

Parent Handbook

Welcome to DC Kids!

We're thrilled to partner with you! This handbook outlines our ministry's commitment to caring for children and collaborating with their families. We've designed it to be a helpful resource for all parents.

Thank you for trusting us to be a positive influence in your child's life. We truly value this partnership and are excited for the journey ahead
-The DC Kids Team

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OUR GOALS

We believe that all kids can have a real relationship with Jesus. Our goal at Desperation Kids is to help them encounter God and grow in their faith from a young age.

This is more than just a ministry; it's a leadership program. We are raising up the next generation of Christian leaders and warriors. We're not just watching your kids. We're equipping them to be bold, confident, and unashamed followers of Christ.

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in truth." 3 John 1:4

OUR WEEKLY PROGRAMS

DC Kids is offered at every service on all campuses.

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

Cullman: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, & 11:15 AM

Jasper: 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

North Jefferson: 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY SERVICE TIMES

6:00 PM at all campuses

NURSERY

Ages: Six Weeks - 1 Year

In our Nursery, our goal is to create a space where we take time to nurture and to create a safe environment for your child.

Our classrooms are structured around developmental milestones.

THE NEST

Ages: 2 - 11

The Nest exists to share the love of Christ by supporting children who need special accommodations and their families. Our goal is to help them become full participants in the body of Christ. We are committed to providing a safe and comfortable environment that allows everyone to worship, engage in ministry, and enjoy fellowship with one another.

Our Nest-supported environment provides an adaptive worship experience, a modified curriculum, and individualized plans for children with disabilities, ages 2-11. With the right accommodations, each child can be integrated into an age and developmentally appropriate Desperation Kids experience, where he/she can learn God's Word.

This support is available at select campuses and may not be available at all services.

PRESCHOOL

Ages: 2 Years - 5 Years

Our preschool rooms are designed with kids in mind. With age-appropriate toys and special service elements just for them, our team is ready to care for and have fun with your little ones during service. Each week, they will engage with worship songs, Bible stories, video lessons, and activities that refl ect Biblical truths. The DC Kids core values also guide kids to:

Love God: Because God is love and He first loved us.
Pray Big: We believe in praying bold, faith-filled prayers.
Be Kind: Because God is kind to us.
Have Fun: Because God gives us joy!

SERVICE COMPONENTS

Worship The service begins with two high-energy worship songs. This time helps kids focus on why we're at church: to worship God.

Big Idea Each week's lesson identifi es overarching concepts that tie together smaller pieces of information, allowing a deeper and more connected understanding.

Bible Lesson The main lesson is delivered through a video that shares a life-giving message from God's Word using real-life situations and a Bible story.

Activity or Craft Each lesson includes a fun activity or craft that reinforces the big idea and/or bible lesson.

Memory Verse Each series has a Scripture memory verse that kids are encouraged to learn every month.

Prayer Time is dedicated for kids to pray and experience God's presence with their friends and leaders in class.

ELEMENTARY

Grades 1st - 5th

Our Elementary program provides a space for children in fi rst through fi fth grade to discover and develop a passion for God. We do this through worship, Bible teaching, Small Groups, and a variety of fun activities. The DC Kids core values also guide kids to:

Love God: Because God is love and He first loved us.
Pray Big: We believe in praying bold, faith-filled prayers.
Be Kind: Because God is kind to us.
Have Fun: Because God gives us joy!

SERVICE COMPONENTS

Worship The service begins with two to three worship songs. This time helps kids focus on why we're at church: to worship God.

Activities and Games Our service kicks off with a high-energy game. We love to cheer on each team and encourage kids to have fun!

Big Idea Each week's lesson identifies overarching concepts that tie together smaller pieces of information, allowing a deeper and more connected understanding.

Bible Lesson The main lesson is delivered through a video that shares a life-giving message from God's Word using real-life situations and a Bible story.

Small Groups Throughout the lesson, kids are divided into Small Groups led by dedicated leaders. This time is used to dig deeper into the lesson and big idea.

Memory Verse Each series has a Scripture memory verse that kids are encouraged to learn every month.

Prayer We create a dedicated time and space for kids to experience God's presence and pray with their small group leader.

SERIES TOPICS

Our DC Kids curriculum is designed to guide children through every major Bible story over a three-year cycle. Each year, we dedicate an equal amount of time, six months each, to both the Old and New Testaments.

We teach the Old Testament chronologically across the three years, ensuring a comprehensive journey through its narratives. The New Testament, while also taught chronologically, explores new stories each year, providing fresh insights and perspectives. After three years, the cycle begins anew! Our goal is to strike a balance between predictable, consistent structure and exciting, fresh content.

Here's how we achieve that balance:

What Changes? Each month, we introduce a new teaching series title and theme, carefully chosen to complement the Bible stories being taught.

What Stays the Same? The core structure of our scope and sequence remains constant. As you'll see below, we've divided the Bible into 36 semi-chronological topics, and we cycle through all of them every three years.

DC KIDS

SCOPE & SEQUENCE

YEAR 1

AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN
DAVID & PSALMS	SOLOMON & PROVERBS	JOB	RUTH	CHRISTMAS	JESUS' EARLY LIFE
FEB	**MAR**	**APR**	**MAY**	**JUNE**	**JULY**
JESUS' MIRACLES	JESUS' TEACHINGS	EASTER	THE EARLY CHURCH	ELIJAH	ELISHA

YEAR 2

AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN
PROPHETS	PSALMS	DANIEL	ESTHER	CHRISTMAS	JESUS' FAMILY LIFE
FEB	**MAR**	**APR**	**MAY**	**JUNE**	**JULY**
JESUS' TEACHING	JESUS' MINISTRY	EASTER	THE EARLY CHURCH	CREATION	ABRAHAM

YEAR 3

AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN
JOSEPH	EXODUS	ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS	JOSHUA	CHRISTMAS	JESUS' EARLY LIFE
FEB	**MAR**	**APR**	**MAY**	**JUNE**	**JULY**
JESUS' MIRACLES	JESUS' TEACHING	EASTER	THE EARLY CHURCH	JUDGES, RUTH & SAMUEL	DAVID

SAFETY GUIDELINES

Safety is our top priority. We want you to feel confi dent in the care your kids receive, so here are the steps we take to protect them

CHECK-IN & DROP OFF

Your child is under your care until he/she is checked in to our children's ministry. We require all kids in 5th grade and younger to be checked in and escorted to their class by a parent or guardian.

We encourage you to make drop-off quick and confident, especially with younger children. Separation anxiety is normal, but if your child is struggling and you'd like us to give you an update after a certain amount of time, please let a leader know.

Our check-in and pick-up policies are in place to ensure your child's safety:

- **All children must be checked-in for service.**
- **Security Tag: You and your child will receive a sticker with a matching code, which is used for pick-up.**
- **Children are not released to anyone without the proper security tag that matches the child's sticker.**
- **If you lose your security tag, please return to the check-in station. You will be asked to provide a photo ID for verification and another tag will be printed.**

VOLUNTEER SCREENING

All DC Kids team members complete an application, training, and a thorough background check. Adults, including parents, who have not completed a background check, are not allowed in classrooms.

SAFETY GUIDELINES
(*Continued*)

EMERGENCY & SAFETY PROCEDURES

We have established clear emergency procedures to ensure the safety of every child.

- **Emergency Procedures:** Emergency procedures are posted in every classroom, and all volunteers are trained to handle weather emergencies and evacuations. In the event of an emergency, children will not be released until the situation is clear and a parent presents the correct claim sticker.
- **Reporting Dangerous Situations:** Our church policy is to report any signs or suspicions of child abuse or neglect.

SAFE BOUNDARIES

We have clear guidelines for our staff and volunteers.

- Adults will not enter restrooms with children unless there is an emergency or the child needs help with an accident. In these cases, two adult leaders will assist the child.
- All staff and volunteers maintain appropriate physical boundaries with children.

HEALTH POLICY

To keep everyone safe and healthy, kids should not attend if they have a fever of 100° or higher, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, a sore throat, excessive runny nose, a bad cough, rash, pink eye, or lice. To return to class, kids must be fever-free for 24 hours without medication.

SAFETY GUIDELINES
(Continued)

MEDICAL ALERT
Please let the check-in team know if your child has a medical condition. They will ensure the information is shared with your child's leaders.

ALLERGY
To minimize the risk of allergic reactions, our children's ministry is a peanut-free area.

If your child has an allergy, please let the check-in team and the classroom leader know so we can ensure their safety. Please note that our team cannot administer any medications.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS
If your child has a special need and requires an accommodation, please let the check-in team know. We will be happy to assist you and make sure he/she is well cared for while in class.

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS

We believe the best way to help your child build a strong Biblical foundation is by partnering with you. Together, we can encourage, train, and pray for them as they grow in their faith. Here are some practical ways you can help us make the most of your child's time at church:

- **Be Consistent:** Attending the same service and location each week helps your child build relationships with their leaders and peers.
- **Reinforce the Lesson:** Practice the monthly memory verse and review the take-home questions with your child.
- **Stay Connected:** Opt in for emails and texts about what your child is learning each month. You can also follow DC Kids on Instagram and Facebook.
- **Pray:** Please pray for your child each week as you come to church, and pray for our teams as they serve them.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED

We'd love to keep the conversation going! Here are a few ways to stay in the loop with what's happening in DC Kids:

- **Parent Group:** Join our parent communication group to receive a monthly email packed with information and updates just for parents. Sign up on our website, in the app, or at any Kids Check-In station.
- **Social Media:** Follow us for weekly photos, videos, and updates.
  - Facebook: www.facebook.com/desperationkids
  - Instagram: www.instagram.com/desperationkids