

BFC YOUTH

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Discipleship Plan

BE LONG
BE LIEVE
BE COME
BE SENT



Overview

BFC Family Ministries is an intentional partnership between the church and the home to make disciple-making disciples of Jesus. We believe that parents are the primary disciple-makers of their homes and that faith development is the joint responsibility of the family and church. Deuteronomy 6:7 states, "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise". It is our goal to provide resources, encouragement, and equipping for families as we partner with them to lead kids and youth into lifelong relationships with Jesus.

This Family Ministries Discipleship Plan (FMDP) provides students, parents, families, and volunteers the important content and curriculum information for all worship services, Bible studies, small groups, retreats, and other discipleship opportunities.

The curriculum for each area of family ministries is built around our four cornerstones of discipleship: **Belong**; **Believe**; **Become**; **Be Sent**. We hope to provide holistic discipleship opportunities focusing on nurturing relationships, fostering a strong foundation of faith, promoting a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus, and equipping this generation to impact their world for Christ. Each element is meant to enhance the discipleship already happening within your family.

Belong: BFC Family Ministries is a highly relational ministry structured to create an inclusive and welcoming community where children, preteens, and youth can experience a sense of belonging. Each area of ministry is led by caring adults committed to investing in and discipling this generation of young people. Our discipleship opportunities, including large group worship and teaching, small group Bible study, camps, retreats, and mission trips are all designed to create an understanding that we belong to God, we belong to each other in community, and we belong to God's mission in this world.

Believe: BFC Family Ministries is a ministry rooted in the truth of God's Word and the transformational power of the gospel. Each discipleship opportunity is structured to promote spiritual formation, encouraging kids and youth to come to know Jesus for the first time and encouraging

believers to grow in Christlikeness. In Sunday School, small groups, retreats, and other discipleship settings, we create a safe space for asking questions, exploring doubts, and seeking answers to strengthen personal faith. The components of "Believe" are developmentally appropriate to each age group within Family Ministries ranging from the core beliefs of "God loves me. Jesus is my friend. The Bible is true." in early childhood, to teaching our beliefs about the Articles of Faith and more complex truths as kids progress through elementary, preteen and youth.

Become: BFC Family Ministries encourages personal study of the Bible, prayer, and participation in worship services and other discipleship opportunities to foster spiritual growth and a personal relationship with Jesus. All of these practices shape who we become as disciples of Christ. As our kids progress through BFC Family Ministries, they will encounter opportunities that are designed to move them toward real-world application of faith-based, missional living. Charge Team in elementary school, Team ION in preteen, Leadership Team in youth, local service opportunities and mission trips are all experiential elements of discipleship that allow our students to practice living out their faith.

Be Sent: BFC Family Ministries believes that being a disciple means that we are sent into the world. At every stage, we will challenge our students to live out their faith in the world and actively engage in fulfilling the Great Commission. We will encourage and provide opportunities for students to serve in their local communities, participate in missions, and engage in acts of compassion. We are committed to, at each stage of development, preparing our children to Be Sent into the places and spaces God has called them to. We know God has a unique plan to use each of His disciples to further His Kingdom and we are called to equip them for discerning that call and serving faithfully as disciples of Christ.

The discipleship of our children is worthy of intentionality. The Bible calls parents to diligently teach and purposefully talk to their children about God's big truths (Deut. 6:4-9) and calls the church to equip parents for this ministry (Eph. 4:11-15). It is our privilege to provide a safe, Christ-centered, loving environment that addresses the physical, emotional, social, intellectual, and spiritual needs of our students and families. We hope to celebrate big milestones with your student and family and also to walk alongside you offering support and encouragement when you journey through hard seasons.

BFC Special Needs Ministries

BFC Buddies:

BFC Buddies, a ministry for special needs families at BFC, is designed to pair children who need extra support during discipleship opportunities with a buddy who provides one-on-one leadership and attention.

The BFC Buddies program helps every child and family feel cared for, regardless of how much additional support they need. If you have a child in any of our BFC Family Ministries areas that might benefit from a buddy, please contact Kandi Gustafson, our special needs coordinator.

Breakaway:

Breakaway is a ministry for individuals with special needs who are seventh grade through adult. Breakaway provides an outlet for individuals with special needs to have the freedom to be exactly who they are while interacting in a safe, fun and loving environment. It also provides a much needed respite for parents and families.

Breakaway meets on the second Saturday of each month from 5:30-8:30 pm in the Floyd Center. There is no cost to participate, but advance registration is required.

Little Breakaway:

Little Breakaway is a ministry for families of children with special needs from kindergarten through sixth grade. Little Breakaway provides a safe, fun, and loving environment where individuals with special needs experience the love of Jesus.

Little Breakaway meets on the second Saturday of each month from 5:30-7:30 pm in the Floyd Center. There is no cost to participate, but advance registration is required.

Family Worship Sundays

We are so grateful for our incredible Family Ministries Pastors who plan and lead our worship services each week. These worship services provide a nurturing and age-appropriate environment where kids and preteens can engage in meaningful discipleship experiences. By tailoring the content, language, and activities to their developmental stage, these services foster a sense of belonging within the faith community, develop their understanding and belief in God's word, shape who they are becoming as Christ followers and prepare them to be sent out as disciples of Jesus.

While we believe in and are committed to these age-appropriate worship experiences, we are also convinced of the value of Family Worship Sundays for our elementary and preteen students. Worshipping together as a family on Sunday mornings is an important practice that strengthens the bonds within the family unit and fosters faith development. It provides a unique opportunity for families to connect with one another and with God, creating a solid foundation for each family member's faith. Below are some scriptural references reinforcing the value of regular family worship opportunities.

1. Biblical Instruction and Teaching: In Ephesians 6:4, parents are exhorted to bring up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord. Worshipping together as a family allows parents to fulfill this responsibility by teaching their children about God's Word, His commandments, and His promises. By witnessing their parents' example and engaging in discussions about the sermon or scripture readings, children gain a deeper understanding of biblical truths and principles. This shared experience promotes a solid spiritual foundation and equips children to face the challenges of life with a biblical worldview.

2. Role Modeling: The sanctuary is an environment where children can observe and learn from the actions and behaviors of their parents and other adult members of the faith community. When children see their parents actively engaged in worship, it sets a positive example for them to follow. They learn about reverence, respect, and the value of

participating in communal worship from those they look up to, which significantly impacts their own faith development.

3. Unity and Fellowship: The Bible emphasizes the importance of unity and fellowship among believers. Hebrews 10:24-25 encourages us to “consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.” When families worship together on Sunday mornings, they not only experience unity within their own family but also participate in the larger family of believers. Sharing in worship, singing praises, and praying together creates an atmosphere of fellowship that fosters love, support, and encouragement among family members and with the larger church community.

4. Passing on a Legacy of Faith: One of the essential responsibilities of parents is to pass on their faith to the next generation. Psalm 78:4 states, “We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.” Worshipping together as a family allows parents to model a life of faith, demonstrating the importance of prioritizing God in their lives. By involving children in worship, parents create an environment where the next generation can witness and participate in the rich heritage of their faith, fostering a deep sense of identity and commitment to God.

5. Family Bonding and Support: Worshipping together on Sunday mornings provides a dedicated time for families to bond, support, and strengthen their relationships. It offers an opportunity for family members to connect on a spiritual level, share their joys and struggles, and support one another through prayer and encouragement. Acts 2:42 describes the early believers as devoting themselves to fellowship, breaking bread, and prayers. Worshipping together as a family allows us to practice this model of fellowship and support within our own households.

We understand that attending worship services can sometimes be a challenge when you have young children who may be prone to disruption. However, we want to assure you that your presence, along with your children, is genuinely valued and cherished within our community. We recognize that children are naturally curious and full of energy, and we believe that their participation is an integral part of our faith community. We embrace the joyful sounds and occasional interruptions that come with the presence of children. We encourage you to feel at ease knowing that our community is committed to creating a welcoming environment where your family can worship together and grow in faith.

Family Ministries Communication Information

Misty Jagers, Exec Director of Family Ministries

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Kenna Thornton, Family Ministries Admin Assistant,

kthornton@bethany naz.org,

BFC Kids (Nursery/Early Childhood/Elementary):

- BFC Kids Instagram @bfckids
- BFC Early Childhood Facebook: BFC Early Childhood
- Remind (Send a text to 81010 and text this message @bfckids)
- Family Ministries Newsletter (email kthornton@bethany naz.org to subscribe)
- Elementary Info Station across from Elem Worship Room
- Kim Rogers, Nursery Director, krogers@bethany naz.org
- Allison White, Early Childhood Pastor, awhite@bethany naz.org
- Gabby Behrens, Elementary Pastor, gbehrens@bethany naz.org

BFC Preteen:

- BFC Preteen Instagram @bfckids
- Remind (Send a text to 81010 and text this message @preteen202)
- Family Ministries Newsletter (email kthornton@bethany naz.org to subscribe)
- Kori Hooper, Preteen Pastor, khooper@bethany naz.org; 405-206-4759

BFC Youth:

- BFC Youth Instagram @bfc.youth
- Remind (Send a text to 81010 and text this message @bfcyouthp1)
- Family Ministries Newsletter (email kthornton@bethany naz.org to subscribe)
- Ben Bumpus, Middle School Pastor, bbumpus@bethany naz.org
- Bryton Schmitt, Lead/High School Pastor, bschmitt@mail.snu.edu



Special Discipleship Opportunities for Fall 2023

Community Groups Fall 2023

The hope and prayer for Community Groups is that your student has consistent guidance and fellowship with their grade and their leaders, while having a deep knowledge and passion for Jesus and Scripture. If a student stays active in Community Groups throughout their entire time in BFC Youth, they will have deeply covered the life of Jesus, many books of the New Testament, and are able to apply it to the basic and intricate parts of life.

7th: The Life

The Life walks through the journey of a Christ-follower's discipleship, broken into three parts and several units:

- Introduction to Discipleship
- The Picture of a Disciple
- A Disciple Surrenders to a Gospel-Centered Life
- A Disciple Hungers to Know God
- A Disciple Embraces Christian Community
- A Disciple Engages With His or Her Surroundings
- A Disciple Has a Desire to Worship God
- A Disciple Invests in Multiplication
- The Cost of Discipleship

8th: The Jesus Studies

The Jesus Studies cut through the confusion, teaching your students a Christ-centered look at the major issues they deal with in their lives.

- Jesus And Identity
- Jesus And Your Faith
- Jesus And Culture
- Jesus And Loving Others
- Jesus And Tough Times
- Jesus And Your Image

- Jesus And Stress
- Jesus And Forgiveness
- Jesus And Influence
- Jesus And Relationships
- Jesus And Your Future
- Jesus And Mean People
- Jesus And Stuff

9th: The Rescue

The Rescue takes your students on a journey where they will discover:

- An in-depth look at the nature of God's Rescue Plan (Unit 1: The Rescue Defined)
- All of the ways the Gospel transforms who they are (Unit 2: The Gospel Rescuing Me)
- What it looks like to share the good news of God's Rescue (Unit 3: Sharing the Gospel With the Nations)
- What it means to be a child of God and a citizen of His Kingdom (Unit 4: Rescued to a Kingdom—Sermon on the Mount)
- How God's Rescue Plan defines and restores discipleship (Unit 5: Rescued to Follow)
- That living a life as one who has been rescued can be costly (Unit 6: The Gospel Is Costly)

10th: N.T. Wright in depth Bible Studies

These guides will help students understand Scripture in fresh ways through thoughtful questions, prayer suggestions, and useful background information. We will go over the following books of the Bible in depth:

- James
- Ephesians
- Philippians

11th & 12th: Specific topics and deep Bible studies with Pastor Bryton

For 3 weeks at a time, students will hear from Misty and Chad Jagers about dating/relationships, from Tim Haws about faith and hard times, from Ben Lindsly about faith and finances, and from Pastor Dan Rodriguez about having a missional mindset. Pastor Bryton will lead students in studies over 1 John, 1 Thessalonians, 1 Peter, & Colossians.

Youth Wednesday Night Series

- 8/23 B2SB - John 13:35 - "Known by their love"
- 8/30 Testimony - Pastor Ben sharing this testimony
- 9/6 Church Involvement - An invitation to serve the church
- 9/13 Small Groups - An invitation to go deeper
- 9/20 Call to Serve - An invitation to be on mission
- 9/27 Building the Ark - Being prepared for hard times
- 10/4 Building the Ark - Going through hard times
- 10/11 Building the Ark - Helping others go through hard times
- 10/18 FALL BREAK
- 10/25 Who Did Jesus Spend Time With? The Father
- 11/1 Who Did Jesus Spend Time With? His Disciples
- 11/8 Who Did Jesus Spend Time With? The Broken
- 11/15 Who Did Jesus Spend Time With? Pharisees
- 11/22 THANKSGIVING BREAK
- 11/29 Advent
- 12/6 Advent
- 12/13 Christmas Sermon

Youth Important Dates 2023/2024

- August 23 First Wednesday Night of Semester
- Sept. 10 High School Small Groups Start
- Oct. 18 No Wednesday Night Church (Fall Break)
- Oct. 20-22 HS InTents Retreat / Girls Weekend
- Oct. 22 No HS Small Groups (Fall Break)
- Oct. 28 Pumpkin Bowl ???
- Nov. 19 No HS Small Groups (Thanksgiving Break)
- Nov. 22 No Wednesday Night Church (Thanksgiving Break)
- Nov. 26 No HS Small Groups (Thanksgiving Break)
- Dec. 10 Last HS Small Group
- Dec. 13 Last Wednesday Night of Semester
- Jan. 10 First Wednesday Night Back
- Jan. 19-21 Winter Retreat
- Jan. 28 First HS Small Group
- Feb. 18 Costa Rica Pie Auction (tentative)
- Feb. 18 No HS Small Groups
- March 17 No HS Small Groups (Spring Break)

March 20	No Wednesday Night Church (Spring Break)
March 24	No HS Small Groups (Spring Break)
March 28-30	Extravaganza (tentative)
March 31	No HS Small Groups (Easter)
April 19-21	MS Intents Retreat / MS Girls Weekend (tentative)
April 28	Last HS Small Groups
May 5	Graduate Sunday
May 22	Last Wednesday Night of Semester
May 27-June 1	Leadership Houston Mission Trip (Application only)
June 3-7	MS Camp
June 10-14	HS Camp
June 19	Worship/ Camp Reflection Night
June 28-July 7	Encuentro Costa Rica Mission Trip
July 14	Dr. Ami's Pool & Lake
July 17	Serve Opportunity
July 21	Fun Water Day
July 24	Serve Opportunity
July 28	Lost Lakes
July 31	Serve Opportunity
Aug 4	Pool Kickball