



HISKids

CHILDRENS MINISTRY

PARENT GUIDEBOOK

2023 - 2024



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A Note from the Director

Parents, Grandparents, Guardians, and Family Friends,

THANK YOU for bringing your kids to our church! We are thrilled that you have chosen us to be a partner in your child's faith journey. We have an exciting year ahead of us.

At Community of Grace, we want kids to know that Jesus makes us family. This family is a safe, welcoming place for them to just be kids while learning about *who* this Jesus is that makes us a family. We invite kids to take their first step of faith in Jesus. We also walk with them as they take next steps and develop deep roots of faith.

But it starts with you. We can only do this work because of the love you pour out on them by bringing them to church and reinforcing what they learn at home. We know from first-hand experience that it's not always easy. Sometimes I have to remind myself that coming to church is worth it in spite of the whining, crying, the "I'm boreds," and the inevitable wrestling match of buckling car seats! Because of your dedication, our kids can learn to *be* the church in a world that needs grace in every corner.

That's why we are here to support you. We want to be your partner (not your replacement) when it comes to your kids' faith formation. We hope you will find this booklet helpful as a guide to our partnership in this journey.



OUR MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY

At Community of Grace, our mission is “to be and make disciples of Jesus,” taken directly from the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20). HISKids Children's Ministry follows this mission by partnering with families in the spiritual education and discipleship of their children from birth to 5th grade. We do this through offering HISKids Sunday School, HISKids in Worship, Vacation Bible School, and other family-oriented special events throughout the year.

WHAT IS THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE?

All families should plan to check-in their kids at the north end of the Commons prior to the 9am services. Nursery, Preschool, and Kindergarten students are dropped off in their classrooms prior to the start of services. 1st-5th grade students join their families for opening worship. Our worship leaders then release them to their teachers around 9:15. Sunday School runs until 10:15.

WHY THE 10:15 PICK-UP TIME?

We end Sunday School a little later than our services to provide more time for a quality faith formation and relationship building experience in our classrooms. The extra time also allows parents to relax and connect with other adults in their church family.

WHAT IS HISKIDS IN WORSHIP?

Research shows that children who see their parents or guardians practicing their faith have a higher chance of maintaining faith into adulthood. That's why, about once a month, usually on the First Sunday (see calendar), kids ages 4 & up join us for the full worship service. This is also why we want our elementary students to experience the first part of our worship services every week.

When children join us in worship, we are giving them a sense of **belonging in the greater church community**. They are exposed to communal faith elements such as worship, Communion, Baptism, and the preaching of the Word. **Attending HISKids in Worship also builds on what kids are learning each week as our church follows the Narrative Lectionary in worship and Sunday School.**

We know having kids in "big church" can be a challenge for families, especially with very young or highly active children. Our community welcomes the "joyful noises" children create. We also offer these resources for families:

- + Nursery care for ages 0-3 years is available during both service hours on HISKids in Worship Sundays.
- + Activity bags are provided at worship venue entrances.
- + A Children's Message is almost always included on HISKids in Worship Sundays.
- + Our Community Room is available with a livestream of the service for families who need more wiggle room.

ROCK JAR REWARDS

We know that kids are at a developmental stage where external motivation is more effective than internal motivation. To help kids build faith habits such as Bible memorization, tithing, and coming to church, our HISKids classes earn points each week toward a **“Rock Jar Party,”** where they enjoy extra special treats as a class.

It takes about 150-200 rocks to fill a jar. Kids can earn rocks for the **“Rock Jar”** by doing any or all of the following each week:

- + Attending HISKids
- + Attending a HISKids in Worship Sunday (when applicable)
- + Bringing their Bible to HISKids
- + Reciting the Monthly Memory Verse to their teacher
- + Bringing an offering to HISKids (All money collected at HISKids goes toward supporting our Mission of Hope sponsor child.)
- + Bringing a friend to HISKids (Earns 3 rocks!)

Our hope is that you as parents/guardians will partner with us in encouraging kids to make these practices a regular part of their week. Of course, we are a community of grace, not guilt or shame. That means things like providing Bibles to use in class if kids forget to bring one or helping them when they miss a word of the memory verse. Also, when a **Rock Jar Reward** is earned, **ALL** students are welcome to partake in the treats!

CATECHISM CONNECTIONS

Alongside our regular week-to-week curriculum, each elementary HISKids class does a year-long study of foundational faith topics. For classes with multiple grade levels, the topics rotate each year. During this program year:

- + 1st & 2nd Graders will explore
Personal Prayer & Devotions
- + 3rd & 4th Graders will explore
Bible Basics
- + 5th Graders will explore & memorize
The Apostles' Creed



We want kids to learn *what* these topics mean, *why* they are foundational to our faith, and *how* they apply to our everyday lives. Each student will receive a gift to assist in this process:

- + 1st & 2nd Graders will receive a daily devotional book for kids.
- + 3rd & 4th Graders will receive a Bible (New Living Translation) and/or a Bible Basics study book.
- + 5th graders will receive a copy of Luther's Small Catechism and a personal devotional book about Jesus.

You will receive a letter from your child's teacher with more details when the books are distributed in each class.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSES 2023-24

SEPTEMBER

"SO GOD CREATED HUMAN BEINGS IN HIS OWN IMAGE. IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE CREATED THEM; MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM." GENESIS 1:27

OCTOBER

**"TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART; DO NOT DEPEND ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING. SEEK HIS WILL IN ALL YOU DO, AND HE WILL SHOW YOU WHICH PATH TO TAKE."
PROVERBS 3:5-6**

NOVEMBER

"YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO GUIDE MY FEET AND A LIGHT FOR MY PATH." PSALM 119:105

DECEMBER

**"AND SHE WILL HAVE A SON, AND YOU ARE TO NAME HIM JESUS, FOR HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS."
MATTHEW 1:21**

JANUARY

"JESUS REPLIED, 'YOU MUST LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, ALL YOUR SOUL, AND ALL YOUR MIND.'"

MATTHEW 22:37

FEBRUARY

"FOR THE WORD OF THE LORD HOLDS TRUE, AND WE CAN TRUST EVERYTHING HE DOES." PSALM 33:4

MARCH

"CHRIST SUFFERED FOR OUR SINS ONCE FOR ALL TIME. HE NEVER SINNED, BUT HE DIED FOR SINNERS TO BRING YOU SAFELY HOME TO GOD." 1 PETER 3:18

APRIL

"THIS MEANS THAT ANYONE WHO BELONGS TO CHRIST HAS BECOME A NEW PERSON. THE OLD LIFE IS GONE; A NEW LIFE HAS BEGUN!" 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

MAY

"THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS, BUT THE SAME SPIRIT IS THE SOURCE OF THEM ALL. THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SERVICE, BUT WE SERVE THE SAME LORD."

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-5

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME.
THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN
HEAVEN. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD, AND FORGIVE US
OUR TRESPASSES, AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS
AGAINST US. AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT
DELIVER US FROM EVIL. FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE
POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

1. YOU MUST NOT HAVE ANY OTHER GOD BUT ME.
2. YOU MUST NOT MAKE FOR YOURSELF AN IDOL OF ANY KIND.
3. YOU MUST NOT MISUSE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD.
4. REMEMBER TO OBSERVE THE SABBATH DAY BY KEEPING IT HOLY.
5. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.
6. YOU MUST NOT MURDER.
7. YOU MUST NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.
8. YOU MUST NOT STEAL.
9. YOU MUST NOT TESTIFY FALSELY AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR.
10. YOU MUST NOT COVET.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD. HE WAS CONCEIVED BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY. HE SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE, WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED, AND WAS BURIED. HE DESCENDED INTO HELL. ON THE THIRD DAY, HE ROSE AGAIN. HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN, AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER. HE WILL COME AGAIN TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE HOLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY, AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fall Family Fun Night: Join us on Thursday, September 28th, for a night of food, fellowship, and fun celebrating our family ministry partnerships between CGLC, Magnuson Christian School, and Lake Area Discovery Center. Bounce houses, field games, and hot dogs and brats will be available at no cost to families.

FALL FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Christmas Program: This special Sunday brings together all generations in an active retelling of the Christmas story. All HISKids are welcome to participate. Sunday School classes will begin learning simple musical elements in late October. The Christmas program will be held on December 17th.



Christmas Jammie Jam: This special evening service is for all kids and those who are kids at heart! Families who may be leaving town early for Christmas (or who just love wearing Christmas pajamas together!) are invited to an acoustic candlelight service that will include a Christmas dance party, story time, kid-friendly craft or activity, and a birthday cake for Jesus! The Jammie Jam will be on Wednesday, December 20th.



HISKids Hype Night: This special night (Feb. 2nd) is open to kids in 4th-5th grade. This is a time for our older kids to enjoy crazy games, eat lots of pizza and ice cream, and build relationships with one another. The cost is \$5. Registration opens in January.

Egg Hunt: Our annual Egg Hunt is an egg-citing day of free family fun! Kids experience a live, interactive retelling of the Easter story followed by an egg hunt, games, and treats. Our 2024 Egg Hunt will take place on **Saturday, March 23rd**. More details and a volunteer sign-up will open in February.



Vacation Bible School: This action-packed week of summer fun with Jesus is open to kids ages 3 (and potty-trained) through 5th grade. VBS will run **June 24-27** in 2024. Registration and volunteer sign-up open March 1.

FCA Camp & Art Camp: In addition to VBS, we host an annual sports camp and an art camp later in the summer. More details and registration information for these camps will be available on March 1.

Please note: This is not a comprehensive list of our special events. For all event updates, registrations, and volunteer opportunities, please subscribe to our weekly email.

HISKIDS CALENDAR 2023-24

Please note: This calendar is not comprehensive. Dates have not yet been selected for some events. Subscribe to HISKids Highlights for regular updates and details!

Sept. 10: Kick-off Sunday

Oct. 1: Bibles for 3rd Graders (**HK in Worship**)

Oct. 8-Oct. 29: Parents of Grace Study

Nov. 5: **HISKids in Worship** (First Sunday)

Nov. 26: **HISKids in Worship** (Thanksgiving)

Dec. 4: Regular HISKids

Dec. 16: Christmas Program Practice

Dec. 17: Christmas Program (9 & 10:30)

Dec. 20: Christmas Jammie Jam

Dec. 24/25: **HISKids in Worship** (Christmas)

Jan. 7: Regular HISKids

Jan. 7-Jan 28: Parents of Grace Study

Feb. 2: HISKids Hype Night (4th & 5th Graders)

HISKIDS CALENDAR 2023-24

Feb. 4: **HISKids in Worship** (First Sunday)

Feb 14: Ash Wednesday/Lenten Services Begin

March 1: Summer Registrations Open

March 3: **HISKids in Worship** (First Sunday)

March 17: Communion Training

March 23: Easter Egg Hunt

March 24: Palm Processional & Regular HISKids

March 31: Easter (**HISKids in Worship**)

April 7: Regular HISKids

April 7-April 28: Parents of Grace Study

May 5: **HISKids in Worship**

May 19: Last day of HISKids Sunday School

June 24-27: Vacation Bible School 2024

