

2023/24
Parent
Handbook



**TERWILLEGAR
COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

Welcome to Adventureland

Dear parents,

You have come to the right place!

I believe that God has called you here to Terwillegar Community Church and He has a great plan to meet with you and your whole family. Adventureland at TCC is a place where kids are met with smiles, treated with dignity, loved with open arms, and disciplined to know Jesus better.

At TCC we believe that discipleship is a process not a program, and that discipleship happens when we experience meaningful teaching, form Christ-like habits, and engage in honest Christian community. Your kids will participate in all these components of faith formation in Adventureland on Sunday mornings.

My desire for our kids is that they will form friendships here that last them a life-time. They will see adult and youth volunteers who love and invest in them. They will learn and play alongside friends who genuinely care about their well-being, are excited to see them, and who share responsibility for one another's Christian habits.

This type of vibrant community is possible through the power of the Holy Spirit that Christ has promised to all Christian believers. I believe this power is already well at work in the lives of our kids and the Kingdom of God is visible in their midst.

Welcome to Adventureland. I hope your children encounter Christ in this place and that seeds of faith will be planted and cultivated for years to come.

I love walking the journey with you,



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The Learning Plan 2023-24

Our kids are learning how the bible fits together to form one big story: the story of God's love for the world being realized through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Every year we will be following the liturgical (Christian church) calendar to become familiar with bible stories and characters that will inspire kids and their families to grow in their bible literacy and their understanding of the Christian faith. Each month will follow a 4 or 5 week teaching series, designed especially for kids, that is presented in a way that is fun, engaging, and full of memorable moments! Check out our current teaching series outlined here on our website: www.tcchurch.ca/childrens-resources.

AUGUST



A SERIES ON JOSEPH

- 1 God loves everyone the same.** Joseph's dreams cause conflict with his brothers (Genesis 37).
- 2 God watches over us.** Joseph is taken to Egypt (Genesis 39-41).
- 3 God will make things right.** Joseph reunites with his brothers and father (Genesis 42-45).
- 4 We can obey God above anyone else.** The Israelites are oppressed after Joseph's death (Genesis 50-Exodus 1).

SEPTEMBER



A SERIES ON EXODUS

- 1 God teaches us how to lead.** God sends Moses to Egypt (Exodus 2-3).
- 2 We follow God's lead.** The plagues on Egypt and Passover (Exodus 7-12).
- 3 God leads us to safety.** The Israelites escape from Egypt (Exodus 13-15).
- 4 God will lead us to what we need.** The Israelites begin their journey in the wilderness (Exodus 15-16).

OCTOBER



A SERIES ON ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS

- 1 We can choose to be thankful.** God provides water from a rock (Exodus 17).
- 2 We can love God and others.** God gives the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20).
- 3 We can go to God when we're lost.** The worship of a golden calf (Exodus 32).
- 4 We can go to God when we need rest.** Moses sees God's glory (Exodus 33).
- 5 We can remember God's promises.** The death of Moses (Numbers 20).

NOVEMBER



A SERIES ON JOSHUA

- 1 Obstacles are no problem for God.** The spies in the promised land (Numbers 13).
- 2 Courage comes from knowing God's words.** Joshua becomes a leader (Joshua 1, 24).
- 3 God can use someone like me.** Rahab helps the Israelites (Joshua 2).
- 4 With God, there is victory!** The walls of Jericho fall (Joshua 5-6).

DECEMBER



A SERIES ON CHRISTMAS

- 1 God sent Jesus for a reason.** The Word became flesh (John 1).
- 2 We can trust God's timing.** The birth of John the Baptist is foretold (Luke 1).
- 3 God gives us what's best.** The birth of Jesus is foretold (Luke 1).
- 4 Jesus is why we celebrate!** Jesus is born (Luke 2).
- 5 Jesus is God's gift to the world.** Simeon and Anna meet Jesus (Luke 2).

JANUARY



A SERIES ON JESUS' EARLY LIFE & MINISTRY

- 1 I can listen to God's voice.** Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist (Mark 1).
- 2 I can trust Jesus knows me.** Jesus calls Phillip and Nathaniel (John 1).
- 3 I can trust God's plans for me.** Jesus calls Andrew, Peter, James, and John (Mark 1).
- 4 I can include people who aren't like me.** Jesus calls Matthew (Matthew 9).

FEBRUARY



A SERIES OF JESUS' MIRACLES

- 1 Wow! Jesus has the power to heal.** The faith of the Centurion (Luke 7).
- 2 Wow! Jesus has the power to calm our fears.** Jesus calms the storm (Luke 8).
- 3 Wow! Jesus has the power to provide.** Jesus feeds the five thousand (John 6).
- 4 Wow! Jesus has the power to save.** Jesus walks on water (Matthew 14).

MARCH



A SERIES OF EASTER

- 1 We can shine God's light.** Jesus clears the temple courts (John 2).
- 2 Jesus is the light in the darkness.** Jesus and the Last Supper (Mark 14).
- 3 We can choose Jesus.** Jesus appears before Pilate (Mark 15).
- 4 God hears our cries.** Jesus dies on the cross (Luke 23).
- 5 Jesus died and rose again!** Jesus rises from the dead (John 20).

APRIL



A SERIES OF JESUS' TEACHINGS

- 1 It's always good to be humble.** The parable of the speck and the plank (Matthew 7).
- 2 We can always forgive.** The parable of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18).
- 3 Jesus is always fair.** The parable of the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20).
- 4 Love always needs action.** The parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16).

MAY



A SERIES OF THE EARLY CHURCH

- 1 Take the first step – believe in Jesus.** Jesus ascends to heaven (Acts 1).
- 2 Take another step – pray for others.** Peter and John heal a man (Acts 3).
- 3 Take a big step – the Holy Spirit makes us brave.** Stephen stands before the Sanhedrin (Acts 6-7).
- 4 Don't skip this step – tell others about Jesus.** Paul shares the gospel with Phillip the Ethiopian man (Acts 8).

JUNE



A SERIES OF JUDGES RUTH & SAMUEL

- 1 God helps me grow stronger.** The story of Gideon (Judges 6-7).
- 2 God helps me belong.** The story of Ruth and Naomi (Ruth 1).
- 3 God answers my prayers.** The birth of Samuel (1 Samuel 1).
- 4 God tells me what is true.** God calls Samuel (1 Samuel 3).
- 5 God can use anything I give.** Samuel anoints Saul (1 Samuel 9).

JULY



A SERIES OF DAVID

- 1 God, you're with me when I feel weak.** Samuel anoints David (1 Samuel 15-16).
- 2 God, you help me overcome big things.** David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17).
- 3 God, you comfort me when I'm afraid.** David, Saul, and Jonathan (1 Samuel 16-18).
- 4 God, help us live in harmony.** David spares Saul's life (1 Samuel 24).

Discipleship Strategy 2023-24

We believe that church is a community and that discipleship happens when people engage in 1) honest biblical teaching while 2) surrounded by people who know them deeply and 3) are regularly practicing habits of a Jesus life-style. We believe that the Holy Spirit works through these habits to deeply transform lives. That means that faith formation doesn't just happen at church on Sunday mornings, it happens all the time!

Growing with our peers.

Every stage of childhood development brings unique experiences to the family. Whether it's carrying around a diaper bag, or learning to potty train, starting school, or entering puberty, all of these milestones change the dynamic of the whole family. This is why we want our kids to grow in peer communities. Age groups are put together not only for the children to meet others who are experiencing the world in similar ways, but it also allows parents of similar stages to interact with each other through serving on the team, or at drop offs and pick ups.

Exploring the big picture of scripture.

Scripture is one story that reveals Jesus Christ as the saviour of the world. We follow the church liturgical calendar every year so that students can participate in every aspect of scripture starting with the old testament prophets, the life and ministry of Jesus, and the new church communities that unfolded after Christ's resurrection. It's really important that children attend consistently through the year so they can experience God's Story from start to finish.

Habits and rhythms of following Jesus are best taught through the example of mature Christians. Our programs are full of disciple-making volunteers of all generations whose lives testify to the transformative work of the Holy Spirit. Our team is made of loving volunteers who are invested in the growth of the next generation of Jesus followers, and it's by their example that our students will learn what it looks like to follow Jesus as a teenager, as a young adult, an adult, and a senior.

Multi-generational care and support.

The Parent Commitment

Children need committed parents and guardians to help their faith flourish. That means that it will take intention, time and sometimes courage to remain in church community even when it's easier not to.



Your children can make lifelong Christian friends in this church community.

Consistency is key, and showing up every week is important to allow your child to develop relationships here.

Your children can learn bible literacy in this church community. Following along with the children's lessons and teachings will help you see the foundations of scripture that will last a lifetime.



Your children will be disciplined by others in this church community. You aren't doing this alone, and there are committed leaders to help you model mature Christian faith.

Your children can grow up in this church community. There is a place for your child to grow here as they transition through childhood, youth and young adult years. This is a safe community to plant roots.



Join the Community

Today is only the first step. Come and be part of our community and let's grow together as we delve into the exploration of scripture, practice Christ-like love and discover Jesus in remarkable ways.



Scan here to register your family for the 2023/2024 ministry year.



Scan here to see what we are learning about this month!



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