



**Benchmarks for Children's Ministry**  
**First Baptist Church of Christ**  
**Macon, GA**  
**Adopted Fall 2013 by the Children's Committee**

**Mission Statement:**

The First Baptist Church of Christ Preschool and Children's ministry strives to love God with heart, soul, mind and strength:

- by creating a community where children belong and build relationships with Christ and others;
- by guiding children in respect for the Bible, prayer and worship;
- by nurturing children in a deeper understanding of the church, the scriptures and a life of faith;
- and by helping children and their families become people who live out their faith daily in service to others.

To this end, our preschool and children's ministry sets forth the following goals for learning and spiritual development for children birth-grade 5.

**Knowledge: (KNOW)**

**Sunday School Objectives:**

Preschool 3K:

- Become oriented to the sanctuary and worship
- Learn to listen to a Bible story and identify characters in the story

Preschool 4K-5K:

- Learn Jesus' Greatest Commandments (Matt. 22:37-38) and the Fruits of the Spirit

Grades 1-2:

- Learn the Lord's Prayer, the books of the New Testament, and John 3:16
- Learn to use the table of contents in the Bible

Grade 3:

- Learn books of the Old Testament, Divisions of the Bible, and Psalm 100

Grade 4-5:

- Learn 10 Commandments, Psalm 23, and Micah 6:8
- Locate a Bible reference and find information asked for by reading the passage or verse.
- Obtain a working knowledge of Bible chronology by identifying general periods and main personalities.

## Children's Choir Objectives:

### Preschool Choir:

- Begin learning musical concepts (high, low, soft, loud, fast, slow) as they listen, move, and sing.
- Learn traditional hymns and spiritual songs of the church, including: Jesus Loves Me, Jesus Loves the Little Children, Doxology, Gloria Patri, Away in a Manger, Little Gray Donkey

### Music Makers Choir:

- Continue learning musical concepts and learn what it means to be a good choir member.
- Begin recognizing music symbols in print.
- Lead in worship occasionally.

### Young Musicians Choir:

- Focus on musical concepts and vocal skills and what it means to lead in worship through music.
- Present a musical drama and sing in worship services and special events.
- Learn Bible Books song (on 3 year rotation)

Music Makers and Young Musicians Choirs will be introduced to traditional hymns and spiritual songs of the church, such as those listed below. These hymns are not an exclusive list but have been chosen for their content to aid in spiritual development and for their musical quality.

All Things Bright and Beautiful  
This Is My Father's World  
We Welcome Glad Easter  
My Lord Is Near Me All the Time  
Go, Tell It On the Mountain  
Joy to the World  
O Come, All Ye Faithful  
Silent Night  
O Worship the King  
Now Thank We All Our God  
Praise to the Lord the Almighty  
I Sing the Mighty Power of God  
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee  
I Will Sing the Wondrous Story  
We Praise You with Our Minds, O Lord  
Hosanna, Loud Hosanna  
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today  
Amazing Grace  
O How I Love Jesus  
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  
I Will Sing the Wondrous Story  
Come Thou Almighty King  
How Far to Bethlehem  
Joy to the World  
O Come, All Ye Faithful  
The Servant Song (Beach Spring tune)  
Be Thou My Vision  
My Lord Is Near Me All the Time  
Go, Tell It On the Mountain  
I Will Sing the Wondrous Story  
In the Bulb

## **Missions Education Objectives:**

### Mission Friends:

- Learn about the work of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries around the world
- Learn an appreciation of different cultures through food, games, story, and other experiences

### God's Apprentices (GAs):

- Learn about the variety of ways one can serve in missions through the stories of those serving in missions, globally and locally
- Grow in respect and knowledge of different cultures and traditions
- Begin to identify personal spiritual gifts and how she might offer her gifts to God in service
- Perform acts of service and contribute to missions locally and globally
- Work and play together cooperatively, learning to be a part of a community

### Royal Ambassadors (RAs):

- Learn about the variety of ways one can serve in missions through the stories of those serving in missions, globally and locally
- Grow in respect and knowledge of different cultures and traditions
- Begin to identify personal spiritual gifts and how he might offer his gifts to God in service
- Perform acts of service and contribute to missions locally and globally
- Work and play together cooperatively, learning to be a part of a community

## **Objectives For Additional Children's Ministry Offerings or Programs:**

- W.O.W. (Working on Worship) – offered each Sunday during worship for PS 3-PS 5
  - Learn names of the seasons of the church year
  - Learn appropriate worship behavior
  - Memorize the Doxology and the Gloria Patri
  - Recognize and understand basic worship rituals of our congregation
- Children's Discipleship class (offered once every 3 years for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders)
  - Discuss our church's basic theology of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and the church
  - Learn our church's traditions around baptism, communion, the church year, church membership and worship liturgy
  - Develop a relationship with an adult mentor in the congregation
  - Participate in a mission or ministry opportunity of his/her choosing
- Bible Skills Class (offered once every 3 years for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders)
  - Learn how to read in light of the context in which it was written
  - Learn how to interpret the Bible through the lens of the life and teachings of Jesus
  - Learn basic Bible skills, such as memorizing Bible books, finding passages of scripture, and using resources and tools to study the Bible and its context
- Baptist Heritage Class (offered once every 3 years for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders)
  - Learn about the Baptist traditions of soul competency, religious freedom, congregational church governance, priesthood of all believers, and the authority of scripture (soul freedom, religious freedom, church freedom, Bible freedom)
  - Learn the stories of important Baptists in history
  - Learn about our church's Baptist partner organizations
  - Learn about the history of FBCX

## **Skills and Experiences: (DO)**

We want our children to:

- Develop intergenerational relationships within our congregation
- Serve others in our community
- Tell the story of their faith with confidence, authenticity, and clarity
- Experience opportunities for retreats or camps with church group to build community and experience new things
- Develop as engaged worship participants and leaders
- Make a personal faith commitment that makes their faith their own

## **Character and Spiritual Development: (BE)**

We want our children to be:

- Thoughtful and comfortable with asking questions about their faith
- Respectful and appreciative of those with differences (racial, ethnic, socio-economic, theological, cultural, etc.)
- Compassionate people who are eager to serve others
- Able to discern their own spiritual gifts
- Able to live in community with others
- Committed church members, serving both in the church and the world
- Confident that they belong and that they are beloved children of God
- Open to God's spirit at work in their lives