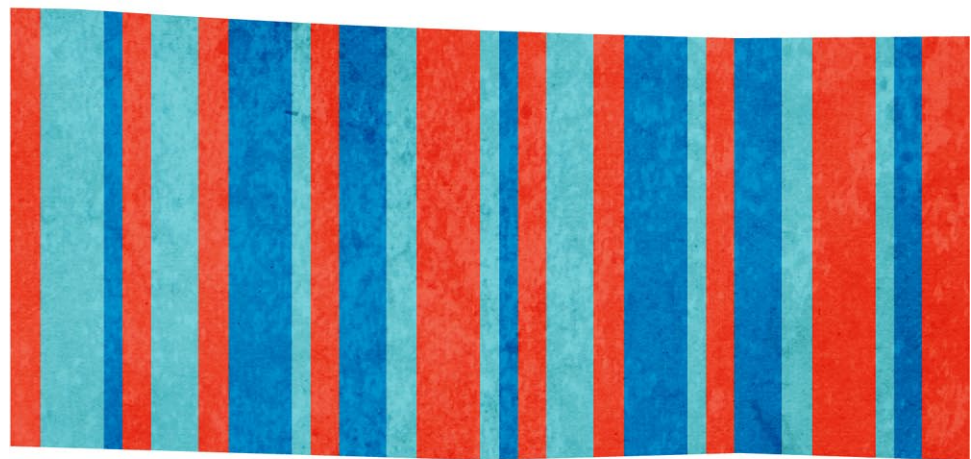


SUMMER!

FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE 2013



summer programming for children and teens



COLLEGE PARK CHURCH IS INVITING OUR KIDS TO JOIN US IN THE SANCTUARY THIS SUMMER!

As our Elementary Sunday School breaks for the summer and our kids worship with us in the sanctuary, we want to offer parents (and others) a few encouraging pointers on why this is such a blessing and how to assist one another in this more age-diverse worship experience.

Thank you for your assistance in helping us give our Sunday School teachers and helpers a much earned break and invite children into the important opportunity to worship with their family.

WHY INVITE KIDS TO PARTICIPATE WITH US IN CORPORATE WORSHIP?

- ✳ **They will be there to experience the means by which God blesses His people:** the preached Word, the Lord's Supper, baptisms, and corporate prayer.
"And [the early church] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)
- ✳ **They will witness their parents worshiping and be encouraged.**
"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (Eph 6:4)
- ✳ **They will get to experience worship in the midst of God's diverse church body, not just their family or peers.**
[Moses commanded:] "Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear [the reading of the Law] and learn to fear the Lord your God." (Deut 31:12)

Children are at church for the same reason as their parents: to worship God in the community of believers. **And this is the most important thing we can train our children to do!**

HELPFUL TIPS FOR WORSHIPPING WITH OUR KIDS

- * **Make Sunday a big deal.** Talk about Sunday morning during the week: whether remembering something from the past Sunday or preparing for the upcoming Sunday (like reading the passage ahead of time). This corporate worship time is so important (see Heb 10:24-25), and it will help kids look forward to worshipping at church!
- * **Worship during the week.** Parents who are already having spiritual conversations and prayer with their kids during the week will likely see a higher level of comfort for their kids in corporate worship. Kids will be used to hearing the Bible, praying, and singing together. And this may also improve their ability to focus and sit still.
- * **Use moments during the service.** At transitions you can whisper to your child how much you love a verse or song, or to remember to pray for a person later. This will keep both of you engaged and worshipful.
- * **Get help.** Older children can help younger ones find the passage and put their finger on it. Family friends can sit in the same row and assist with kids (even by not getting bothered by them!).
- * **Don't worry, be happy!** Some parents are over-concerned with how their child's fidgeting makes others judge their parenting. We all need to work together to welcome children into our service. We want to enjoy this great privilege and extend grace to parents and children. Instead of being overly critical of kids, affirm them in the right ways. Point out how great it is to worship with them and the particular things they did that encouraged you and pleased God.

Jesus says: *"Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."* (Mark 10:14b-15)

We are looking forward to having our kids join us in worship this summer and all of us learning how to worship God together!

The Children's Ministries Team

SUMMER PROGRAM SCHEDULE

JUNE 2-AUGUST 4, 2013

FOR KIDS *yourchurch.com/sundayatthepark*

8:00 A.M. SUNDAYS

- * Nursery
- * Preschool

9:45 A.M. SUNDAYS

- * Nursery
- * Preschool
- * K-Grade 5
(only for church volunteers serving this hour & ABF attendees – registration required)

11:30 A.M. SUNDAYS

- * Nursery
- * Preschool

QUESTIONS? *Kristin Gilbert* ▶ kgilbert@yourchurch.com

FOR TEENS *yourchurch.com/students*

THE ROCK CURRENT GRADES 6-7

Meets at 9:45 a.m. in The Rock every Sunday
and the Ministry Center at 6:30 p.m. most Wednesdays

THE GROVE CURRENT GRADES 8-11

Meets at the Ministry Center on select Sunday evenings at 6 p.m.
and most Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

QUESTIONS? *Joe Wittmer* ▶ jwittmer@yourchurch.com