

Our Commitment to Families

Jan 2021

As leaders of OLC, we will work to engage kids in House Church in the following ways:

As preparation for House Church, Pastor Grant will send out the text and big idea on Tuesdays to the whole church. Parents can use this in some way to prep kids for House Church (i.e. read the story to kids at bed time, tell the story at dinner and ask some questions, discuss themes with the kids on car rides or in waiting rooms [What does it mean to hope? What does God think about sin? Etc.]). This way kids will be familiar with the text/themes so they may have “hooks” to engage when we discuss.

We will give parents the “OLK Practice Guide” to help them train their children for faith and prepare them for House Church activities. We will remind and encourage parents to plan ahead and find items/activities for their children to help them develop faith habits.

Our kid volunteers will be scheduled to find a coloring sheet/craft that relates to the sermon text/big idea and ensure supplies are available for House Church. Depending on the age of kids present there may need to be 2 activities (for key age groups).

During worship there may be times we introduce or select “kid songs” but this is not something we will plan for every gathering. However, we will identify places/ways kids can engage in typical songs we sing. These can include:

1. Narrate worship practices like standing, raising hands, clapping, or closing your eyes for times of reflection, etc.
2. Briefly explain some big words or theological concept expressed in a song
3. Coach kids to sing simple choruses by rehearsing the phrases before the song starts
4. Give hand signals/instructions for kids to sing soft/loud depending on the song
5. Let “just the kids” sing a chorus and then have “just the adults” sing to let them hear their voice and see they can do what the adults are doing.

During teaching/discussion time we will ask the leader to consider incorporating a few of these habits:

1. Pick illustrations for diverse age groups (young children, school-aged kids, teens, singles, couples, seniors, etc.).
2. Solicit answers from the kids before asking the adults a question that engages the text.
3. Ask the kids to demonstrate emotions or actions mentioned in the text.
4. Offer mnemonics, where appropriate, and ask the kids to repeat them.
5. Ask the kids to track/hunt for key words in your lesson (i.e. clap every time they hear you say the word “suffering”, raise their hand every time you mention a person’s name, etc.).

During prayer time we will engage kids at their level to participate in prayer. This can look like:

1. Model/narrate for kids what prayer is and how we do it (i.e. it’s time to have a conversation with Jesus – so we want to close our eyes to not be distracted by things around us. We want to be quiet for a few minutes so we can listen to the Holy Spirit who talks to our hearts, not our ears).
2. Ask a child to pray for the group or a specific prayer need.
3. Ask kids to raise their hands if they need Jesus to help them [respond to the lesson/text] and then pray for them.
4. Ask kids to pass out names for prayer partners for the upcoming week.
5. Be spontaneous and pray for one of the kids who is upset during house church – live out asking God for help in the moment and showing kids that we can turn to God when our feelings are too big, or things don’t go how we want them.