

BFC KIDS

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**

mjagers@bethany naz.org, 405-819-6677

**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

## **BFC Kids Choir**

*Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. - Psalm 8:2*

This fall, the BFC kids choir made up of early childhood and elementary students will prepare to perform The Best Christmas Song Ever. The kid's choir will meet during the school year on Sunday nights. Doors open at 5:30 pm and close at 7 pm. Children who participate will be disciplined through worship and praising Jesus! We ask that those participating maintain choir etiquette (positive behavior) with the goal of performing for an audience/congregation. Rehearsals begin on Sunday, September 10th. For more information about the kid's choir, please contact Pastor Allison.

## **Bible Quizzing at BFC**

Children's Quizzing is a Bible study program, with a competition element, designed for school-age children. This year, students will be studying the book of Matthew. Through active learning, the stories will come to life as children learn and understand scripture. Each week children build their spiritual vocabulary as they incorporate FAITH WORDS into their everyday lives. Characteristics of God are revealed to help children learn who God is, what He is like, and how He interacts with people. There are two levels of Children's Bible Quizzing. RED Level is designed for first through third-grade comprehension level or for children 6 to 8 years old. BLUE Level is designed for fourth through sixth-grade comprehension level or for children 9 to 12 years old. Bible quizzing will be offered as a home-based study this year with special quiz preparation sessions before district quizzes. For more information about Bible quizzing, please contact Pastor Gabby.

## Early Childhood Sunday Curriculum

### August

Bible Verse: *I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.*  
-Phil 4:13

- 8/13 Job, God doesn't always take away sad times.
- 8/20 David, God watches over us.
- 8/27 Jeremiah, God knows who we really are.

### September

Bible Verse: *O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.* -Psalm 139:1

- 9/3 Fiery Furnace, God helps us stand strong.
- 9/10 Daniel, God won't let us down.
- 9/17 Jonah, God shows mercy even when we don't.
- 9/24 Joseph, God wants us to be safe.

### October

Bible Verse: *God loved the world and gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.* -John 3:16

- 10/1 John the Baptist, God came to be with us.
- 10/8 Nicodemus, Jesus isn't afraid of hard questions.
- 10/15 Twelve Disciples, Jesus trusts us to do what he can do.
- 10/22 Rich man, Jesus shows us he's most important
- 10/29 Pharisees, Jesus doesn't want us to pretend to love him.

### November

Bible Verse: *Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever.* -Psalm 106:1

- 11/5 Woman anoints Jesus, Jesus appreciates our love.
- 11/12 Thomas, Jesus is real.
- 11/19 Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit gives us power.
- 11/26 Angel Announces Jesus' birth, God does the impossible.

## December

Bible Verse: *For there, born to you ... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.* -Luke 2:11

- 12/3 Jesus is born, Jesus is the light of the world
- 12/10 Simeon and Anna see Jesus, Jesus is God's gift.
- 12/17 Wisemen worship King Jesus, Jesus is the King.
- 12/24 Family Worship to allow our volunteers to be with family.
- 12/31 Family Worship to allow our volunteers to be with family

## Early Childhood Wednesday Night Curriculum

**Theme: Some Assembly Required.** This series teaches God can build something awesome with their lives.

- 8/23 Elijah and the widow, Follow directions
- 8/30 Gideon's Army, Put the pieces together
- 9/6 Noah's Ark, Finish the build
- 9/13 Jacob's Staircase, Make something new

**Theme: Jesus Fixed It.** Jesus' Amazing Miracles

- 9/20 Jesus turns water into wine. Big or small-Jesus fixes it all.
- 9/27 Jesus heals the official's son. I have faith-Jesus can fix it.
- 10/4 Healing at the pool. Jesus can fix things in ways I can't think of. (Neon clothing night)
- 10/11 The feeding of the 5,000. Jesus can fix it-I will help. (Favorite Team Night)
- 10/25 Jesus walks on water. I'm not scared because Jesus can fix it. (Pajama Night)
- 11/1 Jesus heals a man born blind. Jesus is God's son-He can fix anything.
- 11/8 Jesus raises Lazarus. Nothing is impossible for Jesus to fix.
- 11/15 God loves us. Jesus fixed it so I can be with Him forever.

**Theme: Christmas Cookies.** The children will celebrate the sweetest Christmas ever!

- 11/29 Just the right mix. God brought everything together to bring us a Savior.
- 12/6 Cookie Cutter. God sent Jesus to be our King.
- 12/13 Saint to Santa with Trey Brooks (Pajama Night)

## Early Childhood Important Dates

- 8/23 Wednesday Night Services Resume
- 9/10 BFC Kids Choir Christmas Musical Rehearsal Begins
- 10/4 Neon Clothing Night
- 10/11 Favorite Team Night (School or Sports)
- 10/18 Fall Break - No Wednesday Night Services
- 10/22 Fall Break - No Kids Choir Rehearsal
- 10/25 Pajama Night
- 10/31 Trunk or Treat
- 11/12 Operation Christmas Child Boxes Due
- 11/19 Thanksgiving Break - No Kids Choir Rehearsal
- 11/26 Thanksgiving Break - No Kids Choir Rehearsal
- 11/22 Thanksgiving Break - No Wednesday Night Services
- 12/2 BFC Kids Choir Christmas Musical Dress Rehearsal Time TBD
- 12/3 BFC Kids Choir Christmas Musical Performance at 6pm with reception to follow
- 12/13 BFC Kids Family Night: Saint to Santa Presentation
- 12/20 Christmas Break - No Wednesday Night Church
- 12/24 Family Worship to allow our volunteers to be with family.
- 12/31 Family Worship to allow our volunteers to be with family.
- 12/27 Christmas Break - No Wednesday Night Church

## Elementary Sunday Curriculum

### August

Bible Verse: *I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.*  
-Phil 4:13

- 8/13 Job, God doesn't always take away sad times.
- 8/20 David, God watches over us.
- 8/27 Jeremiah, God knows who we really are.

### September

Bible Verse: *O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.* -Psalm 139:1

- 9/3 Fiery Furnace, God helps us stand strong.
- 9/10 Daniel, God won't let us down.
- 9/17 Jonah, God shows mercy even when we don't.
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## **October**

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- 10/1 John the Baptist, God came to be with us.
  - 10/8 Nicodemus, Jesus isn't afraid of hard questions.
  - 10/15 Twelve Disciples, Jesus trusts us to do what he can do.
  - 10/22 Rich man, Jesus shows us he's most important
  - 10/29 Pharisees, Jesus doesn't want us to pretend to love him.
- \*We will place on emphasis on service in October through Alabaster, Missions, and Operation Christmas Child.*

## **November**

Bible Verse: *Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever.* -Psalm 106:1

- 11/5 Woman anoints Jesus, Jesus appreciates our love.
- 11/12 Thomas, Jesus is real.
- 11/19 Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit gives us power.
- 11/26 Angel Announces Jesus' birth, God does the impossible.

## **December**

Bible Verse: *For there, born to you ... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.* -Luke 2:11

- 12/3 Jesus is born, Jesus is the light of the world
- 12/10 Simeon and Anna see Jesus, Jesus is God's gift.
- 12/17 Wisemen worship King Jesus, Jesus is the King.
- 12/24 Family Worship to allow our volunteers to be with family.
- 12/31 Family Worship to allow our volunteers to be with family.

## Elementary Wednesday Night Curriculum

### August Theme: Creativity

Memory Verse: *We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do.* - Ephesians 2:10

#### Bottom Lines:

God created you so you can be creative. (Genesis 1:2-3)

God created you for a purpose. (Ephesians 2:10)

You can use what God gave you to solve problems. (Genesis 40-41)

Use your imagination to honor God. (Exodus 25-39)

### September Theme: Friendship

Memory Verse: *"A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes."* -Proverbs 17:7

#### Bottom Lines:

Chose your friends carefully. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

Friends keep their promises. (1 Samuel 19-20; 2 Samuel 9)

Friends stand up for one another. (Acts 9:26-30)

Friends forgive one another. (Colossians 3:13)

### October Theme: Integrity

Memory Verse: *"Anyone who lives without blame walks safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught."* -Proverbs 10:9

#### Bottom Lines:

Be truthful with your whole life. (Luke 6:43-45)

When you're not truthful, you lose trust. (2 Kings 5)

When you do what's right, others can see God. (Daniel 3)

Focus on what's true. (Philippians 4:8)

### November Theme: Gratitude

Memory Verse: *"Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever."* -Psalm 136:1

#### Bottom Lines:

You always have something to be grateful for. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Celebrate what God has done. (2 Samuel 6:12b-22a)

Take time to say thank you. (Luke 17:11-19)

Make a habit of being grateful. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Exodus 12)

## **December Theme: Christmas**

Memory Verse: *"A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace."* -Isaiah 9:6

### *Bottom Lines:*

You can have hope because God is faithful. (Micah 5:2, Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 7:14-15)

You can have peace because God has a plan. (Luke 1:26-56)

You can have joy because God sent Jesus. (Luke 2:1-7)

God's love is for everyone. (Luke 2:8-20)

Celebrate Jesus all year long. (Matthew 2:1-12)

## **Elementary Important Dates:**

- 08/23 Wednesday Night Services Resume
- 9/10 BFC Kids Choir Christmas Musical Rehearsal Begins
- 10/4 Neon Night
- 10/11 Favorite Team Night
- 10/18 Fall Break - No Wednesday Night Services
- 10/22 Elementary Baptism Class; Fall Break - No Kids Choir Rehearsal
- 10/25 PJ Night
- 10/31 Trunk or Treat
- 11/5 Baptism Sunday
- 11/12 Operation Christmas Child Boxes Due
- 11/15 Elementary Friendsgiving
- 11/19 Thanksgiving Break - No Kids Choir Rehearsal
- 11/26 Thanksgiving Break - No Kids Choir Rehearsal
- 11/22 Thanksgiving Break - No Wednesday Night Services
- 12/2 BFC Kids Choir Christmas Musical Dress Rehearsal Time TBD
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