

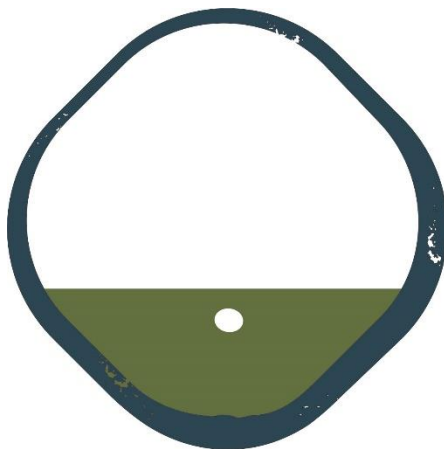
# MBC Kids Philosophy of Discipleship

**Mission:** MBC Kids ministry exists to bring glory to God through children hearing the gospel, trusting in Jesus, and growing in their relationship with Him.

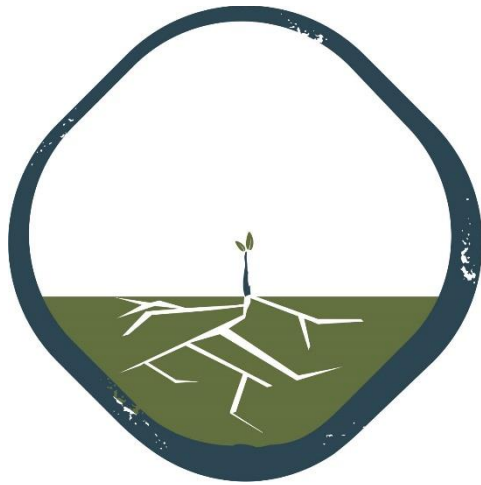
**Vision:** As the MBC Kids Team, we want to see kids who are **firmly planted** in God's Word, **growing together** - learning who they are in Christ from teachers and mentors, and **made to multiply** - living out their faith.

At MBC, we are passionate about discipleship. We know from research and experience the importance of teaching and mentoring kids. According to a study by the Barna Group, "...a person's lifelong behaviors and views are generally developed when they are young – particularly before they reach the teenage years."<sup>1</sup> Our prayer is that through the MBC Kids classes and through the leaders and teachers who faithfully serve, kids will trust in Jesus and grow in their faith starting at a young age. We aim to lay the foundation of their faith on Christ and the truth of God's Word. Along the way, we prioritize partnering with parents because they are the biggest and most important influence in their children's lives.

We trust God to accomplish these goals in each stage of kids' lives:



**Nursery (0-3 years):** At this baby/toddler stage, we water these little **seeds** with truth. Children need to know that they are **safe and loved**, so we show them love through caring for their physical needs. We teach them basic truths like God created them, God loves them, Jesus is their friend, and the Bible is a special book. We read to them from age-appropriate Bible storybooks and sing simple songs that teach truth.



**Preschool-K:** This exciting season is when the seed opens up a bit and becomes a **seedling**. Their curious minds start to **ask questions** about the Bible stories...and anything and everything! For this age group, we teach the Old Testament one year and the New Testament the next year (then repeat) with the curriculum called *God's Unfolding Story*.<sup>2</sup> We teach core Bible stories and that Jesus is their friend AND their Savior too. We show them how each story fits into God's larger redemption narrative, using the *God's Unfolding Story Cube*:

1. God created everything.
2. People disobeyed God.
3. God chose a special people
4. God sent Jesus to help us
5. Jesus began the Church
6. Jesus is preparing heaven for us.



**Elementary (1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>):** The roots start getting longer and stronger. They soak in the details of the Bible stories and lessons as their comprehension grows along with them into a **sapling** and as they start showing fruit. Just like the sapling needs water and sunlight, we lay the **foundation of biblical understanding** and build relationships with them to help them grow in their faith. Using Group's *DIG IN* curriculum<sup>3</sup>, we teach cover 5 units and then repeat:

1. *The Life of Jesus*: the gospels in a year
2. *The Bible in One Year*: key concepts and Bible stories, Genesis – Revelation
3. *The Heart of God*: attributes of God, Genesis - Revelation
4. *Foundations of Faith*: Who is God? Who does God say I am? How do I fit into God's family? How do I live? OT & NT passages each quarter
5. *Epic Bible Teachings*: key passages such as the Fruit of the Spirit, the Armor of God, Psalm 119 & 23, the Sermon on the Mount

Throughout each year, we incorporate Bible memorization, reading aloud from the Bible, and prayer. Through this cultivation process, kids grow in their knowledge

and understanding of key biblical concepts: God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, salvation, creation & the image of God, the Church, their identity in Christ, and living out their faith in their family and in their community.



**56ers (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>):** As kids approach middle school, we make this a special 2 years as they begin to show **fruit** on the branches of their **maturing saplings**. It's an important time as we continue to build on their **foundation of faith** so that they are prepared when tough questions and circumstances arise in their lives as they get older.

1. Boys class: Old Testament in 2 years<sup>4</sup>
2. Girls class: Group's Be Bold curriculum<sup>5</sup>- tackling tough faith questions
3. Special class on Baptism & Communion (with parents)

The well-seasoned teachers for these two classes make the learning a memorable experience. They guide students in critically thinking about how to apply the truth to their everyday lives and produce fruit of growing maturity and understanding of God's Word. They emphasize the importance of Bible memorization, prayer, attending the worship service, and serving. Students pray and memorize Scripture in class, and we have opportunities for them to serve with younger children.

#### **MBC Kids resources and events:**

- Family Ministry Webpage with recommended resources
- Weekly lesson content provided via email
- Parenting Seminar events

1. Barna Group, "Research Shows that Spiritual Maturity Process Should Start at a Young Age," November 17, 2003, <https://www.barna.com/research/research-shows-that-spiritual-maturity-process-should-start-at-a-young-age/>
2. God's Unfolding Story for Older Preschoolers: <https://sundayschoolzone.com/curricula/gods-unfolding-story-preschool-curriculum/>
3. DIG IN: Creating Deeper Bible Experiences for Kids: <https://diginapp.group.com/Programs>
4. Old Testament curriculum written by Mark Melillo, used and edited for over 30 years
5. Group's Be Bold: Fearless Preteen Curriculum: <https://www.group.com/childrens-ministry/sunday-school/be-bold/>