

Nursery

Early Childhood

Elementary

Disability Ministry



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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's Children's Ministries 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, and to daily respond to God's Truths that children will come to know God, 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 Member's photos.



Sharon K. Smith

Sharon Smith

Director of Children's Ministries

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General Information

Reopening Information for Parents

Due to the COVID-19 concerns, we have put into place some procedures that will help provide an environment where we can come together to worship, grow and fellowship. These guidelines will only be in place for as long as is necessary. Please read them over, and if you are uncomfortable with these guidelines for any reason, we invite and encourage you to attend online as a family which now includes both an Early Childhood and Elementary Bible lesson video <https://www.calvarychurch.org/kids-and-students--resources/> or attend our main worship service as a family.

General Guidelines at Calvary Church

- All attendees are asked to practice social distancing while in the building.
- All attendees are asked to wear a mask in places like the lobby and hallways where physically distancing is more difficult, unless a medical condition prevents an individual from doing so.
- We strongly recommend that those with pre-existing health conditions and/or those who are considered high-risk continue to engage with Sunday worship service online.
- We will seek to adhere to occupancy limits for each room to help comply with social distancing guidelines.
- Some environments may have adaptations to the above guidelines, but ministry leaders will communicate those on a case-by-case basis.
- No meals, potlucks, or self-serve drink options will be available during this time.

General Information

Guidelines specific for Children and Students

- Masks are optional for children from birth to Pre-Kindergarten.
- We ask that students from Kindergarten through 12th grade wear masks when they are unable to practice social distancing. Masks can be removed once students are situated in any environment where social distancing has been established and can be maintained. (Masks are available at each Connection Center and checkpoint).
- Staff and volunteers are required to wear masks whenever physical distancing is more difficult.
- We are asking parents to:
 - Wear masks in hallways for drop off and pick up of their child(ren).
 - Have only one parent drop off and pick up, if possible, to reduce the number of people in the hallways.

Sunday Programming Only (Beginning September 27th)

Schedule

- 9:30 a.m. — There will be programming from Nursery to 6th grade.
- 11:00 a.m. —
 - There will be programming for Nursery thru 4th grade
 - Children in Kindergarten through 4th grade will be dismissed from the service for Children’s Church programming (Children may stay with parents if desired).
 - There **will not be** King’s Kids

Pick Up of Children

All children will need to be picked up right after the 9:30 service so that the staff can clean and sanitize the rooms before children re-enter for the 11:00 hour. Nursery through Pre-K children can be dropped off starting at 10:45 for the 11:00 hour.

Check in Procedure

Bottles of hand sanitizer are located at each kiosk check in area. We ask that the person checking in the family use the hand sanitizer before and after using the kiosk.

General Information

Name Tags

For Nursery and Early Childhood, the room number will not be printed on your child's kiosk name tag because there may be limited classes and/or room occupancy week to week.

Inside Building Traffic flow

3rd and 5th Grade Checkpoints will not be open, therefore entry into those two hallways will be through the 4th Grade and 6th Grade checkpoints (these are closer to the rear of the building than to the lobby). Please plan out your family's drop off and pick up patterns ahead of time to eliminate any frustration on a Sunday morning.

Safety and Health of staff and children

- Please keep your child at home if: your child has any symptoms of sickness or anyone in your family has been recently exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- All children will need to use hand sanitizer upon entering the classrooms (Nursery children will have their hands washed).
- Volunteers will be trained on how to implement the additional cleaning procedures that have been put in place. Classrooms will be sanitized between services.

While we cannot completely eliminate the risk of the spread of COVID-19, we have put protocols in place to minimize the risk for those attending and serving.

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

Children's Ministries Team

Directors



Sharon Smith
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Genine Zigrang
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Ministry Leaders



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Meg Iseman
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General Information



Joy Heisey
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Karen Spruill
Wednesday Childcare Coordinator
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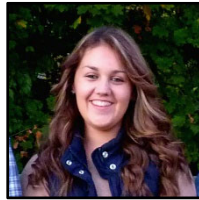
Support Staff



Tamara Brubaker
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Carla Preston
Ministry Assistant
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Kylie Martin
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Calvary Preschool (Monday – Thursday)



Susan Hixson
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Julie Groff
Calvary Preschool Ministry Assistant
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General Information

Service Times

The following service times are offered for children from Birth to 6th Grade.

Sunday Mornings

- **Nursery** (For children Birth - age 2 by August 31st)
 - During the 9:30 and 11:00 hours.
 - Doors open at 9:15am and 10:45am.
 - Pickup is immediately after each worship service.
- **Sunday School** (For children age 2 - 6th Graders)
 - During the 9:30 hour.
 - Doors open at 9:15am.
 - Pickup is immediately after the worship service.
- **Children's Church** (For children age 2 - 4th Grade)
 - During the 11:00 hour.
 - Doors open at 10:45am.
 - Pickup is immediately after the worship service.

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 items at the sign-in counter. Diaper bags will stay with parents. Place the items your child will need for the hour in a classroom cubby along with one of your child's nametags printed from the kiosk. Place the other tag on your child's back. We will help you label all personal items like cups or bottles with a small sticker at sign-in.

General Information

Early Childhood

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.



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.

Pickup

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

Early Childhood

Please remove your child's nametag from the plastic pocket and give the plastic pocket to a volunteer so that it can be disinfected for use the following hour or week.

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

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 safely 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

Security

Security Badges

Our Nursery through 6th 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 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/or 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 48 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 has an allergy-related symptom, please notify the child's teacher.*

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 provide a healthy environment for each of our children and staff.

If your child has an **Epi pen**, make sure it is in a sealed plastic bag and labeled with the child's name. Inform a staff working in your child's room of its presence each time you come to the classroom.

COVID-19 Symptoms

Group A (1 or more symptoms)

- **Cough**
- **Shortness of Breath**
- **Difficulty Breathing**
- **New Olfactory Disorder**
- **New Taste Disorder**

Group B (2 or more symptoms)

- **Fever** (measured or subjective)
- **Chills**
- **Rigors**
- **Myalgia**
- **Headache**
- **Sore Throat**
- **Nausea** or **Vomiting**
- **Diarrhea**
- **Fatigue**
- **Congestion** or **Runny Nose**

General Information

Food Allergies & Snacks

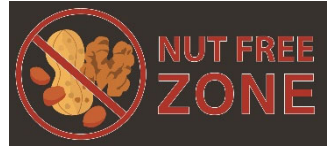
Food Allergies

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. **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 pick up your child to feed them outside of the classroom.

Early Childhood

Goldfish and water are served regularly as a snack. Occasionally crafts or learning centers involve other food items.

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 be sitting 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!

GOD

- Honor God's name by not using it loosely.
- Honor Him with your words and actions during prayer.
- Honor God by honoring others!

BIBLE

- Honor God's Word by treating it like a treasure.
- Listen to learn during Bible lessons.
- Encourage others to listen and learn by your example.

LEADERS

- Honor your leaders by looking at them and by listening, without talking, when they are speaking.
- Obey them right away with a good attitude, doing even more than what is expected.
- Don't distract others from listening to your leaders.

Honor Shines!

Let's outdo one another in showing honor! Romans 12:10

OTHERS

- Treat everyone as special.
- Listen, without talking, when someone else is speaking.
- Speak kindly, using words that encourage others and build them up.

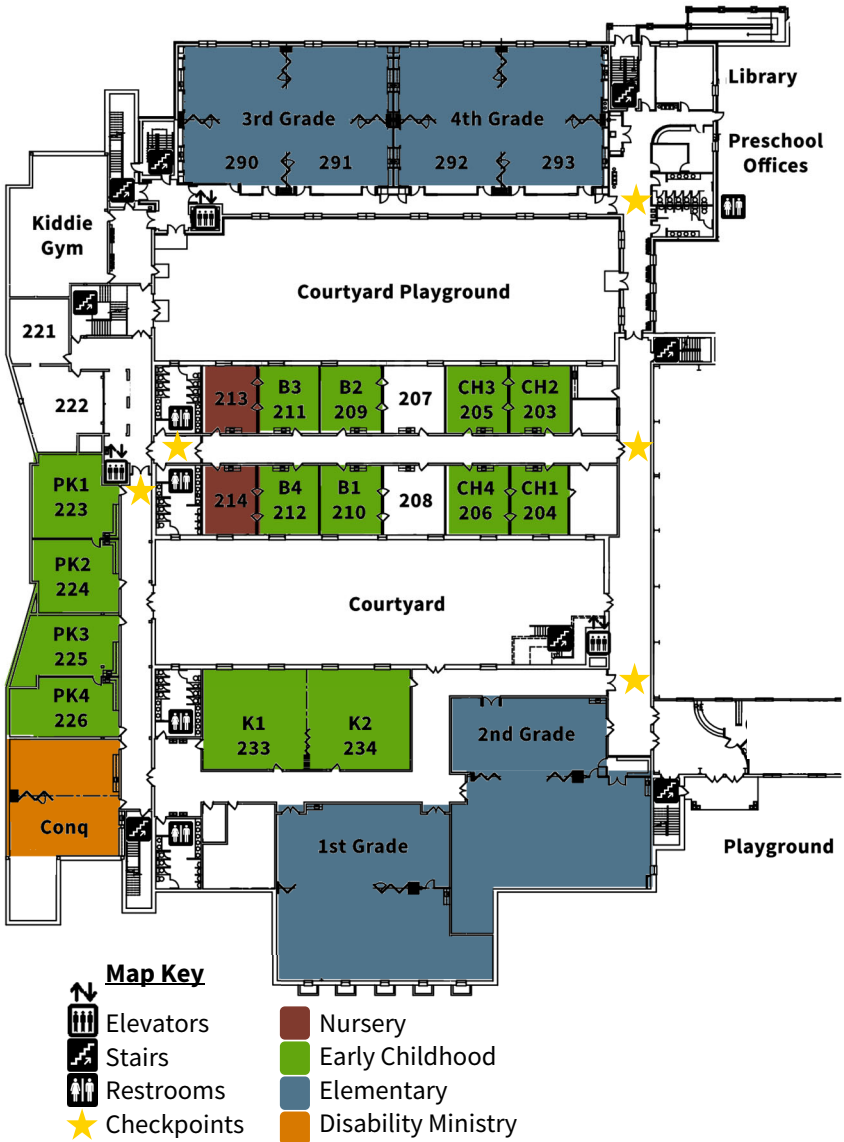
PROPERTY

- Treat church property the way you would if YOU had to clean or fix it! That honors those who do the fixing and cleaning!
- Don't touch what doesn't belong to you without asking.

General Information

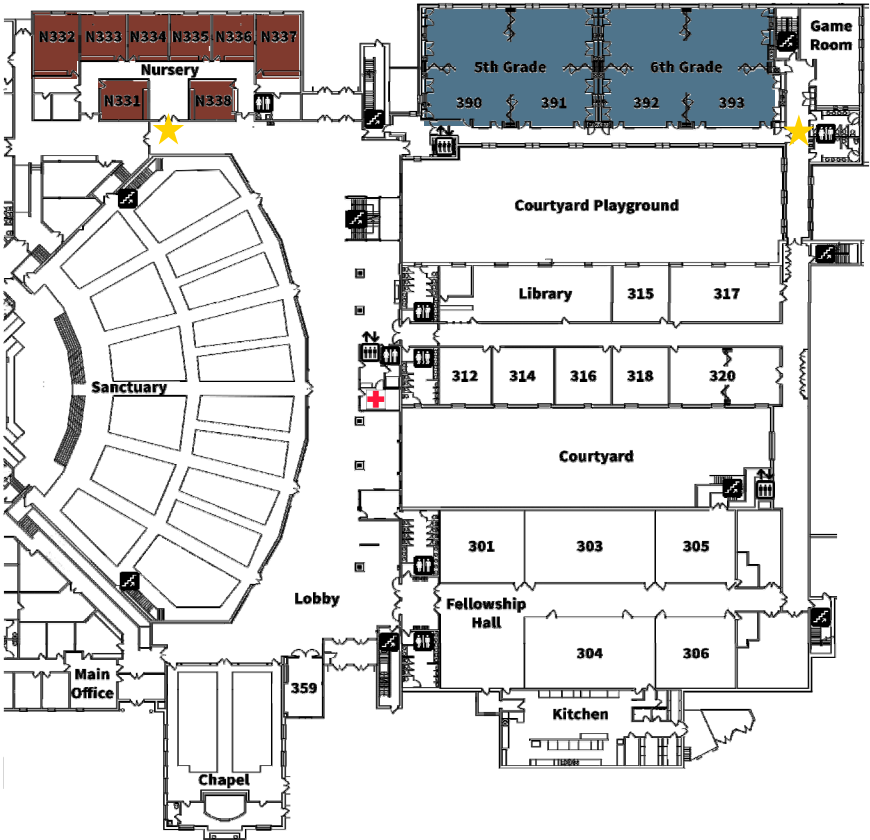
Maps

200 Level










General Information

300 Level



Map Key

-  Elevators
-  Stairs
-  Restrooms
-  First Aid
-  Checkpoint
-  Nursery
-  Elementary

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
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Nursery

FAQ's

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 and surfaces are cleaned every time the Nursery is open.
- 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.

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**
- **Ointment** which we will apply only at your request
- **Comfort Item** such as a pacifier or blanket
- **Premixed Bottle** since our caregivers need to feed several children each hour and must to 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.

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 Truth 78 (formerly 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!"

Nursery

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!



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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	A chronological teaching of Old Testament stories with the aim of acquainting each child with a great, big God. Key themes: GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS and GOD IS MOST POWERFUL
Pre-K	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. Key themes: JESUS IS SAVIOR and JESUS IS GOD'S SON
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.

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.

Early Childhood

Children's 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 need to be picked up right after the 9:30 hour so that thorough cleaning can be done before the next ministry hour. Children can be dropped off for the 11:00 hour starting at 10:45.

Kindergarten Children need to be picked up right after the 9:30 hour. If you are staying for the 11:00 hour, your kindergartener will sit with you in the Worship service for the first 20 minutes. When indicated in the bulletin (**), the children will exit the auditorium and meet their teachers in the lobby near the East Entrance doors to be escorted to their room. They will join the 1st Graders in the 1st Grade classroom for Children's Church where you will pick your child up at the end of 11:00 hour. Each week they will learn about an attribute of God through Bible stories, Scripture memory, songs and games.

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!



Kathy Noel

Kathy Noel

Director of Elementary Ministries

knoel@calvarychurch.org

(717) 560-2341 x233

Elementary

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.

Grades 1-4

Grades 1-4 Sunday School

Focus: Our main Bible teaching time

Curriculum

We take 1st - 4th Graders through the one story of the Bible two times.



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

In **3rd and 4th Grades**, the children journey through the Bible a second time



with completely new lessons. This year, our 3rd Graders will kick off the brand new Mission Possible curriculum where, as FBI agents (Faithful Bible Investigators) they will use their Bibles weekly to investigate Truths in God’s Word.

Small Groups

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

Take Home

Each week, the 1st - 3rd 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. All of our children in 1st - 4th Grades will get 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

Children's Church

Each week, the children will sit with their parents for the first part of the 11:00 worship service. When indicated in the bulletin (**), the children will exit the auditorium and meet their teachers in the lobby to be escorted to their classrooms. Parents will pick their children up in their respective classrooms directly following the service.

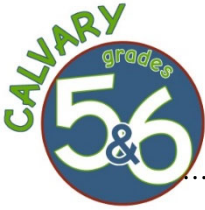
Kindergarten and 1st Grade

The Kindergartners and 1st Graders will meet together in the 1st Grade classroom. Each week they will learn about an attribute of God through Bible stories, Scripture memory, songs and games.

2nd - 4th Grade

The 2nd - 4th Graders will meet together in the 2nd Grade classroom to engage with a variety of topical Bible studies along with time for Bible memory, learning activities, games and practical application.

Calvary 56



Calvary 56 Overview

A Unique Ministry to Kids in 5th & 6th 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 dialog with us about ways we can help your son or daughter transition well into his/her teenage years at Calvary.

Game Room (located in back Calvary 56 hallway)

Because of COVID restrictions, our game room **will not be accessible** until further notice. However, as we are able, we will plan some fun connecting times for our 5th and 6th Graders and communicate with you in advance.



Calvary 56

Sunday School

Focus: Our main Bible teaching time

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.

Take-Home Paper

Each week, your child will bring home a take-home paper that includes a review of the lesson, Scripture reading, a devotional, discussion questions and a challenge. We would encourage you to use this as a tool for some good spiritual conversations with your child!

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 signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

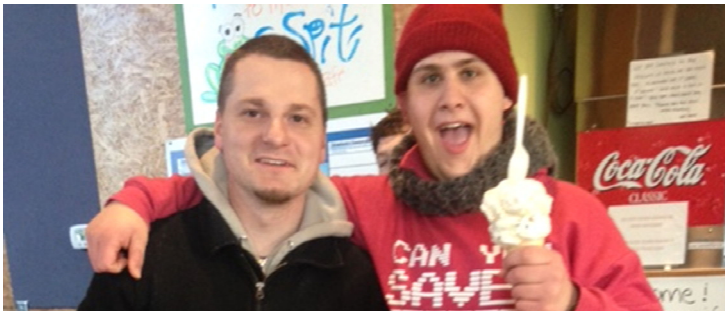
Buddies are utilized to support inclusion of children from nursery age through elementary school in their typical ministry environment. The Buddy



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 Instructions

If your child attends the Conquerors class during the 11:00 hour, his/her buddy will accompany your child to that 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.



