

# KOD MINISTRY PARENT HANDBOOK

THANK YOU!

for trusting us with your kids - it is a great privilege to partner with you.

In this booklet you will find information about our team's vision and values, our schedule, a map, as well as answers to common questions.

If you have any additional questions please don't hesitate to ask one of our team. We are here to serve you.

KOD Ministry Team

## **Our Vision**

WE EXIST TO PARTNER WITH PARENTS IN DISCIPLING THEIR CHILDREN TOWARD KNOWING GOD AND MAKING HIS MISSION THE CENTER OF THEIR LIVES.

### **What that actually means;**

#### **Partnering with parents**

As parents, God has given you the incredible responsibility of impressing a love for Him on the hearts of your children (Deuteronomy 6:5-7). These impressions best occur as a natural overflow from those who are seeking to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and strength. Our hope is that children's ministry will be congruent with what is being taught at home in order to create a holistic approach to spiritual formation, uniting what children learn in the home and what they learn at church so that each setting reinforces what was experienced in the other. Therefore, we will give parents the training, tools, and resources to build confidence to guide their children through authentic God experiences and Bible learning.

The Church has the opportunity to play a supportive role in this endeavor as it fulfills the mandate in Ephesians 4, which states that the role of the church is to equip the saints for the work of the Lord (vv. 11-13). This is the unique privilege of practitioners to come alongside parents in an equipping role. Many parents feel ill-equipped to receive this mantle, and it is essential that we offer inspiration, equipping ministries/resources, and support to what will be a new role for many fathers and mothers.

We believe that it is the responsibility of every generation to pass down their faith to the next generation in such a way that they will be able to pass down their faith to the following generation. This is the way God designed for His truth to be transferred according to Psalm 78: *I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old—what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from our children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.*

He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. (vv. 2-7)

## **Discipling the heart of kids**

Ultimately, we want the same things for our kids that we want for ourselves: we want them to be disciples of Jesus. A disciple is one who know who knows WHO they are (God's kid, loved, and nothing can ever change that) and then WHAT to do (representing their Father, the King, by acting on his behalf and putting the world back together).

It starts with the interior reality of identity overflowing to the external reality of acting on behalf of the King (their dad).

As leaders, we have the privilege of teaching our kids to ground their identities in their loving, heavenly Father (who urges us to call him daddy) and to live out of that identity by what we do. It's about BEING and DOING. It's about RELATIONSHIP and RESPONSIBILITY.

Everything that we do in KOD is geared around shaping kids to fulfilling God's mission and by becoming disciples of Jesus and living into the unbelievable adventure of taking part in their dad's work.

Knowing God is the heartbeat of spiritual transformation. "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent" (John 17:3). This knowing of God is different than knowing about God—it is primarily a pursuit of an intimate relationship with God. It is in the context of relationship with a loving God we are provoked to transformation by the Holy Spirit through the work of Christ.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

(Romans 12:1-2)

## Ministry Alignment

### Aligning children, youth, and adult ministry

Over the last couple of years we have started to realize the power of ministry alignment. 3DM has helped us develop a solid strategy for developing disciples, and they have created applications of this strategy to all three contexts of children, youth, and adults. To see the children and adults of all these ministries learn the tool of the Learning Circle to hear and follow God, practice the reproducibility of the Leadership Square, balance invitation and challenge in discipling relationships, and experience the power of family on mission (just to mention a few) have been incredible. Many people in our church are now moving in the same direction with common tools, language, and strategy contextualized for each area of ministry where they serve.

### Lifeshapes

We believe LifeShapes is a powerful discipling language. It's important to understand here that this language lays the foundation for everything else. It helps establish the biblical worldview of Jesus and gives people a lens to see the world in the way that Jesus did. What Huddle does is slowly teach people this language.

The first few months of Huddle are similar to learning Spanish 101 and 102. You have to know some of the nouns and pronouns and how to conjugate verbs before you can really start to immerse yourself in the language and become fluent in it. It's all about the basics. Learning the basics of the language is key, particularly as people are learning to engage the two central questions:

- A. What is God saying to me?
- B. What am I going to do about it?

This is foreign for so many people. Most people don't even know how to hear and discern the voice of God, much less respond to it. We clearly see Jesus establishing this foundation of language. On the first day of his ministry, he introduces the idea of the Kingdom. Very soon after that he delivers the Sermon on the Mount, exploring more fully the reality of the Kingdom of God. Everything that he teaches, every story he gives, and every action he makes is wrapped up in the language of the Kingdom of God.

### **KOD pre-school**

The preschool program has 4 classes, serving these age groups: 6 months to walking (nursery), walking to 2 years, 3 years, and 4 years. The nursery has a general limit of 4 children but may receive more at the teacher's discretion. The 2s, 3s and 4s rooms have capacity for 10. We always strive to keep the kids in a familiar environment, but on occasion children may be moved to another room or classes combined to adjust for class size or staff levels.

Each class has two teachers and sometimes a helper. As a policy, if we are unable to staff the two person minimum team the class will be closed.

All of the classes are about fun with an emphasis on sharing, respecting and loving fellow classmates. The 2s, 3s and 4s classes generally include a snack time. The 3s room has structured play, and a short Bible story and/or activity. The 4s room also has lots of play but includes a longer weekly curriculum that includes handouts for home use. We know that the K-5 program has high expectation and high participation and we want our 4s to be ready.

If at any point during class we are unable to discipline or comfort a child, the teacher may ask the preschool director to find the parents, at which point the KOD number on the child's name tag will be displayed on the auditorium screens.

## **KOD K5**

In the K5 ministry, your children will make friends, praise God with songs, play games, hear Bible stories, learn skits, do crafts, and know that Jesus Christ is our Savior. All fun and educational activities are designed to your child's age and developmental level. All KIDS of DESTINY children's programs are focused on the principles of God's Word, His love, His character and plan, and all within a safe atmosphere. We utilize Lifeshapes to train spiritual truths to our kids.

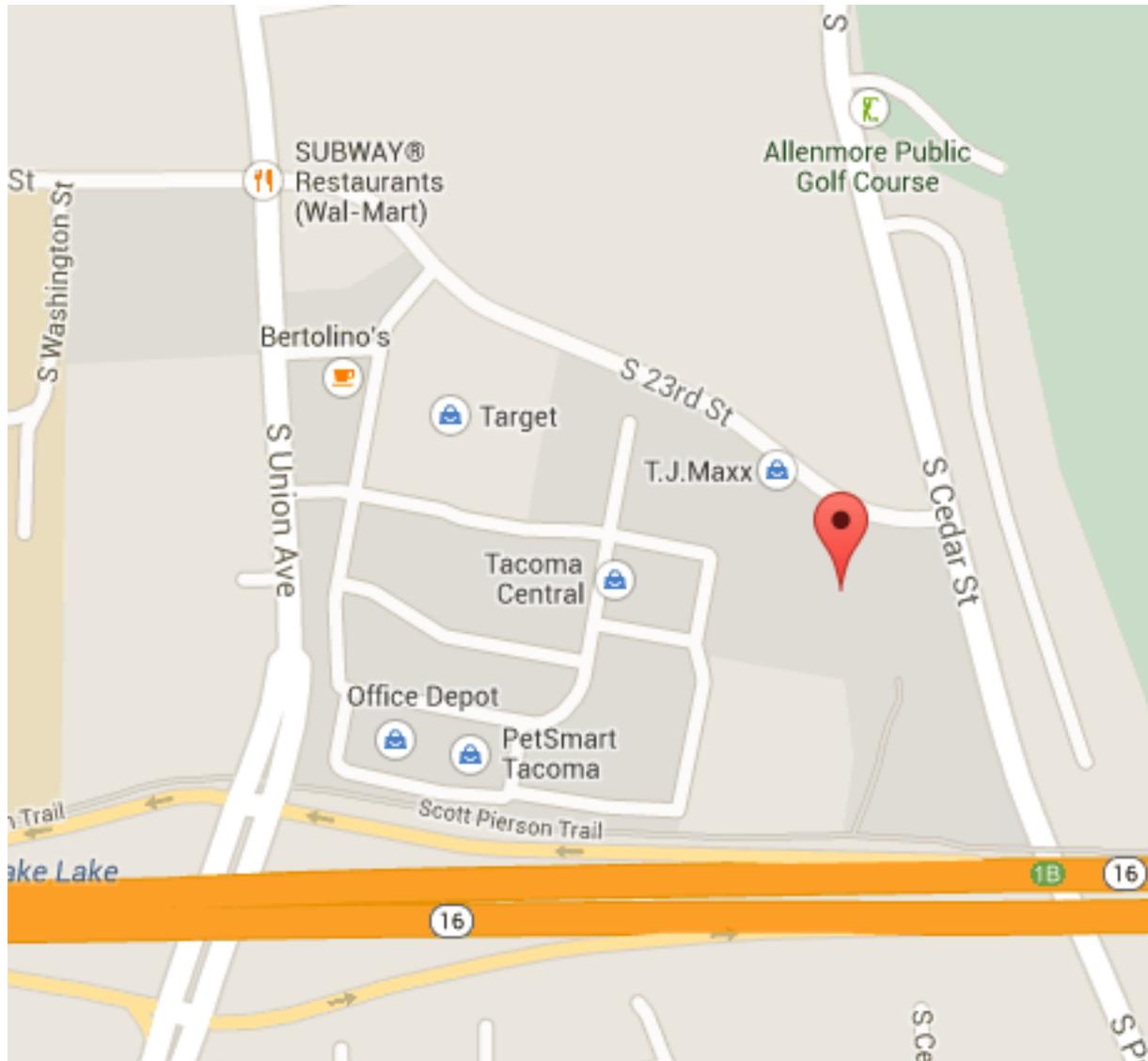
Our mission and goals are:

- To assure each child has ample opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as Savior
- To offer truth that transforms children through sound Biblical teaching, prayer, serving others, developing faith, and practical application in their daily lives
- To engage children in applying their God-given gifts
- To teach each child how to worship God, obey Him, and serve Him joyfully
- To enjoy fellowship with each other in a safe, fun, and encouraging environment

## Schedule

Sundays 10 am - 11:30

## Map - Where we meet



## **What we ask of you.**

**Pray:** we have no interest in babysitting your kids. We want to see them grow up to be passionate followers of Christ. Prayer is the engine of that vision, and your prayers make a difference. Specifically, please pray for you child's small group leader.

**Connect:** we ask our Leaders to connect with you, but please help them by proactively checking in with them. Let them know how things are going at home and how they can pray for you.

**Encourage:** our team is committed to invest into the life of your child - this takes time and energy. Please find practical ways to encourage our team.

**Be Consistent:** because of our small group model, it helps our leaders if you commit to attend service each week. Of course we understand, and are flexible, when you need make a change. It also helps when you drop off and pick up your kids promptly each week.

## **What we ask of our team.**

Being part of the Destiny City Children's Ministry team is both a privilege and a responsibility. Paul exhorted Timothy to, "set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." 1 Tim 4:12. Here is what we ask of each leader:

**Modeling a lifestyle of following Jesus:** God wants to work IN you while He works THROUGH you. The more you commit to a passionate life of following Jesus the better leader you will be.

**Praying regularly:** prayer is the foundation of everything that we do. Try and find creative ways to pray for your kids, their families and the rest of the team.

**Becoming sensitive to the Spirit:** ask God to show you how He sees the kids you are serving and things He wants to do in their lives.

**Stepping out in faith:** the Bible is full of people who were asked by God to do things they didn't feel comfortable doing; the same is true today. Ask God to stretch you as a leader by being willing to do things you have never done before.

**Connecting with kids:** while this happens primarily on Sunday mornings, it shouldn't be the only time. It should be your goal to connect with your kids at least once a month outside of Sunday AM.

**Communicating with parents:** our vision and values remind us that our role is to support parents. Communication is a vital part of supporting them. Try to find out the best way to communicate with each parent, ie. phone, email, text or Facebook. Aim to communicate with parents once a month.

**Consistency:** you honor God, the rest of the team and your kids by being on time. Each leader should plan to arrive 25 mins before your service begins.

**Discernment:** be wise about how you interact with kids and be careful not to put yourself in situations that could raise questions. Never be alone with a child in a private place. Also, be smart about how you act around kids (ie. don't text during services, choose the words you use carefully).

## **Discipline in KOD**

We want you as parents to understand how we approach this topic. We believe that children are responsible for their own actions and should be taught to love their neighbors. We want to offer children the privilege of learning about the redemptive love of Jesus Christ in a loving and safe environment. None of our kids have a right to disrupt class in KOD, especially if they are preventing other students from learning or experiencing God.

### **The Bottom Line:**

- Love others like you want to be loved by honoring them with your actions and words
- Be respectful of the things in the rooms. (chairs, supplies, etc.)

### **So you are well informed, here are the guidelines we provide our leaders:**

When a child is disruptive, often a gentle touch on the shoulder is enough to help stop a behavior problem.

If the behavior problem continues, ask the following questions in a calm, respectful and curious voice:

Are you making a good choice?

What are the rules?

A child should be given the choice of remaining in the activity and following the rules or sitting in time out until they can indicate to their leader that they are willing to follow the rules. This process will only work if it is done in love and if the rules are made known and implemented with parental support. At no time will corporal punishment (spanking, etc.) be used in our ministry. If parents choose this option they must do so in private.

Preventative Plan: a preventative plan is a necessity in KOD. If we as leaders stress the following points in our small groups and spend time praying for our children, then hopefully we will not find the need to implement the remedial discipline actions.

Show love and acceptance: respond to unacceptable behavior with love and acceptance. Discipline is an act of loving a child away from bad behavior.

Be realistic and consistent: expectations need to match the abilities of the child. Being consistent with the children will help them understand what they can and cannot do. Children thrive when they know where the boundaries are.

Be positive and praise good behavior: correct the children in a positive way. Affirm children for good behavior - it helps set the standard.

Variety of activities and flexibility: having a few pre-planned options help to meet the needs and interests of the children. Providing activities that are different in style and type is helpful. Strive to teach through seeing, hearing and moving. And be flexible - expect unexpected situations or interruptions to arise and change direction if necessary. Allow space for the surprises of the Holy Spirit.

Smile: don't ever correct a child in anger. Reassure the child that you still love him/her after he/she has been disciplined. Explain to him/her that you love them, but you are displeased with his/her behavior.

Be forgiving: always remember to offer encouragement and forgiveness to the child who has needed to be corrected.

Be Alert: learn how to foresee potential behavior problems.

## **Additional things to know**

Children with additional needs: if you have a child that has additional needs, please let us know any specific ways we can help your child during children's ministry.

## Kairos Quest Overview

This curriculum includes:

- 9 monthly themes covering the 9-month school year
- A weekly large group lesson
- A weekly Huddle lesson (breakout of 4-8 kids)
- Often a weekly game/activity to reinforce the lesson for the week
- A weekly take--home for kids to do with their parents

Unit 1: Circle Up (Lessons 1-4)

Theme: Adventure/exploration.

Unit Focus: Learning how to hear from God and do what He says.

3DM Content: Lifeshapes - the learning circle.

Unit 2: Hero Worship (Lessons 5 -9)

Theme: Superhero

Unit Focus: Imitating the life of Jesus.

3DM Content: Lifeshapes - the triangle, the semi-circle and the pentagon

Unit 3: Game On (Lesson 10 -13)

Theme: Sports

Unit Focus: Praying like Jesus.

3DM Content: Lifeshapes - the hexagon.

Unit 4: Kairos Christmas (Lesson 14 -17)

Theme: Christmas

Unit Focus: Exploring what the Christmas story teaches us about responding to God's activity in our lives.

3DM Content: Lifeshapes -the learning circle.

Unit 5: Launch (Lessons 18 - 22)

Theme: Space

Unit Focus: Introducing kids to the big story of the Bible of relationship and responsibility using stories from Genesis.

3DM Content: Covenant and Kingdom (Old Testament)

Unit 6: Sticky Situations (Lessons 23 -26)

Theme: Fun with sticky stuff

Unit Focus: Old Testament examples of God's faithfulness to His people in the midst of sticky situations.

3DM Content: Covenant and Kingdom (Old Testament)

Unit 7: Mystery Man (Lessons 27 -30)

Theme: Detective/Mystery

Unit Focus: Discovering who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him.

3DM Content: Covenant and Kingdom (New Testament)

Unit 8: Snapshot (Lessons 31 -34)

Theme: Photography/Vacation

Unit Focus: Exploring Jesus' miracles and what they tell us about heaven.

3DM Content: Covenant and Kingdom (New Testament)

Unit 9: Camp Awesome (Lesson 35 -39)

Theme: Summer Camp

Unit Focus: Discovering how the early church imitated the life of Jesus.

3DM Content: Covenant and Kingdom (New Testament)