

St. Mark's Kidz Church Leader Training



St. Mark's Kidz Church Leader Training

Growing Kidz in God's Love

- I. Building a Caring Classroom Community
- II. Service/Class Times & Descriptions
- III. Sunday Morning Procedures
- IV. New Kidz Church Leader Portal
- V. Weekly Volunteer Leader Schedule
- VI. Safe Church & Emergency Action Plan
- VII. Kidz Church GROW Curriculum



Building a Caring Classroom Community

Set Expectations for Children...

1. We are all different, yet God loves us ALL the same!
2. Use the Golden Rule: Treat others how you would like others to treat you.
3. Listen to the teacher AND to one another.
4. Use your walking feet in church.
5. Keep your hands and feet to yourself...don't touch others who don't want to be touched and NO hitting or kicking.
6. Speak kind words to adults AND other students...ask nicely without yelling.
7. Have a caring heart for others...you never know how other people are feeling inside.



Setting you up for **Leader Success!**

- ✓ **Be excited** about the work of Children's Ministry! It's contagious!
- ✓ **Pray regularly** for spiritual guidance and for the children in your class.
- ✓ **Be faithful** in attendance and **punctual** each week. Things happen, it's okay, just communicate.

Jackie/Jen: Office 317-846-4912 (M-Th)

Email kidzchurch@stmarkscarmel.org

- ✓ **Prepare!** Before Sunday, please read the lesson you will be leading. Make it yours...adapt lessons to your style.
- ✓ **Communicate** with Jackie/Jen about successes and struggles in your classroom. *We are your support team!*



Setting you up for Leader Success!

- ❖ Connect before you correct
- ❖ Lead by example- *What you do is as important as what you say*
- ❖ Belonging & Significance - *Everyone* is important
- ❖ Establish routines
- ❖ Talk about children positively to others and in front of others!
- ❖ Positive closure to end each class
- ❖ Parent Communication:
 - ❖ Sensitivity, transparency, and tact! Sharing the facts without revealing other children's names maintains trust and confidentiality. Respecting the privacy of children involved in any incident is paramount and avoids gossip.
 - ❖ Framing incidents positively, focusing on the care provided and lessons learned, can ease parental concerns and reinforce trust.



Sunday Morning **Service Times/Classes**

❖ **9, 10, & 11 AM Nursery & Toddler Care** (Ages 6 weeks - 3 years)

Staffed by trained & experienced leaders, our nursery & toddler areas are here to care for our littlest members. We have 2 paid Nursery Leaders:

❖ **9AM:** Michelle Byrd

❖ **10 & 11AM:** Jackie Mock (Also our Childcare Coordinator)

❖ **9:00AM Traditional Service Hour** (Ages 4 - Grade 2, all other children are encouraged to remain in service)

Children begin in service with families and are dismissed to class after the Kidz Chat with the pastor. Students combine for an exciting rotational style class downstairs in the lower-level. Each week includes a variety of fun activities like music, drama, Bible stories, games, crafts, videos, and more!



Sunday Morning **Service Times/Classes**

❖ **10:00AM Education & Small Group Hour** (All Ages)

- **Ages 4 - Grade 5:** This program takes place in the lower-level and opens with worship arts followed by grade-specific classes that include Bible stories, games, and other engaging activities.
- **Classes are divided as follows:**
 - **Pre-K - 1st Graders**
 - **2nd - 3rd Graders**
 - **4th - 5th Graders**
 - **(6th - 12th Graders are in the Youth Wing)**



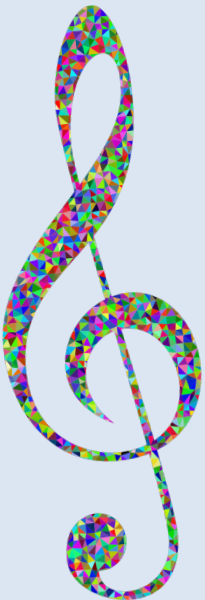
Sunday Morning **Service Times/Classes**

❖ **11:00AM The Current Service Hour** (Ages 4 - Grade 5)

▪ **Kidz Music & Praise:**

Children begin in service with families and are dismissed to class after Kidz Chat with the pastor. This high energy program is an immersive experience that offers children the opportunity to explore the weekly bible story through singing, movement, instruments, drama, puppets, and more!

This class also rehearses for seasonal musicals and shares their talents in worship services, programs, and special events.



Sunday Morning Procedures

- ✓ **Arrive** 15 minutes early for class preparation:
 - 9:00AM** Leaders: **arrive 8:45am**; **10:00AM** Leaders: **arrive 9:45am**;
 - 11:00AM** Leaders: **arrive 10:45am**. (*Children begin in sanctuary for 9 and 11AM services.*)
- ✓ **Check-in** with the greeter upon arrival for name tag.
- ✓ **White Intercoms** are powered on in classrooms.
 - ✓ Used to notify you in an emergency.
 - ✓ You may use it to contact the CM Office by pressing “MENU” and navigating the CH+ or CH- button to Channel 19; then press CALL and press and hold TALK.
- ✓ **Prep Time** should be minimal. All materials will be in the classroom.
- ✓ **9AM** - meets in lower-level **11AM** - meets in Chapel & Room 11/13
- ✓ **For 10AM parent drop-off**, one leader greet parents/students at the base of the stairwell. Guide children to the carpet area for Kidz Worship Arts time. All other leaders should participate with Joyce/students in Kidz Worship time on the carpet.

Sunday Morning Procedures

- ✓ **Pick-up** time will vary from week to week depending on when services end; pick-up time for the 10AM Education Hour is 10:50. As parents begin to arrive, inform kids it is time to begin to gather their things. Let them know that when you open the door, they are to stay in their seats until you call their name. Say goodbye to each child as you watch them exit the room with their parent/caregiver. **NOTE:** Some children may stay over between 9 & 10AM for both classes. These children will return to the lower-level carpet area for Kidz Worship time.
- ✓ **Clean up** when class is over. Supplies/Bibles away in classroom; lesson materials returned to bin. Wipe down tables if necessary.
- ✓ **Debrief** with directors in person or via email. Communication between weekly teachers is helpful as well for consistency in the classroom. Share with each other what works or doesn't!



NEW! Kidz Church Leader Portal

Every Tuesday Children's Ministries will email you the Kidz Church lesson plans for the following Sunday. This information will can also always be found on <http://www.stmarkscarmel.org/kcleaderportal>.

On the Portal you will find:

Helpful Leader Document Links (To be updated soon!)

- Overview of the lesson themes for each month of the year
- St. Mark's Childcare Policy
- Kidz Church Leader Training PPT 2025
- Kidz Church Leaders & Subs Contact List
- Classroom Expectations and Regulations for meeting diverse needs (notes from neurodivergent teacher and expert, Sarah Hutchinson)
- Kidz Church Leader Schedule

NEW! Kidz Church Leader Portal

On the Portal you will find:

Calendar of Events:

- Kidz Church weekly plans with downloadable pdfs of lessons
- Upcoming events in Children's Ministries

TO COME:

- Kidz Church Leader Opportunities and information
- A blog section for notes from Children's Ministries



Kidz Church **Leader** **Schedule** (in progress)

A digital copy will be emailed.

Safe Church and Emergency Training

Please use this [LINK](#) to view the Training Video before the first Sunday you serve. Call or Email us with questions or concerns.

NOTE: Video was produced for VBS, but it applicable for leaders of all Kidz events.



ST. MARK'S IS A
COMMUNITY OF
FOLLOWERS OF
JESUS CHRIST
THAT STRIVES TO

WELCOME
ALL PEOPLE,

GROW
IN KNOWLEDGE
AND GRACE, AND

SERVE
OUR NEIGHBORS,
LOCALLY AND
GLOBALLY.



Our church motto (left) is **Welcome, Grow, Serve**. Kidz Church falls under the **Grow** category as it relates to St. Mark's as a whole. However, it is important that our vision for leading children encompasses all three parts of our motto as kids grow in their own relationships with Jesus and learn what it means to be a disciple.

With this in mind, Children's Ministries has chosen **Grow Kids** as our Kidz Church curriculum.





Grow Kids encourages churches to focus on growing in a way that's healthy— not just growing for the sake of numbers. A healthy ministry will create the conditions for kids (and our ministry) to grow.

To do that, Grow pursues health in six key areas: **Discipleship, Teaching, Environments, Events, Families, & Volunteers.**

The areas we will be focusing on for our training purposes are **Discipleship & Teaching.** However, we will be pursuing all 6 areas throughout the year in Children's Ministries and you will notice how they all affect you and your role as a Kidz Church volunteer as well as how they connect to **Welcome, Grow, & Serve.**





DISCIPLESHIP: Discipleship isn't about learning more stuff about faith, it's about putting faith into practice. There are four spiritual habits that help people of all ages (including you) grow spiritually and everything we do is structured around these four key spiritual habits. These habits are the backbone of the entire Grow Kids strategy!

- ❖ **SPEND TIME WITH GOD:** Spending time with God is about helping kids develop personal spiritual disciplines. It can look like opening the Bible, talking with God through prayer, discovering how they best connect with God through worship, and whatever else helps them connect with God personally. When they spend time with God, their faith grows!
- ❖ **SPEND TIME WITH OTHERS:** This spiritual habit is about helping kids grow in godly relationships with others. We can do this within our churches through small groups and mentoring relationships. But we can also do this by encouraging kids to develop healthy relationships with others in their families, schools, and communities. Through godly relationships, their faith can grow!



- ❖ **USE YOUR GIFTS:** It's so important for kids to discover how God made them and who God made them to be. As they begin to discover how God uniquely created them, we get to help them use their unique gifts to love God and serve others. When they use their gifts, their faith grows!
- ❖ **SHARE YOUR STORY:** Kids need to learn how to have conversations about who God is and what God is doing in their lives. Sharing their stories of faith isn't just something they should do when speaking into a microphone or sharing a testimony. Faith should become a regular, ongoing, go-to topic of conversation for kids. When they share their stories, their faith grows.





TEACHING: We teach with kids in mind. We have a strategy to teach them in the ways they learn best based on their stage of development and needs. Focus on helping kids learn to verbalize their stories of faith and challenge them to share those stories with others.

Every week, our teaching time is designed to answer three questions:

- ❖ **WHAT?** What are we talking about?
- ❖ **SO WHAT?** Why does it matter to God and to us?
- ❖ **NOW WHAT?** What should we do about what we just learned?

Sometimes, when we hear "teaching," we think "lessons" with a teacher talking at the front of the room. Sure, lesson plans are part of it, but they can't be the primary way we teach kids. Kids need so much more than a formal lecture to help them learn about Jesus!

There are more effective ways for kids to learn, so we're committed to making those teaching techniques part of every week of our teaching...



Teaching Techniques:

- ❖ **QUESTIONS AND POLLS** give kids the chance to share their thoughts, which keeps them engaged and helps us better understand their perspectives.
- ❖ **PERSONAL STORIES** give them real-life examples of faith, following Jesus, and difficulties to learn from and remind them they're not alone
- ❖ **IMAGES, VIDEOS, AND MUSIC** engage their eyes and ears and help us recapture their attention when it wanders.
- ❖ **OBJECT LESSONS** give concrete experiences to help them understand or remember abstract ideas.
- ❖ **ACTIVITIES** get them moving and interacting in ways that will help them better remember what they learned because they didn't just hear it—they experienced it.





- **ENVIRONMENTS:** We have a plan to create a weekly environment for kids that is fun, safe, and welcoming because the environment we create sets the stage for them to learn and grow.
- **EVENTS:** We won't do random events just to fill the calendar this year. Instead, we'll do events strategically for kids' relationships with others and God.
- **FAMILIES:** We don't just care about kids—we care about their families, too. We have a strategy for connecting with and supporting parents and caregivers, and you are an important part of that strategy.
- **VOLUNTEERS:** If we're going to have a healthy ministry, it starts with us and our team. We have a plan to invest in you so that you can better invest in kids and families. If we want them to grow, we need to grow first!



How *Grow* kids fits into our church model...

Below is the St. Mark's Discipleship Pathway and the model for Connecting with others, Connecting with God, and Helping others connect. The Four Spiritual Habits of Grow Kids (Spend Time with God, Spend Time with Others, Use your Gifts, & Share your Story) correlate quite well with our own Discipleship Pathway!

Discipleship Pathway

What does it look like to be a disciple at St. Mark's?



What does it look like to be a disciple at St. Mark's?

Worship

WELCOME

Hospitality

A Life
Opening to
God

GROW

A Daily Life
Embodying
Jesus

Service

SERVE

Generosity

As we connect with each other, connect with God, and help others connect in six key areas of discipleship (Worship, Hospitality, a Life Opening to God, a Daily Life Embodying Jesus, Service, and Generosity), we fulfill our mission to Welcome, Grow, and Serve:

- Through a life of hospitality and a life of worship, we **Welcome** all people and the presence of God into our lives.
- To **Grow** in our knowledge and grace, we open our lives to God and seek to embody Jesus's example in our actions, attitudes, and responses to others.
- With our gifts and our time, we **Serve** our neighbors locally and globally by continuing to build a life of generosity and a life of service.

Connecting with others | Connecting with God | Helping others connect