## THE LIFE JOURNEY OF A CHILD/YOUTH AT COVENANT COMMUNITY

**EXPERIENCES** 

#### Babies/Toddlers (0-2 years) will

- Hear that God loves them.
- Receive the sacrament of baptism.
- Feel safe and loved.
- Express contentment when being cared for at the church.

#### Preschoolers (3-4 years) will

· Understand God's love for them.

Receive a Preschool Bible.

- Receive the sacrament of baptism if not already baptized.
- Have fun at church, both on Sunday mornings and at special events.
- Have a memory of sitting with family in worship.

- Accept Jesus as their Lord & Savior; understand that as a Christian,
- they are a Christ Follower. Receive the sacrament of baptism if not already baptized.
- Feel ownership of "their" church home; connected, welcomed, needed and noticed.
- Experience a Rite of Passage (3rd grade) in a transitional class that helps kids navigate their Bible and actively
- participate in main worship (Big Bible/Bible Church). Begin participating in the Sacrament of Communion and understand its significance.
- Serve with their family and peer group, including a family mission trip/retreat. • Attend a Bible Camp.

#### Middle School Age Students (11-13 years) will

- Publicly profess their faith in Jesus (Confirmation).
- Receive the sacraments of Baptism and Communion if not already doing so.
- · Feel at home at church, that church is a safe, warm space.
- Experience a Rite of Passage (8th Grade) in Confirmation Class as they
- Receive a study Bible.
- Serve with their family and with their peers throughout the year.
- Participate in a mission trip/retreat experience with parent/guardian.
- Have a prayer partnership with a mentor.

- Regularly recommit their lives to Christ.
- Receive the sacraments of Baptism and Communion if not already doing so.
- Feel at home at church and want to invite other friends into that experience.
- Experience a post-graduation Rite of Passage as they transition from teenagers to adults; with responsibility for their own faith development.
- Actively serve in the church.
- Attend and serve in a cross cultural mission trip. Have a prayer partnership with a mentor
- Be a part of a small discipleship group.
- Attend a youth conference.

## RELATIONSHIPS

- Have a nurturing and loving relationship
- Have a parent or close relative who
- introduces them to God.
- Recognize 2 other adults besides their parents in the church. Recognize nursery volunteers.

- Honor their parents through love and respect.
- Know 2 adults in church and look forward to seeing them each week.
- Recognize the Pastor & Children's Director.
- Have 2 peer-age friends at church who they know by name and look forward to seeing at church.
- Have a parent or close relative who introduces them to God.

- Honor their parents through love and respect. Know 5 adults in church and feel comfortable having a
- conversation with them.
- \*By upper elementary grades, trust 1-2 adults in the church with personal concerns. Know the Children's Director, Pastor, and core ministry leaders.
- \*By upper elementary grades, begin to develop a relationship with the youth ministry team
- Have 2-3 peer-age friends at church they look forward to seeing each week.
- \*By upper elementary grades, consider 1 friend in the church to be a 'best' friend.
- View a parent or close relative as a strong spiritual hero.

### Middle School Age Students (11-13 years) will

- Honor their parents through love and respect.
- Have 2 adults in the church they consider mentors and
- 5 adults they view as teachers/leaders. Begin to build relationships with church leadership other
- than key staff members.
- Have 3 peer friends at church, with 1 being considered a close friend.
- View a parent or close relative as a trusted spiritual guide.

#### High School Age Students (14-17 years) will

- · Honor their parents through love and respect.
- Have 5 adults in the church they view as a mentor/leader/teacher/friend.
- · Have connections with church leaders including staff,
- Have 3 close friendships with peers within the church.
- Have a parent or close relative they would consider
- a spiritual mentor, engaging in regular faith conversations.
- Mentor and include younger students in youth group.

### **BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE**

#### Babies/Toddlers (0-2 years) will

- Begin hearing God's story at
- a young age. Be told about the love of God and how they are created special.

### Preschoolers (3-4 years) will

- Know the Bible is God's special book.
- Know several characters and stories from the Bible, both OT & NT.
- Know that Jesus came to forgive us and He rose again.

#### Elementary Age Students (5-10 years) will

- Understand the layout of the Bible: 2 Testaments, 66 Books, Different Genres
- Find books in the Bible & be able to tell if a book is in the OT or NT.
- \* By upper elementary grades, name in order all 66 books.
- \* By upper elementary grades, know the chronological order of Bible stories. Know many stories from the Bible and retell the stories in their own words.
- See connections between stories and put Bible stories in chronological order. • Know that Jesus' life, death and resurrection is the key message of the
- entire Bible, including the OT. Commit Scriptures to heart.

#### Middle School Age Students (11-13 years) will

- Demonstrate familiarity with the Bible: navigation, format, and content.
- Tell the whole story of Jesus.
- Draw connections from story to story in the Bible, and from
- Articulate the gospel message of Scripture about Jesus.
- Continue to commit Scripture to heart.
- · Learn to apply God's word to their lives.

### High School Age Students (14-17 years) will

- Navigate the Bible with ease (able to find passages and stories). • Articulate the story of the Bible from Abraham to Paul.
- Identify critical themes and theological concepts in Scripture and root
- Continue to commit scriptures to heart and apply them in appropriate context to their life.
- Regularly self-apply God's Word to their lives.
- Understand basic Christian apologetics and have familiarity with other major religions/philosophies.
- Know that sharing the gospel message is part of being a Christian.

## **SPIRITUAL HABITS**

### Babies/Toddlers (0-2 years) will

 Worship God through singing and praying.

#### Preschoolers (3-4 years) will

- Gather with the church to worship God through
- singing, praying, listening and being respectful.
- Begin to pray in and out of worship services.
- Pray regularly at home. Read Bible stories regularly at home.
- Practice generosity through sharing and giving.

- Consistently participate in Sunday worship and midweek CCPC kids programming,
- transitioning from Kid's Worship to main worship around 3rd grade. • Begin to talk to God like he is a friend in their prayers.
- Learn to pray out loud.
- Participate in family devotions (Bible reading and prayer).
- Expand their understanding of generosity from sharing to giving a portion of their money and time.
- Serve in the church. Invite friends to church.
- Comfortably express questions or doubts to a parent

### Middle School Age Students (11-13 years) will

- Consistently participate in worship as well as Sunday and midweek CCPC
- youth programming.
- Develop personal prayer time (semi-regular).
- Engage in independent Bible reading/devotional time (semi-regular). Participate with their family in serving, in devotionals and in worship.
- Develop a Biblical understanding of generosity and learn to practice good stewardship.
- Serve at church in a variety of ways.
- Invite friends to church.
- Comfortably express questions or doubts to a parent or other spiritual mentor.

### High School Age Students (14-17 years) will

or other spiritual mentor.

- Consistently participate in worship as well as Sunday and midweek CCPC youth programming and a small group.
- Establish a consistent personal prayer time.

• Establish an independent Bible reading/devotional time.

- Participate with their family in serving, in devotionals and in worship • Have a Biblical understanding of generosity and practice good stewardship.
- Regularly serve in the church; including potential leadership roles.

Balance confidence in their faith with humility and an openness to learning more.

• Invite friends to church, and talk with those friends about faith outside of church. Comfortably express questions or doubts to a parent

#### Babies/Toddlers (0-2 years) will

- Practice being brave

### Preschoolers (3-4 years) will

from parents/guardians.

- Think about God and how He relates to them
- outside of just church events. • Feel comfortable asking questions about

### Elementary Age Students (5-10 years) will

- Demonstrate interest in being a follower of Jesus and learning
- Be inquisitive about faith and God.
- Model being brave and kind, with God's help. Develop an understanding for healthy technology behaviors and
- Understand their identity is in the image of God and it is good.

- Continue to develop their identity as a disciple of Jesus.
- to daily life beyond simple concrete thinking.
- Continue to grow empathy and compassion for others.
- Work out a healthy self-identity through healthy relationships with Jesus and others. Be confident in their faith regardless of other's positions.
- Be guided through sexual awareness as they develop a Godly sense of self and respect for others.

### High School Age Students (14-17 years) will

- Process the world through a spiritual, Christ-centered lens. Develop a growing vocational connection to their faith.
- Have a servant and missional mindset.
- Self-impose healthy technology boundaries. Develop positive personal habits.
- Develop healthy identity and boundaries in all aspects of sexuality as they grow
- into a godly man or godly woman.

# BEHAVIORS/WORLDVIEWS

### Practice sharing.

#### God and faith.

### Practice being brave and kind.

Learn healthy technology boundaries

- more about the Christian faith.
- respect boundaries parents have set.
- Begin to see their body as a temple of the Holy Spirit.

- Ask great faith questions and begin to apply scriptural ideas
- Maintain a healthy relationship with technology.
- Articulate clear boundaries established by parents, church, and school, and begin to internalize them as personal boundaries as appropriate.

### Be confident in talking about their faith with non-believers.

Be comfortable and confident in personal interactions. Make time to mentor others.