

Dear Parent of a Riverpark Bible Kid,

The goal of Riverpark Bible Children's Ministry is to supplement the family in their efforts to lay a spiritual foundation that will lead a child into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ and then to provide for them a place where they can grow in their knowledge and love for God.

We love your kids and we count it a privilege to speak God's truth into their lives. We believe that the Bible teaches that you, as the parent, have the primary responsibility to teach and model God's truth (Deuteronomy 6, 11) and to teach them to obey (honor) (Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:1-4). In light of this high calling given you by God, we as Children's Ministry, strive not to take that from you, but to do all that we can do to supplement, encourage, and be a resource for you.

We highly value ministry to children. As you entrust your kids to us, we will seek to make the most of every opportunity and provide faith-nurturing programs that will fit their needs and will support home-based training. We believe our teachers teach because they have a calling on their lives to serve in such a way. We exist to delight in God by declaring His glory and the authority of His Word, while making disciple who treasure Christ above all else. We want to be intentional and passionate as we serve you and your kids. We want to labor with you, not out of obligation and duty, but with joy and a sense of calling and urgency. Our desire is for children and their parents to find a banquet spread for them when they come to *Riverpark Bible* and have plenty of "carry-out" for the rest of the week. *(Adapted from Children Desiring God—they nailed it!)*

May I take this time to make you aware of a few family details that will help make our time with your child more productive:

- ◆ Transition between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. services: K-3rd grade will be escorted by a teacher down to the front of the sanctuary. 4th-6th will be dismissed to use the restroom, get a drink and make their way to the sanctuary.
- ◆ Restroom: To protect your kids and our teaching time, we discourage kids from going to the bathroom during class time. We will try to be sensitive to any needs because we know there are exceptions. If your child is staying both hours, use the following guidelines.
 - * 4th-6th will need to use the restroom in between services.
 - * Kindergarten will be taken as a group to the Chapel bathroom after they line up in the breeze way for the 10:30 service.
 - * 1st-3rd will be given the opportunity to use the restroom after class before they are escorted into the sanctuary.
- ◆ Discipline: We have one rule, "honor." I have noticed this summer that some of our kids are having a hard time honoring. This is something that we are always working on but lately, it appears that this has become an issue. Permissiveness is encouraged in our culture and we see it among our own. We cannot teach a child to honor God if they resist honoring their parents and other authority. *"Discipline your son while there is hope; do not set your heart on his destruction. (Proverbs 19:18)*

As we sow the Gospel seed into a child's heart, we want to *"create an environment where the Gospel will flourish. A child without rules or discipline will have trouble embracing the Gospel. He has not learned that rules are non-negotiable, that there are consequences to actions, or that authority must be respected. Why would he ever believe that God is sovereign over all His creation? Or that the Ten Commandments are God's absolute rules of conduct? Or even that wrongdoing results in punishment—that he needs a Savior because hell is real?"* *(Helping Children to Understand the Gospel, Michael, Nelson, Burk)*

SEE BACK FOR NEW POLICY

Our current discipline policy:

- 1st offense—warn the child
- 2nd offense—move the child to another location
- 3rd offense— take the child to the Children’s Director

New plan:

- * **3rd offense**, the child will be brought to the Children’s Director (Sandy Parker). Your child will remain with me until the end of class/classes. After that, we will ask one or both parents to sit with your child in the class the following week. After one Sunday we will start with a clean slate.

Why?

- ◆ If one child, or many, are given a platform to dishonor God, to interrupt God’s teachings, to set a bad example for other kids, or even to discourage God’s servants, etc., then these are enough reason to take action to help the child learn to honor others and honor God.
- ◆ In wanting to partner with parents, it is vital to include you in this process. As a parent, and now a grandparent, I always wanted to know if my child was honoring or not, and if he was not, I wanted to be intentional about correcting the situation as needed. We desire to honor you in this way as well.
- ◆ For the sake of the child! *“We have to be willing to do what needs to be done in this physical world so that the rescue of the Gospel can be seen as glorious. To that end, we have to train diligently, providing experiences to reinforce spiritual truth. We have to lead and be in charge—to be courageous and do the hard things, allowing our children to experience some discomfort and even turmoil in this world in the hope that they will experience joy in the next. It is better for a child to learn a heart lesson, though it cause him temporary pain, than for him to ignorantly follow a path leading to eternal pain.”* (Helping Children to Understand the Gospel, Michael, Nelson, Burk)

Please don’t hesitate to call or send me an email if you have any questions or concerns.

For His glory alone,

Sandy Parker

Children’s Director

Riverpark Bible Church

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