

A FAMILY MINISTRY PARENTS' GUIDE



Family Ministry Discipleship Plan

MOUNTAIN BROOK
BAPTIST CHURCH

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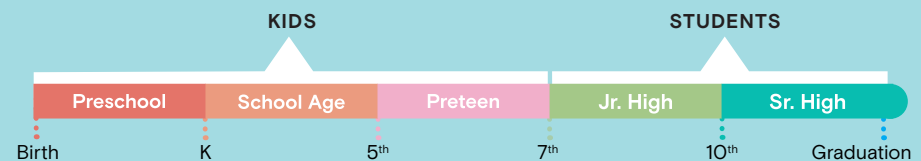
WHAT IS FAMILY MINISTRY?

The Family Ministry Discipleship Plan (FMDP) provides milestones in faith development, ministry schedules, and discipleship tools for families. Family Ministry helps parents focus on faith development in their children. We believe God intended parents to be the primary disciple makers for their children. A commitment to Family Ministry enables parents and our church to partner to help children grow as Jesus grew: “in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52, NIV).

The first section of the FMDP explains significant faith milestones for Family Ministry. These milestones are the goal of all of MBBC’s discipleship efforts. Faith milestones are not achievements to reach but are byproducts of Christ’s saving work and the Holy Spirit’s power in each person’s life. They also aid parents as a ministry tool to disciple their sons and daughters at home.

The second section of the FMDP outlines what Family Ministry looks like at Mountain Brook Baptist Church and is broken into age levels. This is not completely comprehensive but is an introduction to explain the heart behind our schedule and events.

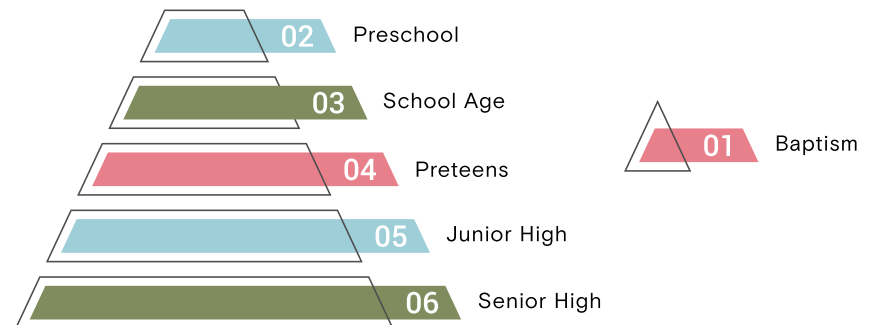
The final section consists of parent resources for Family Ministry. These resources are meant to empower you to be a family that grows towards the Lord together. They are not answers in and of themselves but are tools which can focus and strengthen your discipleship efforts with your children and students. Your Family Ministry staff at MBBC is always here to listen, advise, and help as you minister to your children.



GOALS FOR FAMILY MINISTRY

FAITH DEVELOPMENT AND MILESTONES

These milestones are not boxes to check off, but they are the purpose of our ministry and discipleship efforts. Our programs are meant to lead children and students towards these goals and empower parents to do the same. We strive to make each milestone appropriate for different stages of spiritual development so that they are realistic and practical for your child and your family.



BAPTISM

Baptism is a significant milestone in the life of every believer. It is an outward symbol of a person's inward faith and salvation. While individuals come to saving faith in Christ at different stages of life, we hope that, through our ministries, parents will encourage their children to move toward faith and baptism. Our hope is that baptized students will mature in faith and live it out in their new lives. Families are encouraged to have conversations about baptism starting at school age and in conjunction with Dr. Splawn or other ministers on staff.

PRESCHOOL

GOSPEL We help and encourage preschoolers to understand God's love for them and Jesus dying for their sins. Our aim is to help preschoolers begin to understand the good news of Jesus in their life.

BIBLE We want preschoolers to know the Bible is God's true word to them. Preschoolers will begin to understand the Bible's basic narrative, hear major stories, and be introduced to key verses. Through teaching, interaction, and discussion we hope to introduce preschoolers to the Bible.

FAITH We help preschoolers recognize that God works in our lives and know his promises to them. Preschoolers begin to learn how to express their faith and respond to God in obedience, trust, and love.

SCHOOL AGE

GOSPEL We help and encourage children to understand God's grace and love for them and Jesus dying for their sins. Our aim is to help children understand the gospel of Jesus in their life. It is our prayer for each child to put their faith in Jesus and follow through with baptism.

BIBLE We want children to know the Bible is God's true word to them which directs their lives. Children will grow in understanding of the Bible's basic narrative, major stories, and key verses while learning the books of the Bible. Through teaching, interaction, and discussion we hope children will build a knowledge of Scripture and apply it to their lives.

SHARING FAITH Children recognize God's work in their lives and his promises to them. They are learning who Jesus is, why to trust him, and how to share that with others. Children grow in confidence to express their faith and respond to God by obeying and trusting him.

FAITHFUL LIVING The Christian faith is expressed as a life lived in relationship with God through Jesus. Our goal is to help children understand how faith in Jesus connects to all parts of their lives whether it be in the classroom, on the field, at church, or in the community.

MISSIONS All Christians, no matter how old, are called to demonstrate the love of Jesus and serve others. Children use their gifts and time to serve, love, and share faith with others for the sake of the gospel.

PRETEENS

GOSPEL UNDERSTANDING We encourage preteens to confidently express their faith in terms of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our aim is to help preteens understand their own sin and the available grace and salvation through the gospel of Jesus.

BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING We want preteens to know the Bible is God's true word to them which directs their lives. Preteens will solidify an understanding of the Bible's basic narrative, major stories, common themes, and key verses. They will begin a more in-depth study of individual books of the Bible and will be encouraged to read the Bible on their own. Through teaching, interaction, and discussion we hope preteens build upon their foundation of the Bible.

SHARING FAITH Preteens recognize God's work in their lives, God's character, and his promises to them. Preteens express their faith to others and respond to God by obeying and trusting him.

FAITHFUL LIVING The Christian faith is expressed as a life lived in relationship with God through Jesus. Our goal is to help preteens understand how faith is lived out in all parts of their lives whether it be in the classroom, on the field, at church, or in the community.

MISSIONS All Christians, no matter how old, are called to demonstrate the love and grace of Jesus and serve others. Preteens use their gifts and time to serve, love, and share faith with others for the sake of the gospel.

JUNIOR HIGH

GOSPEL ARTICULATION We help and encourage students to clearly and confidently express their salvation in terms of God's redemption of sinners through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our aim is to help students understand their sinfulness and God's available grace in their life.

BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING We want students to know the Bible is God's true word to them which directs their lives. Students will solidify an understanding of the Bible's basic narrative, common themes and key verses. They will continue to develop the skills necessary to deeply study the Bible and will form habits of reading the Bible on their own. Through teaching, interaction, and discussion we hope students build upon their foundation of the Bible while building towards confidence and excitement.

DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONAL TESTIMONY Students recognize God's work in their lives, God's character, and his promises to them. In response, Junior High students begin to think about the ways God has worked in their lives to bring them to faith and how he promises to guide them in the future. They begin to see the story of the gospel in their personal life and learn to express their faith experience to others.

FAITHFUL LIVING The Christian faith is expressed as a life lived in relationship with God through Jesus. As Junior High students begin to face new challenges, our goal is to help them understand how faith is lived out in all areas of their lives whether it be in the classroom, on the field, at church, or in the community.

MISSIONS All Christians, no matter how old, are called to demonstrate the love and grace of Jesus and serve others. Our goal is for students to see the need for local and global missions and to give them a desire to serve and share the gospel.

DEEP AND CRITICAL ISSUES OF FAITH Students grow when they can ask about and wrestle with deep, and oftentimes difficult, issues of faith. We strive to provide space for students to ask about issues so they will not shy away from challenges but will instead learn how to wisely and faithfully live in step with the Spirit.

SENIOR HIGH

GOSPEL ARTICULATION We help and encourage students to clearly and confidently express their salvation in terms of God's redemption of sinners through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our aim is to help Senior High students to continue to understand the gospel of Jesus in everything they do in thought, word, and deed.

BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING We want students to know the Bible is God's true, authoritative, and sufficient word. Students will solidify an understanding of the Bible's narrative, major themes, and key verses. They will continue to develop the skills necessary to deeply study the Bible and will confidently pursue reading the Bible on their own. Through teaching, interaction, and discussion we hope students form a solid biblical framework.

SHARING OF PERSONAL TESTIMONY Students recognize God's work in their lives, God's character, and his promises to them. In response, Senior High students recognize the ways God has worked in their lives to bring them to faith and how he promises to guide them in the future. They begin to share the story of the gospel in their personal life and express their faith experience with confidence to others.

FAITHFUL LIVING The Christian faith is expressed as a life lived in relationship with God through Jesus. As Senior High students mature and face challenges, our goal is to help them understand how faith is lived out in all areas of their lives whether it be in the classroom, on the field, at church, or in the community.

MISSIONS All Christians, no matter how old, are called to demonstrate the love and grace of Jesus and serve others. Our goal is for students to see the need for local and global missions and to give them a desire to serve and share the gospel.

DEEP AND CRITICAL ISSUES OF FAITH Students grow when they can ask about and wrestle with deep, and oftentimes difficult, issues of faith. We strive to provide space and opportunities for Senior High students to engage such issues to point them to the hope and assurance they have in Christ. By engaging these topics, we hope students will not shy away from difficulties and challenges but will instead learn how to wisely and faithfully live in step with the Spirit.

FAMILY MINISTRY AT MBBC

MBBC offers discipleship ministries in which you and your child may participate. These aren't meant to be the only way a child is disciplined, but they are the primary means through which our church will disciple you and your family. We hope these ministries become a natural rhythm in the life of your family.

PRESCHOOL (Birth - K)

Preschool Ministry helps the preschooler and the parent learn to trust and to love God. The child learns that church is a safe and happy place. Children spend time reading God's word and focusing on how we can be like Jesus.



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY (SMBS)

Preschoolers learn to worship, pray, and study the Bible. During the year, Preschool Children encounter 52 Bible stories and learn 12 Bible verses.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Wednesday night provides Preschoolers an opportunity to learn to praise God through music and to serve God by helping others and praying for missionaries.

SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE AND SEE OUR UPCOMING EVENTS.



SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

(1st - 6th)

The School-Age Ministry helps children continue to build on the foundation of faith development. It is our prayer that children continue to learn to apply Scripture to their life, be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, accept Jesus as Savior, and follow through on believer's baptism. We desire for each child to know that God has a plan for his or her life and he or she is never too young to be used by God.



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY (SMBS)

School Age children learn to apply God's word to their life through weekly Bible study and scripture memory. Our prayer is that each child will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and learn to trust Jesus as Savior.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Wednesday night, School-Age children learn to pray for missionaries around the world and to serve others through hands-on mission opportunities. Choir encourages children to praise our Lord and continue what is learned on Wednesday by participating in worship on Sunday.



SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE AND SEE OUR UPCOMING EVENTS.

STUDENTS

(7th - 12th)

Student Ministry at Mountain Brook Baptist Church seeks to minister to students and their parents as they grow in their faith. We seek to connect our students to caring church members, provide them with opportunities to interact with scripture, and help them to discern God's calling on their lives. Our goal is to come alongside families by providing Bible studies, fellowship events, and worship nights, helping students to continue to build their identity in Christ.



SUNDAY

MORNING BIBLE STUDY (SMBS)

On Sunday mornings, students in Junior High and Senior High discuss the current week's sermon text. By hearing the text preached during the worship service and discussing it in a small group, students will be able to better listen to and comprehend biblical passages while also having the ability to apply and reflect on God's word in their own lives. Students and their families are encouraged to discuss the sermon passage together so that they will grow in their faith and have a shared mode of discipleship.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

During the week, Junior High students meet at the church on Tuesdays before school, and Senior High students meet on Wednesday nights in homes. Junior High students will continue to build a biblical foundation for their faith while also beginning to understand the narrative of the Bible and how it fits together, through reading, learning, and understanding Scripture. Senior High students engage the major themes of the Bible to deepen their knowledge and love for God's Word while also learning how to think critically and faithfully about what they believe and why it matters moving forward into adulthood.

THE BROOK WORSHIP NIGHTS

Once a month our Student Ministry gathers together to share a meal, worship, and grow deeper in relationship with one another. This worship service gives us the opportunity to bring our Junior High and Senior High students together to pray for and strengthen our faith community.



SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE AND SEE OUR UPCOMING EVENTS.

FAMILY MINISTRY AT HOME

DISCIPLESHIP TOOLS

This section provides practical resources to help parents disciple children at different ages and stages of development. Our hope is that families will commit to regular, consistent patterns of discipleship in the home. Below are suggestions for resources and rhythms for you and your family to incorporate in your spiritual lives. Like the faith development milestones, these discipleship tools are not achievements to accomplish but are guides to help strengthen the faith of your family. We hope that each family utilizes discipleship resources that work best for them.

STARTING AND ENDING THE DAY

The routines we build around our mornings and nights can provide formative and fruitful discipleship opportunities for families. Asking children, "Where'd you see Jesus today?" and other faith-related questions around mealtimes is a great way to practice faith as a family together. Read the Bible together as a family. Blessing your meal and praying before bed are great practices.

READING THE BIBLE TOGETHER

Reading the Bible together empowers children to know God and own their faith. As children mature, they can have more serious conversations about and deeper study in the Bible. We suggest the following Bibles for each age.

READ THIS	Birth	4 th Grade
	<i>Jesus Storybook Bible</i>	<i>CSB</i>
	3K	7 th Grade
	<i>God's Story for Me</i>	<i>NIV Student Bible</i>
	1 st Grade	12 th Grade
	<i>NrV Adventure Bible</i>	<i>NIV Bible</i>

PRAYER

Prayer is a deeply formative and intimate way to talk with God. Families should pray together but should feel comfortable individually praying to God. Every Moment Holy is a collection of prayers written for specific moments in life which can be used by families. Cru is an organization which shares the gospel on college campuses and around the world. Their beginner's guide to prayer offers some helpful first steps for all ages.



Every Moment Holy



Cru's How to Pray: Beginner's Guide

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Scripture memory is an important spiritual practice that helps all people, including children and students, grow in faith, knowledge, and wisdom of God and Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Children will benefit from this more with parent involvement and consistency. While MBBC practices Scripture memory there are also several resources that are helpful for children and students to memorize Scripture. One such resource is the children's group, Slugs & Bugs, which puts Scripture to song for young kids. There are several apps that provide quizzes and games for Scripture memory.



Slugs & Bugs: Sing the Bible

TALKING ABOUT FAITH

Discussions about your faith and your child's faith are important as they learn what faith means and looks like outside of church. Catechisms are helpful summaries of Christian beliefs used to teach the basics of the Christian faith. The Parent Cue app provides discussion starters and other resources to help incorporate faith into your daily family conversations.



New City Catechism



Parent Cue App

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILDREN

To disciple your children well, you need to hear and understand them, but as you know, this isn't always easy! The Center for Parent/Youth Understanding provides relevant information, analysis, and theologically-sound resources on today's rapidly-changing youth culture. It's Just a Phase helps parents understand their children developmentally and encourages parents to engage children with gospel truths that fit each phase. Every Age, Every Stage is another great guide to engaging children at different ages with the gospel.



*Center for Parent/
Youth Understanding*



It's Just a Phase



*Every Age,
Every Stage*

BAPTISM

Baptism is a big milestone in the life of every believer. It is an outward symbol of a person's inward faith and salvation. I'm a Christian Now is a workbook for parents to work through with their children as they consider being baptized.



I'm A Christian Now

OTHER RESOURCES

These resources have deeply impacted ministry to the next generation. Sticky Faith was produced through in-depth research from Fuller Youth Institute and describes the factors that truly make faith last after high school. Similarly, Why They Stay helps parents and leaders connect children to the church for a lifetime.



Sticky Faith



Why They Stay

MBBC FAMILY MINISTERS

We have a great, committed group of Ministers dedicated to the families of our church! Listed below with bios and ministry area responsibilities so you know who does what.



Mr. Mark Rector
ASSOCIATE MINISTER
mark@mbbc.org



Mrs. Sharon Howard
MINISTER TO CHILDREN & FAMILIES
sharon@mbbc.org



Mr. Joel Burks
MINISTER TO
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
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Mr. Ethan McVay
MINISTER OF PRETEEN &
JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS
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