

## Children's Ministry

### 40/3000

The concept goes something like this ... the church has approximately 40 hours per year to love, teach, and make an impact on children. The home has approximately 3000 hours! Rather than the church attempting to take on the primary responsibility of being the spiritual guides, it makes more sense for the church to *partner with the family* to have the biggest impact. **\*\*Be sure to read about a special event on part 2 of this email\*\***

### Life Groups & Families

Dream with me for a moment ~~ of the time when a large number of parents will be involved in a Life Group. Those parents will be in a setting that will encourage them to "become fully devoted followers" and will maintain high expectations and accountability for the Christian journey. Now, imagine the overflow into the homes of these parents who are consistently growing in their walk with the Lord. During the week they are living a life in front of their children that speaks words louder than most Sunday School teachers are able to do on any one given Sunday.

### Getting There

That dream has a huge potential of becoming a reality for Fort Mill and area families. FBCFM has made a commitment to Life Groups and we are setting the stage for those groups to be successful and grow in numbers in years to come. A part of that preparation is "clearing the calendar" on Sunday evenings as we know (from other churches and our own experiences) that Sunday p.m. becomes a prime-time for folks to meet. For children, that means we will no longer have Sunday night activities.

### Preschoolers & Children

The schedule for preschoolers includes 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School sessions which are designed to teach our youngest whether they attend one or both sessions. There are large group times at each, as well as small group experiences. Preschoolers will engage in Bible teaching under the care of different sets of volunteers at the two sessions. **\*\*Care with some planned activities will be given to 4's & under during the 8:15 a.m. worship service.**

The schedule for children (K-5<sup>th</sup>) includes 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Uptown experiences. Children will attend one session of Uptown and worship with parents during an alternate time. Each Uptown hour begins with a large

group where children will participate in worship and hear the Bible Story for the morning in an engaging way. They will also focus on a monthly Mission Spotlight in large group. From there children will break into age-graded small groups to engage in activities that will reinforce and help children apply the Bible lesson to their everyday lives.

We believe that these Sunday morning experiences combined with the influence of the family will provide children with a solid start in their spiritual journey of loving God and loving others. Outside of Sunday mornings, activities will include small group gatherings, quarterly ministry opportunities, Bible Drill, monthly Jr. HOP, as well as annual big events (VBS, Kidz Blitz, etc.).

### **Past Sunday Morning**

There will be things planned for our children beyond Sunday mornings. Children's small groups will be actively having fellowships and family gatherings and children will have the opportunity to participate in Bible Drill and Jr. HOP. Kid Step Classes will be offered approximately every other month and there will be quarterly ministry opportunities as well as annual big events like VBS and KidZ Blitz.

### **Serving Opportunities**

In order for each experience to be as successful as possible, Children's Ministry requires lots of volunteers for all ages (infants - 5<sup>th</sup> grade). Sunday mornings must have 100+ volunteers who are called to this area and are committed to being with the children each Sunday. The youngest of our church family need consistent faces and prepared adults who will lead them through story, song, and activity to meet their Heavenly Father and know His love for them. There are many teams of volunteers on both halls (children and preschool) and folks needed at both teaching sessions. If you have even the slightest tug toward this volunteer area, please check out the current opportunities at [www.fbcfm.com](http://www.fbcfm.com) or pick up a copy in the Worship Center lobby on Sunday.