

# One Life Kids (OLK) Philosophy

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*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matt 19:14*

*"Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work." - John Trainer*

Mission: To equip families to follow Jesus and engage in life together.

## Values

- Worshipping Families – Families participate in the life of the church together with the goal of being equipped as one.
- Devoted Followers – By the grace of God, we desire to raise our children to become fully devoted followers of Jesus.
- Gifted Contributors – Children possess spiritual gifts that can contribute to the body.
- Full Participants – Kids are valued members of the community
- Discipleship-making Parents – Parents are the primary disciplers of their children.

At One Life Community we believe that children are a gift and blessing from God. Children not only hold one of the most significant places in the lives of parents, but they are also an essential part of the body of Christ. Because of this we are committed to fully including children in the life of the church and helping parents to be the primary influence in discipling their children.

When kids are integrated into the life of the body, several important things happen:

1. Teaching and Instruction. As families participate together in elements such as prayer, worship and discussion of God's Word, children learn through example the value of this sacred time and the importance of worshipping together.
2. Community. As children are given the opportunity to participate in the life of the body, they witness the value of being part of the community and they have the opportunity to build relationships with others as they develop greater independence. Including children in this way also allows others within the church to support each parent through shared parenting values.
3. Contribution. When children experience salvation and receive the Holy Spirit, they have been given spiritual gifts for the building up of the body. Their Spirit-given gifts should not be excluded from the life of the church. Instead, children should be encouraged to learn and contribute their gifts for the good of the church. In this way, we desire for children to experience the reality that they are essential members of the body of Christ.

## Biblical Foundation

- Children are a gift from God, formed by God (Psalm 127:3; 139:13-16)
- Parents are called to teach their kids about God's story (Deuteronomy 6:7)
- Children have the ability to understand truth and act upon it (2 Chronicles 34:1-3)
- Believing children possess the full Spirit of God (Acts 2:38)
- The worship of children is valuable to God (Matthew 21:15-16)
- Children have faith to be learned from (Matthew 18:2-6)
- Children need to be instructed and taught (Ephesians 6:4)
- Children should not be hindered from hearing the teaching of the Word and coming to Jesus (Mark 10:14)
- Children are essential members of the body and the kingdom of God (Mark 9:37)
- Parents are commanded to and responsible for discipling their kids (Deut. 6:7, Eph. 6:4)

- Parents can leave a lasting impression on their children through example and teaching (2 Timothy 3:14-15)
- Parents are called to follow God's instruction on how to engage their children (Eph. 6:4)