Covenant, we have the same vision –to see our children and their children walking in faithful obedience to Christ and passing on God’s blessing to future generations. Without criticizing the methods of other churches, we believe that God has given parents the responsibility for discipling their own children, the home as the principle place where discipling will occur, and everyday life as the principle context for these lessons to be taught.

There is remarkable wisdom in this Biblical approach. How can we expect our children to grow into godly adults if their only examples are children their age? If we want our children to become godly adults, we should want them to spend time with godly adults whom they can imitate. At Covenant, we welcome children to the worship service, and we look for opportunities for children to spend time with adults they can model their lives after –and who better than their own parents?

Discipling your children in the faith may seem overwhelming, especially if you are coming from a church with lots of youth programs or if you are a new disciple yourself. We would love to help! Please ask the pastor or one of our elders to tell you more about how they are discipling their own children at home.

*“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” -3 John 1:4*

Our goals for children during worship are twofold: first, that children experience genuine worship, and second, that they learn not to distract others. With small children this often requires creative parenting and some help from other adults in the congregation.

For children ages 0-3, we encourage parents to bring their children but be prepared to take them outside (or in the back of the room) if they begin to distract others.

Children ages 4-6 can be taught to listen and, increasingly, to participate in the service. Drawing pictures to illustrate the message can help you keep your child’s interest and help them understand the message. A well-illustrated children’s Bible is also a great tool.

As children learn to read, they will become more able to sing and follow along during the service. As with any skill, practice is the key –if your children only worship on Sunday morning, they will find it very hard to sit still and pay attention. None of us have perfect children, but we find that the more we practice worship with our children at home, the easier it is for the children to worship on Sundays. Again, if you’d like suggestions for family devotions, please ask!