

Children's Ministry

St. James UMC

Mission Statement

To teach the good news and show kids Jesus.

Values/Vision

Gospel-centered

We teach the Bible as one story that points to Jesus. Jesus is at the center of the gospel, just as He is at the center of the entire Bible and all of creation. We will point kids to Jesus so they see him so strikingly he becomes their one, overriding hope and their greatest love.

Application-oriented

We believe when kids rest in Jesus, their joy over his beauty and what he's done for them will spill out into the way they live. We show children that our central hope is in Jesus's full saving work, not just his instructions. When kids are stuck in the pressure-filled mode of trying to measure up, we will bombard them with the good news.

Creative

We continually look for new and creative ways to engage children in their classes and in the life of the church.

Committed to equipping leaders and volunteers

With help from the church's leadership, we provide opportunities for Children's Ministry leaders and volunteers to grow in their faith and understanding of the gospel. We utilize teaching helps from The Gospel Project, including videos and blog posts.

Family-focused

We acknowledge that God designed parents to be the primary disciplers in their children's lives. We strive to build relationships with families to support them and equip them to disciple their children. We provide opportunities for parents to see what their children are learning each week. We find ways to encourage families to live out the gospel on mission together.

Fun

We use fun to guide the ministry in pursuit of its mission (fun itself is not the mission). We use technology, singing and moving, games, and activities to help children experience the gospel story and see how much God loves them.

Prayerful

We commit to pray for children—that God would awaken them to the truth of the gospel.

Relational

We welcome children in our church worship services so they experience the fullness of the Body of Christ, learning and worshiping with church members of all ages. We also provide children with kid-focused environments where they can learn in ways they best understand. Our leaders shepherd children in small groups.

Safe

We ensure all teachers complete Safe Sanctuaries training and background checks on a regular basis.

Transformative

We ensure our teaching goes beyond behavior to the heart by teaching the gospel.

Mission-Oriented

We invite children to serve in all areas of the church. We encourage the congregation to acknowledge that God has given each child ideas, experiences, talents, skills, and giftings to be used now for the church's mission to bring glory to God.

Sources

Gospel-Centered Ministry by Brian Dembowzyck

Show Them Jesus by Jack Klumpenhower