

# CALVARY Kids!

PARENT HANDBOOK





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# General Information

## General Information

Dear Parents,

My excitement level is high right now because you are taking the time to read this parent handbook and to learn about our passion and intentionality of partnering with you in the spiritual development of your child(ren).

Calvary Kids is here to assist you, the primary spiritual influencer, in your child(ren)'s faith journey. We believe that when the church and the home work together to teach, to model, to respond daily to God's Truths that children will come to know God, and to love and to obey Him for their whole lives. It is a WIN, WIN all the way around! Your faith is strengthened as you follow God's biblical role for parenting, your child(ren) grow in their faith, the church is inspired to keep pressing on in their role, and God's Glory is on display for others to see.

Thank you for giving us the privilege of partnering with you. As you read through the information, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us. Our contact information is below each of the Children's Ministries Staff Members photos.

### Sharon Smith



*Sharon K. Smith*

Director of Children's Ministries  
**ssmith@calvarychurch.org**  
(717) 560-2341 x243



# General Information

## Our Vision

Children pursuing life in Christ.

## Our Purpose

Partnering with parents as we inspire each child to know, love, and obey God for His glory.

## Our Approach

- Teaching God's Word for heart response
- Modeling the pursuit of life in Christ
- Building relationships for growth

## Calvary Church's Core Values

### Loving God

By knowing Him personally and worshipping Him collectively

### Living God's Word

By learning what it means and doing what it says

### Growing with God's People

By relating authentically with others for their good and my growth

### Going into God's World

By extending the gospel to others right here and around the world

### Investing in God's Work

As stewards of God's gifts and servants in God's plan

# General Information

## Calvary Kids Team

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### Ministry Leaders



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# General Information

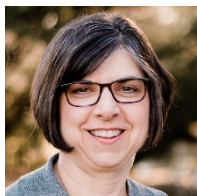


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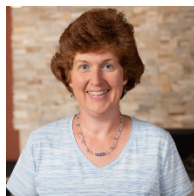


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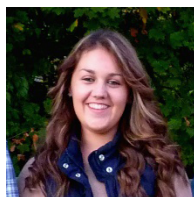
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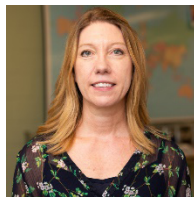


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# General Information

## Service Times

The following service times are offered for children from Birth to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade.

### Sunday Mornings

- **Nursery** (For children Birth - age 2 by August 31<sup>st</sup>)
  - During the 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 hours.
  - Doors open 15 minutes before each service.
- **Sunday School** (For children age 2 - 6<sup>th</sup> Graders)
  - During the 9:30 hour.
  - Doors open at 9:15am.
- **Kid's Church** (For children age 2 - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade)
  - During the 11:00 hour.
  - For children Kindergarten - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - Kids will start the hour sitting with parents in Worship Service and then be dismissed just before the message.

### Wednesday Evenings (Sept – Apr)

- **Kids Choir** (For children Kindergarten - 6<sup>th</sup> Graders)
  - *Pre-registration required.*
  - Rehearsals are from 6:00-6:30pm.
- **Little Discovery Clubs** (For children 6 months - Kindergarten)
  - *Pre-registration required.*
  - For children of parents and volunteers participating in evening activities 6:30-8:00.
  - Doors open at 6:15pm and pickup is at 8:00pm.
- **Discovery Clubs** (For 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Graders)
  - 6:30-8:00pm.
  - Doors open at 6:15pm and pickup is at 8:00pm.

# General Information

## Evacuation Instructions



We have procedures in place for several emergency scenarios. In the event of an evacuation, **DO NOT come to your child's classroom.** Instead, exit according to the evacuation plan for your section of the building and meet your child at their designated staging area.

Your child will be taken care of by the classroom team and will exit the building with his/her class. Final evacuation locations for each classroom will be mailed to parents at the beginning of the ministry year.

**Please DO NOT** take your child from the parking lot **without** letting the classroom team know. They will release him/her to you after attendance is taken and you show proper identification (parent receipt or photo id).

Once you have picked up your child, please proceed to your vehicle. However, you must **remain in your parking spot** until all emergency vehicles have arrived and the authorities have given you permission to leave.

**For all other emergencies,** we have plans in place to keep your child safe, while you keep yourself safe.

# General Information

## Drop Off

Please complete the sign-in sheet at your child's room each week. If an adult other than the parent will be picking up your child, please let the classroom team know. **For Nursery and Early Childhood, a parent/guardian must be on site during any ministry hour.**

### Nursery

Please **wash your child's hands** with the provided wipes at drop-off time, **label your child's belongings** each week, and **label your child's diaper bag** with the second nametag printed at the kiosk. Place the bag on the designated shelf (200 level) or in the cubby (300 level) with the nametag pointed to the caregivers, so they can easily identify and retrieve belongings.

### Early Childhood

Parents need to **sign in their child** on the clipboard just outside of each classroom every week. Please indicate where you will be during each ministry hour so we know how to reach you. Place your child's nametag in the plastic clip on tag provided under the clipboard outside of the classroom.

Help your child develop the **habit of using the restroom before** he/she enters the classroom. If your child is potty-training, there are orange tags available outside the classroom with the clipboard to clip to your child's shirt. This will be a visual reminder for the workers in your child's room. For younger children, we strongly suggest you bring a change of clothing in a labeled bag, in case they have an accident.





# General Information

## *Elementary*

Please help your child develop the **habit of using the restroom before** he/she enters the classroom. We will strongly discourage the children from leaving the room unless it is an emergency!

**Grades 1-4:** Parents need to accompany their children to the classroom to check them in.

**Grades 5-6:** Children may go to the classroom unescorted but they do need a name badge to enter the hallway. Before and after each ministry hour, they should be under your direct supervision.

**Kids Church (Sundays during 11:00 Worship Service):** Each week, children grades 1-4 will sit with their parents for the first part of the 11:00 worship service. They will be dismissed before the sermon and will meet their teachers in the lobby to be escorted to their respective classrooms. Parents will pick their children up in their age level classrooms directly following the service. **Please DO NOT allow** your children to wait in the lobby or wander through the building while waiting for Kids Church.

## **Pickup**

At pick-up time, show your parent receipt that was printed at check-in.

## *Early Childhood*

Kindergarten Children need to be picked up after the Sunday school hour at 10:35am to sit with their parents for the first 20 minutes of the worship service. They will be dismissed to Kids Church before the message when they will exit the auditorium and meet their teachers in the lobby near the East Connection Center. Parents will pick up children at the end of the service in the Kindergarten 2 classroom.

Please remove your child's nametag from the plastic pocket and return it to the bin in the hallway.

## *Elementary*

**Grades 1-4:** Parents need to pick them up at the end of class.

**Grades 5-6:** Please arrange a place for them to meet you when class is over.

# General Information

## Security

### Security Badges

Our Nursery through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade rooms are all located in secure areas of the building. You will need to show your parent security receipt (**printed from a check-in kiosk**) before you enter each hallway. You will also be asked to show your parent security receipt when picking up your child to ensure that your security code matches your child's.

Whether you are a guest dropping in for the day or a member who has added a child to your family, a **Connection Center** is the place to start for registering your child.

**Guests will obtain temporary receipts** each week from a Connection Center until they ask for their children to be **added to our classroom rosters**. After returning a completed New Family Form, parents **may check children in at kiosks** around the building.

### Contacting Parents

If your child has a need during the ministry hour that we are unable to meet, we will contact a parent/guardian initially by text. At the check-in kiosk, you will be prompted to identify a contact person for the day who is designated to receive text messages. **Also, at check-in please be sure to check yourself in so that we know your location.**

If we cannot reach you by text, the security code from your parent security receipt will display on each projection screen in the front of the sanctuary if you are in the main auditorium or chapel. If you are elsewhere in the building, a team member will be sent to get you.

### Two-Worker Rule

Two approved workers must be present in a classroom of children at all times. Please do not drop your child off in a classroom without two workers. It is our policy that no child ever be alone with a volunteer.

### Playground Use

Children using the playground during non-ministry hours must be directly supervised by a parent or adult guardian. Children too old for supervision are too old for the playground.

# General Information

## Health & Wellness Policy

### Is your child healthy today?

In an effort to provide a healthy and safe environment for all of our children and staff, we ask that children and adults not be in our classrooms if they have any of the following symptoms or illnesses:

- **Active Chicken Pox**
- **Cold**
- **Conjunctivitis** (Pink Eye)
- Persistent **Coughing**
- **Diarrhea** (for any reason)
- **Fever** (within the past 24 hours without medication)
- **Infection** of any type
- **Lice**
- **Measles**
- **Mumps**
- **Rash**
- Thick **Green or Yellow Mucous** Discharge from the Nose
- **Vomiting** (within the past 24 hours without medication)

If a child is being treated with antibiotics, he/she should be on the medicine for at least 24 hours before coming to class.

If a child exhibits any of the above symptoms, we will contact you and ask that you remove your child from class. Thank you for helping us to provide a healthy environment for each of our children and volunteers.



If your child has an **Epi pen**, make sure it is in a sealed plastic bag and labeled with the child's name. Place the Epi pen in the front pocket of the Emergency Backpack in the classroom and inform a team member working in your child's room of its presence. Remember to pick up the Epi pen each time you pick up your child. Epi pens can not be left in the classroom overnight.

# General Information

## Food Allergies & Snacks

### Food Allergies

Please make sure we are aware of your child's serious allergies. Our classroom volunteers have allergy lists and will refer to them before serving any snacks.

For Nursery and Early Childhood, be sure to place a **red allergy sticker**, obtained at a kiosk or the classroom, on their nametag as a secondary precaution. This is especially for younger children that may not be able to communicate their allergy to our volunteers.

### Snacks

For health and safety reasons, we enforce a **NUT FREE ENVIRONMENT**.

#### *Nursery*

We regularly feed the children Cheerios®, as their development allows. If your child has an allergy, we will be happy to feed him/her a similar snack that you provide. **Please do not bring baby food.** Our caregivers are so busy that there is no time to spoon-feed the children. You are welcome to join us in the classroom to feed your child.

#### *Early Childhood*

Goldfish and water are served regularly as a snack. Occasionally crafts or learning centers involve other food items. Cheerios may be requested by the parent for gluten free allergies.

#### *Elementary*

Our Elementary ministry only provides snacks occasionally.

#### *Special Dietary Needs*

If your child needs an alternate snack, please provide something similar to the snack in their age group that **does not contain nuts**. If your child needs a special cup or utensil, please bring that along with their name clearly labeled on it.

# General Information

## Reaching Your Child's Heart

### Our Purpose

To partner with parents in the spiritual development of their children as we inspire each child to **pursue life in Christ**.

Our desire is to use every teachable moment to help your child come to know, love and obey God and to build the inner character your child needs to follow the Lord in every area of their lives. Those moments happen not only during Bible lessons, but also as we help them to make honoring choices in their words and actions.



More than simply obeying a set of rules, God desires that we live and behave in such a way that others are drawn to Him. We will encourage and challenge your children to think of their words and behavior in terms of honoring God, His Word, their leaders, others, and property.

*“God is interested in hearts because that’s where real and lasting change takes place.”\**

**When children make choices that are dishonoring, we will address both the behavior and the heart issue.**

*“Trying to change behavior will be fruitless without also re-writing what the child believes and says in his/her heart.”\**

*\* Quotes from Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller of the National Center for Biblical Parenting. For more information on their parenting material and training available through Calvary Church please contact George May in the church office at 717-560-2341 or gmay@calvarychurch.org*

# General Information

## Nursery & Early Childhood

### *Obey. Be Kind. Show Honor.*

In the Nursery & Early Childhood classrooms, the children will be taught these three basic guidelines in honoring God. When a child makes a dishonoring choice we will move through the following steps, progressing to the next only as needed:

1. Clarify expectations and remind the child of a better choice.
2. Ask the child to take a “break”- a quiet time removed from the group to think about **what** he is doing wrong, **why** it is dishonoring, and what he will **do differently**. For our younger children, our caregivers will sit with the child, explaining this in a short, simple conversation.
3. As needed, issue a consequence such as missing out on an activity, or when necessary, calling the child’s parent.

After each step, we will bring discipline times to a positive conclusion and give the child a fresh start. This is done by asking three basic questions:

1. **”What did you do wrong?”**
2. **”Why was it wrong?”**
3. **”What are you going to do differently next time?”**

The child will then be encouraged to **“go ahead and try again.”**

For our younger children, we answer these three questions for and with them. We ask the questions so that the child can get used to hearing the questions and answers, and one day answer them on their own.





# General Information

## Elementary

“Honor Shines” is a common theme in our classrooms! As children make honoring choices, not only do they shine, but far more importantly, God shines through them



*In our classrooms, our desire is to help each child learn to make choices regarding their words and behavior that will honor God, His Word, their leaders, their peers and even those who have to clean and take care of our facilities.*



# Nursery

## Nursery

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Calvary Church's Nursery Ministry, the Garden of Grace, where we lay the foundation for our youngest learners to **pursue life in Christ**. Your child will be loved and cared for by our dedicated, well-trained team who delight in partnering with you.

Our team takes advantage of every moment they have with your child to teach simple Bible truths and model God's love. From the infant rooms where the children are prayed for to the toddler rooms where the children are actively learning Bible stories, the Nursery is alive with age-appropriate activities designed to introduce your child to God.

We know that no one will have the impact on your child's spiritual development that you will. So, we are constantly looking for ways to partner with you. Check out the pages entitled "Curriculum" to find out about the tools we have developed for you to use in the everyday moments of your life to help you point your child toward Jesus.

*Please let us know how we can serve you and your child. It is our pleasure!*



*Anna Fillgrove*

### **Anna Fillgrove**

Director of Nursery Ministries  
**[afillgrove@calvarychurch.org](mailto:afillgrove@calvarychurch.org)**  
(717) 560-2341 x521

## FAQ's

### What should I bring to the Nursery?

Bring a **small** diaper bag with only items needed for the day. We recommend:

- **Diapers**
- **Change of Clothing**
- **Comfort Item** such as a pacifier or blanket
- **Premixed Bottle** since our caregivers need to feed several children each hour and must be able to pull bottles from bags without taking time to mix them.
- **Cup** labeled with your child's name

**Please label** all personal items each time you come to the nursery. Stickers are available for this purpose at the sign-in area.

### At what age can my child be left in the Nursery?

You may leave children with us as early as you are comfortable doing so. Every August there is a promotion out of the Nursery and into the Early Childhood Department for children who will turn two by August 31st. Otherwise, they stay with us another year.

### Will my child stay in the same Nursery room all year?

In order to maintain safe ratios and to provide age-appropriate learning materials, your child will be promoted within the Nursery periodically. You will be informed when your child needs to move to a new classroom.

### What if my child needs me?

We will not let your child cry for more than 15 minutes before contacting you.

### What kind of health or hygiene procedures are used?

Our volunteers use standard precautions to help keep your child healthy. That means:

- They use a glove when dealing with bodily fluids.
- They wash their hands often.
- Toys are washed every time the nursery is open.
- Rooms are thoroughly cleaned each week.
- Our caregivers will not serve in the Nursery if they are sick.

Please bring your child to the Nursery only when he/she is well.

# Nursery

## Will you change my child's diaper or toilet my child?

It is our goal to check each child's diaper at least once while they are with us. If your child is potty training, please take him to the bathroom before class. Feel free to use the child-size toilet in our class bathroom. Also, clip an orange potty-training tag to your child's shirt; this will help to remind our caregivers to take your child to the bathroom during class. If you feel your child will need to use the bathroom more than once during each hour, please help our caregivers by toileting your child between ministry hours or during class. We suggest you bring a change of clothes in case of accidents.

## Is a private Mother and Baby room available?

Two mother and baby rooms are available in the Nursery suite where, with a turn of the dial, the morning worship service can be heard. A changing table is provided for your convenience. You will need to show your parent security receipt when entering the nursery. An additional mother and baby area is available in the Women's Restroom on the 400 level. The Family Comfort room on the 300 level is the place to go if your child needs some snuggle time with mom or dad outside of the classroom. You can view the Worship service live on the screen there.





## Child Dedication

Child Dedication at Calvary is a public commitment made by parents indicating their desire to give their child the best spiritual opportunities they can provide. To participate in a Sunday morning Dedication Ceremony, you must first attend a Parent Class designed to introduce basic principles of spiritual parenting and to acquaint your family with Calvary's Children's Ministries. For more information and to register for the class, go to

<http://calvarychurch.org/child-dedication>



# Nursery

## Curriculum



**We use A Sure Foundation curriculum from Children Desiring God, adapted by our own staff and volunteers.**

## Why use curriculum in the Nursery?

It is a common misconception that children are brought to the Nursery just so that the rest of the congregation can receive Bible teaching without the interruption of a baby's cry. We are not babysitters. Sure we change your child's diaper, comfort his pain, feed him, and play with him while you go elsewhere to receive Bible teaching, but more than that your child is receiving intentional teaching about our God every time he enters the Nursery gates. And why not? As your child's brain develops new pathways to learning, we *should* be linking that learning to God and His truth.

## Infants

It starts from the first time you leave them in our care. As infants are being rocked, having their diapers changed, or being fed, they are prayed for. In fact, each time your child enters the classroom, we pray Scripture passages aloud to God on behalf of your child. Take a look at the posters near the changing table next time you're in. On one, you'll see a Bible passage; the other is a suggested way for our caregivers to turn that verse into a prayer. So, your child is not only being prayed for, he is hearing God's word as well. Need some ideas of what to pray for your child? Ask your caregiver what he prayed for your child today. What will God be pleased to do in the life of your child because of the prayers of his parents and his caregivers?





## Young Toddlers

In addition to being prayed for, your young toddlers also hear a new Truth Statement each month. Truth Statements are short phrases that caregivers repeat throughout the session. These are Bible truths like “God Made Everything,” “God is Good,” and “Jesus is Here!”

For deeper learning, we connect these truths to your child’s environment. Here is how these truths might come up in conversations:

**“I see your fingers. God made your fingers. GOD MADE EVERYTHING!”**

Or

**“Here is our snack. GOD IS GOOD to give us food to eat.”**

Children learn through repetition, and we are interested in helping your child’s brain make pathway connections to spiritual things. Therefore, we will repeat these simple truths over and over all month, with the ultimate goal of these truths contributing to changing your child’s heart. To find out what Truth Statement we are working on this month, check out the parent bulletin board in the Nursery hallway.

## Older Toddlers

For our oldest children, the Truth Statement becomes the core of the curriculum. It is the main point of the Bible Lesson and it is reinforced through hands-on, age-appropriate activities. Children will also learn a simple memory verse each month that is related to the Bible lesson. Parents are encouraged to practice these verses at home, too. Each week, a take-home page is available to parents in our oldest toddler rooms. It includes the Truth Statement, the Bible story reference, the memory verse, and often some suggested activities for you to do at home for reinforcement of the Bible truths presented in class.

*A complete list of Truth Statements, Bible Stories, and Memory Verses, are available in the Nursery. You can use it all year long as a tool to help you lay a sure foundation in the life of your child.*

# Early Childhood

## Early Childhood

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Calvary Church's Early Childhood Ministries! We have a committed group of team members whose greatest desire is that your child will be deeply rooted in God's Word and pursue life in Christ as he/she grows and develops a deep love for Him. Also, it is our hearts' desire that your child will learn to reach out with the message of God's love to his friends, his community and, ultimately, the nations. We count it a privilege to partner with you!

Our Early Childhood Ministry is divided into 4 main age groups:

**Beginners - Red Flags** (Ages 2 - 3)

**Changers - Blue Flags** (Ages 3 - 4)

**Pre-K - Yellow Flags** (Ages 4 - 5)

**Kindergarten - Green Flags** (Enrolled in Kindergarten at School)

I have a wonderful team of key leaders who serve as the coordinators for the various age groups. They are available on Sunday mornings at the beginning of each ministry hour to assist you in any way.

It is my pleasure to serve you and your family as I work alongside our dedicated team. I trust that Calvary Church's Early Childhood Ministries will be a place where your child grows in connecting with God, with caring leaders and with new friends!

### Genine Zigrang



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Genine Zigrang".

Director of Early  
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(717) 560-2341 x321

# Early Childhood

## Sunday School

**Curriculum:** *Children Desiring God* (John Piper), *the Gospel Project*, and *Calvary Custom Curriculum*

Beginners	A Sure Foundation - The children will be taught 13 Bible truths throughout the year. Each lesson is repeated for four weeks with a variety of activities and learning centers each week that reinforce the concepts and Bible truths.
Changers	<p>A chronological teaching of Old Testament stories with the aim of acquainting each child with a great, big God.</p> <p>Key themes: GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS and GOD IS MOST POWERFUL</p>
Pre-K	<p>A chronological teaching of New Testament stories with the aim of acquainting each child with the one story of the Bible and the redemptive work of Jesus.</p> <p>Key themes: JESUS IS SAVIOR and JESUS IS GOD'S SON</p>
Kindergarten	Jesus, What a Savior - A review of God's Story from creation to salvation through the perspective of God's plan. We teach the basic attributes of God and they hear a clear message of salvation.

### Learning Centers

Bible lessons are taught through a variety of age appropriate activities and hands-on learning which all focus on one Bible truth.

### Bible Memory

Children will learn a simple Bible verse each month. Parents are encouraged to practice these verses at home each week as well. Bible verses are listed on the Calvary website under:

[www.calvarychurch.org/ministries/children/early-childhood](http://www.calvarychurch.org/ministries/children/early-childhood).

### Take Home Papers

Each week, the take home pages include the story title, scripture reference and key themes of the lesson. They give parents some suggested discussion questions to assist you in reinforcing and building upon the Bible truths presented in class.

### Song Lists

Children will learn some familiar and some new Sunday School songs. Many of these songs can be found on our website under:

[www.calvarychurch.org/ministries/children/early-childhood](http://www.calvarychurch.org/ministries/children/early-childhood).

# Early Childhood

## Kids Church

### Curriculum

Bible truths taught in Sunday School are reinforced through a variety of fun, hands-on and energizing activities.

**Beginners, Changers and Pre-K Children** are welcome to stay for the 11am ministry hour and do not need to be picked up between services.

**Kindergarten Children** need to be picked up after the Sunday school hour at 10:35am to sit with their parents for the first 20 minutes of the worship service. They will be dismissed to **Kids Church** before the message when they will exit the auditorium and meet their teachers in the lobby near the East Connection Center. Parents will pick up children at the end of the service in the Kindergarten 2 classroom.

## Kids Choir

Kids Choir is designed to help children develop their musical talents so they can lead others in worship and bring glory to God as they sing for Him. Kids Choir is open to children from Kindergarten through 6th grade. They will have the opportunity to lead in worship services 4 times during the school year. Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-6:30pm. Registration is required to join Kid's Choir with a commitment to attending rehearsals regularly. Please go to the below website to register your children and find out more details about Kids Choir.

[www.calvarychurch.org/ministries/children/kids-choir](http://www.calvarychurch.org/ministries/children/kids-choir)

Children will meet in the following rooms:

K & 1st grades – K- 2 room (lower level room 234)

2nd & 3rd grades – 5th grade classroom (main level room 390)

4th -6th grades – choir room (main level room 340)

Contact Cheryl Noel, Kids Choir Director at [cnoel@calvarychurch.org](mailto:cnoel@calvarychurch.org) for further information.

# Early Childhood

## Little Discovery Clubs

*Developing a heart for the world!*

### **Psalm 96:2-5 (ESV):**

<sup>2</sup> Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.

<sup>3</sup> **Declare his glory among the nations,**  
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

<sup>4</sup> For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be feared above all gods.

<sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.

God has called us to **D**eclare **O**ur **G**od's **G**lory among the nations...  
which explains our DOGG logo for Discovery Clubs!



## Curriculum

Children ages 2-Pre-K learn about missions by first learning about how God made the world and all the people in it. The great commission includes all of us, even if our mission field is our very own neighborhood. Kindergarten children learn about Paul's conversion and missionary travels.

Each month the children learn about a local Mission, a Calvary Church ministry, or one of our very own Calvary Church Global Partners!

**Note:** Doors open at 6:15pm; a parent must be on site at all times.

Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Please contact Karen Spruill to register your children: (717) 560-2341 X283 or [kspruill@calvarychurch.org](mailto:kspruill@calvarychurch.org)

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# Elementary

## Elementary

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Calvary Church's Elementary Ministries where we desire to inspire each child to know, love, and obey God for His glory! We believe that no one has more of an impact on your children than you do! You are the primary spiritual influence in their lives. It is our desire to come alongside you and to partner with you in your children's spiritual development. We count it a privilege to be a part of what God is doing in their young lives!

We are thankful for our committed team members who love to encourage kids to dig deep into God's Word, to respond to Him in faith and obedience, and to reach out to others with the message of His love.

It is my pleasure to serve you and your family as I work alongside our dedicated team. I trust that this ministry will be a place where your child connects with God, with caring leaders, and with new friends!



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Kathy Noel". The script is fluid and cursive.

**Kathy Noel**

Director of Elementary Ministries  
knoel@calvarychurch.org  
(717) 560-2341 x233



## Bibles

We make it a priority to have our kids use their Bibles every time they attend Sunday School and Discovery Clubs. **Please help your child develop a habit of bringing their Bible to class.** We use the English Standard Version (ESV), which is available for sale in the church library.

## Electronic Bibles and Other Technology

We ask that elementary-aged children not use an electronic version of the Bible in our classrooms for the following reasons:

- We have observed that many of the students using an electronic Bible tend to “scroll” needlessly and seem to disengage from the lesson. Their distraction by the device itself leads to less connection to and interaction with the Scripture. We believe that most children have not yet developed the maturity to be able to handle the distraction of using electronics in large group settings.
- We have observed that many of the students in our classes who do not own electronic devices are particularly intrigued and distracted by the one in their neighbor’s hands.
- We want our elementary children to understand how the Bible is organized and fits together. There is value in them understanding the placement of the books in a larger context of the whole Bible. That can easily be lost when a book can be found at the touch of a button. As they grow in their understanding, they will bring that understanding to the use of an electronic Bible.
- Many of the children with electronics tend to interact far less with their peers. One of our goals at this age is to facilitate the children in forming solid friendships here at church, and we have observed that electronics can be a real deterrent.

Because we live in a world where technology is changing all the time, we recognize the need to constantly think through the best way to make use of it. Please be assured that we will continue to dialog about this. Thank you for cooperating with us at this point in time as we ask the children to refrain from using electronics in our classrooms.

# Elementary

## Grades 1-4 Sunday School

*Focus: Engaging with the one- story of the Bible.*

### Curriculum

We take 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> graders through the one story of the Bible two times.



In **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**, our Treasure Island theme encourages the children to “dig for treasures in God’s Big Story” and discover that God, himself, is the greatest treasure of all!



In **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grades**, they journey through the Bible a second time as FBI agents or Faithful Bible Investigators! Using their Bibles weekly, they investigate the stories and truths in God’s Word so that they can be agents on mission for God!

### Small Groups

We value growing with God’s people. We strongly believe that the children will connect best and grow the most in a small group where they can connect with consistent leaders and the same group of children week to week.

### Take Home Paper

Each week, the 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Graders will bring home a take-home paper that will help you, the parent, engage with your child about the story and truths learned week to week. Included in the take-home paper will be a weekly devotional bookmark that includes Bible readings that review their Sunday School lesson. This is a tool that you can use to encourage them to spend time in God’s Word at home, together with you, or alone.

### Mission Incentive

Children love incentives! In order to help them develop compassion and a desire to invest in God’s work around the globe, we have a missions incentive project. When they come to Sunday School, bring their Bibles, and return their completed devotional bookmarks, they earn points towards the missions project for their grade. Children are invited to give their own offerings towards the project as well.



## Grades 1-4 Kids Church

Each week, the children will sit with their parents for the first part of the 11:00 worship service. They will be dismissed before the sermon and will meet their teachers in the lobby to be escorted to their respective classrooms. Parents will pick their children up in their age level classrooms directly following the church service.

The 11:00 hour curriculum is an extension of Sunday School, engaging the children in games and activities that will help to reinforce the morning's lesson, attribute of God, heart take-away, and key Bible verse.



# Elementary

## Grades 1-4 Discovery Clubs

*Focus: Developing God's heart for the world*

God has called us to **Declare Our God's Glory** among the nations ... which explains our DOGG logo for Discovery Clubs!



### Curriculum

#### 1st Grade

Missions is all about people hearing about and choosing to worship **JESUS!** We will learn about Jesus and why He came to earth. In each lesson, we will view a segment of the children's version of the JESUS FILM, participate in creative learning activities and "travel" to different countries! We will also learn to share the gospel using the Wordless Book colors.

#### 2nd Grade

We will learn what it means to be **"G.C. (Great Commission) Kids"** and how to respond with compassion to **"Children in Crisis"** around the world. Africa is our theme country so we will learn some new words, new games and African customs as well as learn about some of our global partners who serve in Africa. We will enjoy games, crafts, and snacks and learn to share Jesus using a nifty tool called the "flipper-flapper"!

#### 3rd Grade

We will learn to **W.R.A.P. the World in Prayer!** and share Jesus using a cool tool called the EvangeCube! We will be introduced to our Calvary Church global partners who serve in Europe and use a variety of games, crafts and food to introduce the students to a variety of European cultures.

#### 4th Grade

God gives us the awesome privilege of being used to make His name known around the world! We'll learn that we can do that by getting involved as **Prayers, Givers, Senders, Connectors, Welcomers, and Goers**. We will also learn about Bible Translation and the work of Wycliffe Bible Translators.

### Read Around the World

Kids will be invited to participate in our Read Around the World missions reading incentive program. Information will be sent home with your child in October and will be available in the library throughout the year.

# Elementary

## K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Kids Choir

Kids Choir is designed to help children develop their musical talents so they can lead others in worship and bring glory to God as they sing for Him. Kids Choir is open to children from Kindergarten through 6th grade. They will have the opportunity to lead in worship services 4 times during the school year. Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-6:30pm. Registration is required to join Kid's Choir with a commitment to attending rehearsals regularly. Please go to the below website to register your children and find out more details about Kids Choir.

[www.calvarychurch.org/ministries/children/kids-choir](http://www.calvarychurch.org/ministries/children/kids-choir)

Children will meet in the following rooms:

K & 1st grades – K- 2 room (lower level room 234)

2nd & 3rd grades – 5th grade classroom (main level room 390)

4th -6th grades – choir room (main level room 340)

Contact Cheryl Noel, Kids Choir Director at [cnoel@calvarychurch.org](mailto:cnoel@calvarychurch.org) for further information.



# Elementary



## Overview

### A Unique Ministry to Kids in 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade to

...challenge kids to **dig into God's Word** for themselves and apply it to their lives.

...prepare kids **spiritually for changes** that adolescence will bring.

...create **smooth transitions** from Elementary to Student Ministries.

...help the students **build strong Christian friendships**.

## Parent Involvement

We value your input as parents and invite you to discuss ways we can help your son or daughter transition well into his/her teenage years at Calvary.

## “Connecting” Events

### a. Game Room (located in back Calvary 56 hallway)

The game room is open from 8:45am to 9:05am on Sunday mornings and 6:15pm to 6:35pm on Wednesday evenings. This is a great time to meet and make friends! Table games and activities are also provided in each classroom.

### b. Game Nights

Join your Calvary 56 leaders and friends for these fun-filled nights of games and activities in the gym and gym lobby. Game nights are announced at the beginning of the year with reminders given closer to each date. Permission slips will be sent home in the fall and will be available in the 5th and 6th grade classrooms.

### c. Calvary 56 Retreat Day

Join us for a great time of learning and fun at Camp Conquest in Denver for a one day retreat in October. Details and permission slips will be sent home in the fall.

### d. Future Events

We may add some more connecting events during the year and particularly during the summer. As we do, we will clearly communicate the details to you.

## C56 Sunday School

### Curriculum

Throughout the year, we have a variety of Bible teaching units which encourage and challenge the students to dig deeper into God's Word. The teaching units vary and include: Bible Characters, Topical Studies, Addressing Tween Needs, as well as Spiritual Disciplines.

### Small Groups

We value growing with God's people. We strongly believe that the students will connect best and grow the most in the context of a small group where they can connect with consistent leaders and the same group of kids week to week. Meeting in small groups helps the students to dialog about how they can live out the Bible truths learned.

Your child will be assigned to a group of boys or girls, with either a full-time (every Sunday) or 2 part-time (every other week) leaders. During the Sunday School hour, they will spend time in their small groups as well as in a large group teaching time. Valuable teaching time occurs right at the beginning of the service, so please plan to arrive no later than 9:30am!

## Diving into Devos!

One of our main goals in Calvary 56 is to help the students develop the habit of having their own devotional quiet time. **God speaks to us through His Word, and we want to encourage them to spend time each week reading their Bibles** and asking God to teach them and mold them. We encourage the students to set a goal of having a purposeful, regular quiet time each week, however, we place more emphasis on learning what Scripture means and doing what it says than on how often the students read throughout the week.

### Devotional Readings

Each week, your child will bring home a paper with readings that relate to the lesson taught that Sunday. Each bookmark includes questions that help the students apply the truths of scripture to their lives. These are simply a tool we provide. If your child is already in a quiet time routine and uses something else; that is great.



# Elementary

## C56 Discovery Clubs

*Focus: Missions: going into God's world*

**Psalm 96:2-5 (ESV):**

- <sup>2</sup> Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.  
<sup>3</sup> **Declare his glory among the nations,**  
his marvelous works among all the peoples!  
<sup>4</sup> For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be feared above all gods.  
<sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.



God has called us to **D**eclare **O**ur **G**od's **G**lory among the nations ...  
which explains our DOGG logo for Discovery Clubs!





# Elementary

## Curriculum

### 5th Grade

We “nail down” the **BIG TRUTHS** of the Gospel so that the students learn to identify the **BIG LIES** that many people believe. We introduce the students to the **T.H.U.M.B.** people groups (Tribal, Hindu, Chinese, Muslim and Buddhist) so that they will know how to use the Bible to share its truth with others who don’t worship Jesus. We learn about other cultures through games and activities, and we enjoy guest speakers.

### 6th Grade

Many of the themes from the previous five years are reviewed and taught in new ways. We will take a look at issues of **poverty** around the globe and be challenged to respond in biblical ways.

During the last half of the year, the students will learn and practice a variety of methods for **sharing their faith** through natural everyday conversations. Students will be challenged and motivated to trust God to use them to draw others to Himself.

### Read Around the World

Kids will be invited to participate in our Read Around the World missions reading incentive program. Information will be sent home with your child in October and will be available in the library throughout the year.



# Disability Ministry

## Disability Ministry

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Calvary Church. We are happy to welcome your family and provide a support system for your child that matches the unique needs they have related to their disability. We do that in a variety of ways at Calvary Church. Inclusion in our typical ministry environment with a buddy is one way to provide that support system. Buddies support students one-on-one for children/students from nursery age through high school. Another way we support children is in our self-contained classroom for elementary aged students, called the Conquerors. This class meets during the 11:00 ministry hour on Sundays and at other times as needed. We also have a sensory room available for students if the need for this arises.

Disability ministry at Calvary church has a wonderful group of volunteers, both teens and adults, who are dedicated to supporting your child in the best way possible. Our desire is to see your child grow in their connection to God and to connect with caring adults and new friends. By caring for your child well, we desire to support your involvement at Calvary Church too. We pray that you and your entire family will find Calvary a place where you can learn, grow and serve together.

I am delighted to be able to serve families affected by disability at Calvary Church. Please let me know if there are ways we can better support the needs of your family.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandy Robinson". The script is cursive and fluid.

**Sandy Robinson**

Disability Ministry Coordinator  
srobinson@calvarychurch.org  
(717) 560-2341 x277

# Disability Ministry

## Additional Information

### Getting to Know Your Child

Each parent/guardian will be asked to fill out a questionnaire to help us glean information about the best way to support their child. That information will be shared in a confidential manner only with those adults who support your child directly. Please be as candid as possible about your child's strengths and needs. Our desire is to find the right level of support needed in the right ministry environment. **There is a place for everyone at Calvary Church.**

### Personal Care

Please help your child develop the habit of using the **restroom before he/she enters the classroom**. If your child needs assistance with personal care during the ministry hour, we will work with you to put a plan in place to assure your child's comfort. There may be times that buddies can provide this care and times when a parent is needed to assist in this care. Please have an extra set of clothing available in your child's bag if this is necessary.

### Behavior Plans

We are aware that many children with disabilities have behavior challenges. Our desire is to partner with you to provide the needed supports for your child to be successful in our classrooms. Please be candid in sharing your child's struggles so that we can plan accordingly.

Our desire is for your child to be able to remain with their peers in order to hear God's word and have it impact their lives. At times, behavior challenges necessitate that a child takes a "break" from the classroom for a short time. Buddies will utilize a walk, a break in the hallway or in the sensory room. If a child's behavior is not able to be supported adequately in these ways or if there is a risk of harm to the child or other children, we will contact the parent/guardian to help. Our goal is always to find a way for the child to rejoin the classroom environment.

# Disability Ministry



## Inclusion with Buddies and Mentors

**Buddies** are utilized to support inclusion of children from nursery age through elementary school in their typical ministry environment. The Buddy team consists of the disability ministry coordinator, parent/guardian, the child and his/her “buddies”. The team works together to develop a plan for inclusion in the age and ability-appropriate ministry environment. Buddies walk alongside your child, one-on-one, giving support at the level needed to help your child participate, learn, grow and serve along with their peers. We aim to support families affected by disability by providing a way for every family member to worship, knowing their child with special needs is being well cared for. Inclusion with buddy support is available on Sunday mornings and during other ministry hours/days as volunteers are available. Please contact the disability ministry coordinator for specific information about supports options available.

**Mentors** are also available for students in our middle and high school environments. Mentors provide support on a one-on-one basis if needed but more often function as a coach or mentor. We will support students on Sunday mornings and as volunteers are available, for student groups and other student ministry activities.

# Disability Ministry

## Conquerors Class

Conquerors class is our self-contained ministry environment for elementary aged children that meets during the 11:00 hour on Sunday mornings. Children with special needs are taught in a small group setting with curriculum and accommodations that best meet their specific learning needs. Our desire is for each child to be able to see and hear about Jesus in a way that is meaningful and understandable to them. This small group environment gives us the ability to do this. Typical children are also included in this classroom to give additional support to our students with disabilities and to foster meaningful relationships. An adult teacher, assistants (both adults and teens) volunteer each week to provide a safe, nurturing and FUN environment for your child.

## Drop Off/Pick up Instructions

Conquerors Class opens at 10:45. If your child attends our 9:30 Sunday School hour AND our 11:00 Conquerors class, his/her buddy will accompany your child to the Conquerors classroom. You do not need to make that transition for them. Please be sure to **check your child into the Conquerors class** at the check-in kiosk **and let the buddy know** that they will be attending that day. Pick up at the Conquerors classroom is immediately following the 11:00 church service.



The logo for Calvary Kids! is centered on the page. It features the word "CALVARY" in a white, sans-serif font, with a thin white line arching over it. Below "CALVARY" is the word "Kids!" in a large, bold, white font. The entire text is enclosed within a green, irregular, speech-bubble-like shape with a white outline and a slight drop shadow.

# CALVARY Kids!

A yellow zigzag line is positioned above the text.

Last Updated August 4, 2021