

Word & Wonder

A Children's Bible Study Curriculum Specific for the Children of Faith Church



Curriculum change

For many years, we have been using a Montessori-inspired program called Children & Worship. First developed in 1972, Children & Worship offers a hands-on approach to helping children experience God's Word. In the Worship Center, children hear Bible stories, wonder about God, and learn the heart of worship through hands-on storytelling materials. During response time, they can explore the materials and retell the story in their own words.

While Children & Worship continues to hold deep meaning for many in our congregation, we have noticed that some children are becoming less engaged, often seeking more interactive and experiential ways to learn. This observation encouraged us to explore alternative approaches that might better meet the needs of the children at Faith and help them connect more fully with God's story.

What are we changing?

Recognizing the need for change, we sought a curriculum that would better meet the needs of our evolving children's ministry while preserving the most valuable elements of Children & Worship. Although many prewritten curriculums are available, none aligned closely enough with the vision and goals we hoped to achieve. As a result, I (Kylie Hoesch) spent the last year developing a curriculum that thoughtfully incorporates the strengths of Children & Worship while creating new opportunities for deeper biblical engagement, spiritual growth, and meaningful learning experiences for our children.

Word & Wonder

In developing the Word & Wonder, our primary goal is to create an experience where children are fully immersed in the Bible. We want to nurture their natural curiosity, inviting them to explore Scripture through questions, discovery, and genuine wonder. We want children to engage deeply with the stories of the Bible, learn about the people, timelines, and historical context, and develop a meaningful understanding of God's Word that inspires lifelong faith.

We do not want to limit children's exploration to Bible stories alone. Throughout the program, we hope to guide them through the rich themes woven throughout Scripture, including the history of the sacraments, God's covenant with His people, the meaning and practices of worship, the call to mission, the purpose of prayer, and the foundations of discipleship all through age appropriate lessons.

More....

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Our Hope

Our hope is that through Word & Wonder, children will develop a lifelong love for Scripture, a growing understanding of God's story, and the confidence to ask questions, seek truth, and follow Jesus faithfully. Rather than simply memorizing Bible facts, we want children to engage deeply with God's Word, discover how it all connects together, and learn what it means to live as followers of Christ in today's world.

What will the new lesson look like?

Every lesson follows a consistent format that helps children not only learn Bible stories, but also understand how each passage fits into God's greater story of redemption.

1. Discovering the Book of the Bible

Each lesson begins with an introduction to the Book of the Bible being studied. Children will learn who wrote the book, when it was written, and how the events were recorded or passed down. This information is presented in a way that is understandable and engaging for children, helping them see that the Bible is both a historical document and God's inspired Word.

2. Reading the Bible Passage

Children are introduced to the specific Bible passage for the day. We want children to become comfortable locating books, chapters, and verses in their own Bibles while learning that every lesson comes directly from Scripture.

3. Exploring the Story

Next, children hear a clear and chronological retelling of the Bible passage. The story highlights important events, key people, significant details, and major themes. This portion helps children understand what happened, why it happened, and why it matters.

4. Thinking and Discussing Together

Children participate in guided discussion with three open-ended questions designed to encourage critical thinking and meaningful conversation. Volunteers help facilitate discussion by providing additional guidance when needed, allowing children to wrestle with the text, ask questions, and share observations in a safe and supportive environment.

5. Learning About God

Every lesson includes a section focused on God's character and His plan throughout Scripture. Children learn what the passage teaches about God, how it connects to the larger story of the Bible, and how God's promises are fulfilled through Jesus Christ. This helps children move beyond simply knowing Bible stories to understanding the message of the Bible as a whole. They will also be given an opportunity to participate in an interactive way of learning, whether it be a craft, skit, song, or other form of immersive experience.

6. Living Out Our Faith

Finally, children consider how the passage applies to everyday life. This portion encourages children to live out their faith as disciples of Jesus who are being formed and sent into their homes, schools, and communities.