

NEXT

GENERATION

JOURNEY CHURCH

YOUR GUIDE TO:

**SPIRITUAL
DEVELOPMENT
OF OUR NEXT
GENERATION**

JOURNEY CHURCH

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LETTER FROM OUR PASTORS

At Journey Church we believe in the Next Generation. We understand that as a multi-generational church that we must make room for everyone, but that special attention must be paid to making a way for the youngest amongst us to flourish. This is primarily because their age and experience mean that they cannot do this for themselves. Our goal as a church is to establish habits and experiences that make it easy for children to grow up to become life-long passionate followers of Christ.

In the following pages you will see many of our Next Generation programs outlined. These programs have been designed with the following values in mind:

1. **We understand the 4-14 window.** - 85% of all Christians come to know Jesus between the ages of 4 and 14.
2. **We understand the value of “5.”** - When people have 5 or more mentors and influencers in their lives discipleship happens. This is why we need everyone involved in the Next Generation!
3. **We don't believe in a Jr. Holy Spirit.** - We expect that our children and students will experience and respond to the Holy Spirit.
4. **We want to invest in programming that we know will contribute to positive discipleship outcomes.** We are pragmatic in our approach to Next Generation ministry...we will follow the research and make sure that our programs and methods are making an impact on the ground in young people's lives.
5. **We want to give significant time and budget to children's outreach and discipleship initiatives.** - We don't just want to talk about the Next Generation- we want to put our money where our mouths are. Our budgets will reflect our commitment to the Next Generation.

Historically, young people have always led the way into revival. We don't expect anything less at Journey Church. We want to empower our children to hear from God, know His word and make a difference in the world.

Thanks for continuing to invest in the lives of your children. We are committed to standing with you and seeing God do miraculous things in and through their lives.

Pastors Dave & Jess

BABIES & TODDLERS

Our nursery is intended for babies from 6 months to 18 months of age. We have caring volunteers who play with age appropriate toys with them, pray over them and play kids worship music and may provide baby-friendly snacks.

Our toddlers & twos class is intended for children aged 18 months until the fall of the year they turn 3. We have wonderful volunteers who follow a curriculum that teaches Biblical truths through play, toddler-friendly activities and crafts, and music with actions or rhythm instruments. Snacks may be supplied, while being considerate and careful about allergies.

- PLAY - PRAY - WORSHIP

WEE COLLEGE

We are so excited to introduce the WeeCollege program to Journey Church for our youngest learners, our preschoolers! WeeCollege is a highly respected and effective program to teach children foundational truths from the Bible through their preschool years. This program runs throughout the school year from September through June, with students moving up to the next year each fall. Year 1 starts the school year they turn 3, Year 2 starts the school year they turn 4 and Year 3 starts the year they turn 5. This program is designed so kids engage with their Bibles, meet with Jesus and learn how to worship. Kids learn through frequent repetition and practice, so their regular attendance is critical in their success in memorizing scripture and learning the content taught in WeeCollege.

We believe this is a wonderful opportunity for families as your children build Biblical knowledge and valuable friendships, but you also have the opportunity to plug into the wonderful community that makes up Journey Church by attending regularly and building relationships. We also make sure there is tons of time for students to play and develop friendships with one another.

ELEMENTARY KIDS

Sunday Mornings are a time for Journey Kids to connect with the Lord, grow in community and learn Biblical truths. We have created an environment for kids to dance around in worship, play active and engaging games and participate in our Bible lesson. Our goal at Journey Kids is for Sunday School to feel like an hour-long party where kids can grow in their faith and Bible knowledge while being safely cared for by our screened volunteers. It's an atmosphere like none other where kids can be themselves and confidently grow in their relationship with Christ.

The curriculum we use has been developed right here at Journey Church! Over the course of 3 years, we go through the entire Bible in 10 key sections. There are 132 stories we teach and each one has a memory verse which connects to the Biblical truth we are learning that week. We have worked hard as a next generation team to bring the key stories to your child on Sunday mornings so they can go home with confidence to open up their Bibles and dig deeper with their families.

We believe in the importance of Biblical literacy for our children. The memory verses your child will memorize in their time at Kids Church are foundational verses that will help them throughout their lives. Research on Bible engagement has shown that children who read their Bibles four or more times a week engage with good moral behaviours and significantly reduce risky behaviours. The memory verse and story framework we have established is a good foundation for kids to engage with scriptures through encouraging them to explore deeper and ask questions to trusted adults. Plus, if they memorize their memory verses there are some pretty awesome prizes too!

TWEENS

Journey Tweens is a space for kids to come on a Friday Night and have fun. We know through research that between the grades of 4 and 6 kids need to decide to serve God and this time period is one of the most critical times for students to make a lifelong decision to serve God. We developed Journey Tweens to encounter kids with the Bible and help students make that critical decision to serve God. We also created Journey Tweens as a transition for children's ministry to youth. Tweens builds off of what is taught in children's ministry and helps build foundations for Students for when they go into the Youth program. We designed this program for students in grade 4-6 with the intention of creating relationships between the students and leaders, and developing relationships among students and their peers, and finally developing relationships between students and the God we serve. We want to foster connections that will last and lifelong impact.

We meet on Friday nights and have events every two weeks. We meet on Fridays to have a fun time with the students and to impart some wisdom from the bible on the students. Tweens is a place where we value relationships and the impact that we can have over students' lives. At Tweens we want students to feel like they have established a relationship between themselves and their peers in a meaningful way, and we also want to have a relationship between our leaders and our students. And finally we want the kids to have a relationship with God. We want to focus on relationship, relationship, relationship.

LEAD WELL

Lead Well is a program that is designed to help equip our students between the ages of 9 and 13 with leadership skills. This program has been implemented in other churches and has seen outstanding success, and we want to be able to give students skills to become the great leaders that we know that they can be. We want to help equip your students when they are young to learn how to become leaders that can one day change the world. The program also takes into consideration the multiple learning styles that kids have. This program will be hosted on a bi-weekly basis on Sundays after church. It is our desire that we practically help students in the church achieve great leadership skills. We desire as a church to help students be successful, and we desire that students become active critical thinkers and problem solvers. The next generation of leaders is within our students and we want to partner with parents and help develop those leaders. Once the student finishes the program, they should be well equipped as leaders and have useful practical skills that they can take with them to their future endeavours.

YOUTH

Sr. High

Every Friday at 6 30 the youth meet for a high energy night with friends where there will be games, a time of worship and a message as well as plenty of time before and after to connect with friends and develop strong friendships.

Youth is definitely a place where students can come and grow in their faith but we also really care a lot about them having lots AND LOTS of fun. We want Friday nights to be the night our youth look forward to more than anything else and something they wouldn't miss for the world. Our games are engaging with prizes worth playing for that get our students involved and having fun. Through games and our times to hang out before and after our hope is that students are able to find life long friendships that will be a support to them throughout their life.

Worship is one of our key priorities as well at Journey youth. We want to worship God with joyful hearts as well as create a place for our youth to come before God in honesty with where they are at. This allows for students to come on Fridays and truly encounter the living God. To hear about God and to know about him is great but through our worship we are actually able to encounter him as we worship him.

Jr. High

Grades 6-8, our junior highs, then have their own message where they will learn about foundational truths of the gospel with a large focus on developing spiritual disciplines such as bible reading and prayer. We will begin to walk them through the practical application of their knowledge and encourage them to begin serving in different areas of their life. We will continue to teach them biblical truths while encouraging them to ask their questions and make their faith their own. Creating disciplined followers of Christ is our mission at Journey youth and to be able to see our junior highs truly live out their faith is our goal.

Overall our desire for our junior highs at Journey youth is that it will be a place that people can belong and call home. Somewhere they will be able to come, have a lot of fun, encounter the presence of God and be taught about the love of God and what he says to his children. Through these weekly times we are hoping to see youth grown into godly leaders that seek to serve God in everything that they do.

MENTORSHIP

Our heart at Journey Church for every student that comes through our church is that they would be able to have mentors who they can trust and be encouraged by in their faith all throughout their life. Statistics show that each young person needs five older individuals who walk closely alongside them in order for them to continue walking in a thriving, growing faith into their young adult and adult years. To be able to intentionally provide one of those people is our hope through this mentorship program. Giving our young people a place to ask questions and to wrestle with their faith as well as receive the wisdom of those who have lived longer is one of the hopes of this mentorship program

Participants are able to fill out an application with basic interests and information about themselves and will be paired with a mentor who we deem to be a good fit with the mentee. We will require police checks and personal references for all of our mentors in order to ensure the safety of each of our mentees. Throughout the year we will then have 4 intentional mentorship nights where the pairs of mentors and mentees will be able to gather together and have a fun night of food and games and community. We will also allow at each of these nights a space for the individual pairs to have a time of one on one interaction where they will have the ability to learn more about each other and an intentional chance for the mentor to provide guidance or support for the mentee. For the younger students simply being able to have a trustworthy person in their life who cares for them and prays for them will be a deeply impactful experience.

Our hope is that this will cultivate a culture of mentorship within our church where everyone is encouraged to find those who will be able to come alongside them and support them. To see these connections turn into life-long friendships will allow each student to walk in maturity in their faith for their whole life.

SAFETY AND YOUR CHILDREN

The safety of both our children and our volunteers is very important to us here at Journey Church. We have a screening process for volunteers that includes a police check specific to those working with this vulnerable sector. We have a check-in system that prints sticker tags for each child and as well as a parent tag for pick-up. We also have bright coloured bands for children with allergies so volunteers will be cautious when distributing snacks or other possible allergens. (all potential snacks are nut free)

We train our volunteers with protocols, policies and practices to prevent any opportunity for abuse. (for example, no child is alone in a room with a volunteer, volunteers don't change diapers etc).

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Everyone brings different talents and passions to the table and in Journey Kids we want to partner with you to invest in our kids. Whether you are looking for community during the week, wanting to connect with other families on Sunday mornings or wanting to grow as a leader, kids ministry is a wonderful opportunity for you to connect with the Journey community.

We would love to serve and grow alongside you at Journey Kids.

On Sunday mornings there are opportunities to serve on our Elementary School Team, WeeCollege Preschool Team or Registration Team in various roles and capacities. We would love to connect to see which role you might be feeling called to serve.

On weekdays, there is the opportunity to help with lesson preparation.

There are multiple opportunities that exist either weekly or biweekly to serve our Tweens Group or Journey Youth Group as a youth leader.

Depending on the season, there may also be opportunities to help with classroom decoration and classroom prep.

Just let us know where you want to connect:

amy@myjourney.church

RETREATS/MISSIONS

At Journey Church, 2 of our values are “intentional discipleship” and “generous servanthood”. We are also “next generation focused” and believe those values extend to all generations in our church family. We believe mission trips are a valuable way for our next generation to serve, and retreats are a focused time of discipleship and relationship building. We plan to make these opportunities available a couple of times a year.