

VISION STATEMENT

The Children's Ministry Department ("CMD") of FCC exists to support parents in the discipleship of their children as they grow into the community of faith.

CMD is grounded on these fundamental principles:

1. TRUTH - Teaching Biblical values and authority at age-appropriate levels.

- ◆ Teaching comes from a Bible-centered curriculum that presents:
 - ◆ Lessons directly from Scripture
 - ◆ Scripture as true, relevant, and authoritative, the very Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16)
 - ◆ The Bible as one cohesive story, beginning in Genesis and continuing through Revelation
 - ◆ Christ as the center of the story, and His gospel as the touchstone of every lesson
 - ◆ One message for all ages, so all families at FCC are learning and growing together
 - ◆ Lessons uniquely crafted for each age group, to present truths that they can understand
- ◆ The Growth Plan at FCC begins at Nursery and continues through Youth, with each level presented an age-appropriate direction that reinforces the overall gospel message:
 - Nursery – *“God created everything”*
 - Beginners – *“God loves you”*
 - Pre-K – *“You need a Savior - Jesus Christ”*
 - Children's Worship (combining 3 age groups) – *“Jesus Christ is Sufficient for All Things”*
 - Kindergarten – *“Jesus Christ is Fully God”*
 - 1st-2nd Grades – *“Jesus Christ is Fully Man”*
 - 3rd-4th Grades – *“Jesus Christ Paid It All”*
 - 5th-6th Grades (divided into Boys and Girls) – *“The Gospel Changes Everything”*

2. GOSPEL – Bringing good news to the children of FCC, the “mission field” within our church.

- ◆ All CMD activities center on presenting the good news of Jesus to the children of FCC, so that:
 - ◆ They will understand the concept of God's holiness, man's sin, and our need for a Savior
 - ◆ They will see Jesus as that Savior who offers eternal life to all who would believe
 - ◆ They recognize this applies to them, personally
- ◆ All activities are evaluated through a “missionary” lens, defining success through the presentation (and effective response) of this message

3. FAMILY – Partnering with parents to minister to children together.

- ◆ Recognize that even any CMD activity will have a limited, temporary window into any child's life
- ◆ In order to make a lasting impact, all activities must include plans to involve parents as well:
 - ◆ Effectively communicated, so parents understand the activity's purpose
 - ◆ Clear instructions on how parents can prepare beforehand, and follow up after
- ◆ Additional training opportunities extended to parents:
 - ◆ Invitations to teach, assist, or simply attend all activities (Note: Background screening required to become a qualified volunteer before they may teach or assist)

- ◆ Parenting classes offered as part of part of CMD, to train up parents as well as children

4. DISCIPLESHIP – Investing in the lives of kids, as well as teachers.

- ◆ Starting with the CMD Director, CMD Elder, Senior Pastor, and CMD Leadership Team, all leaders are to mentor, guide, and disciple the volunteers under their supervision through regular communication, and train them to do likewise with volunteers and children under their care
 - ◆ Volunteers are trained to view each child as an individual, to understand their spiritual condition, and to personally invest in their growth process
 - ◆ Volunteers are encouraged to serve the same group over a block of time, allowing them to get to know individual children and their parents and invest in each of their lives
- ◆ Following the Growth Plan at FCC, volunteers mindfully prepare students for the next level, and will communicate with the CMD Leadership Team and volunteers at the next level so they are ready to build on the work already done in the life of each child

5. SAFETY - Providing diligent protection to all children in our care.

- ◆ CMD policies reinforce safety at all times, especially having multiple volunteers present so no volunteer is ever one-on-one with a child
 - ◆ Screening required for all volunteers (age 18 or older) before service as teachers or assistants, with careful examination, reference testimonies, and background checks to make sure all childcare workers have been closely considered before they are given positions of authority
 - ◆ Student helpers (grades 5-12) must also go through Student Helper Training before they may officially serve
 - ◆ Background cycles to be repeated every 5 years to proactively vet volunteers and maintain safety standards
- ◆ In order to maintain a safe environment where children can grow, scriptural standards of behavior will be upheld for all volunteers and children