

# **Elementary Team**



# Creek Kids Vision

We long for children to know God and know God's word. Our prayer for them is to walk in relationship with Jesus and that the seeds of the gospel will be planted in their hearts at an early age.

- Ephesians 1:16-17  
I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that **the eyes of your heart may be enlightened** in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.
- 2 Timothy 1: 16  
For this reason, I remind you to **fan into flame the gift of God**, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self discipline.
- Joshua 1:9  
Have I not commanded you? **"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."**
- Isaiah 30:21  
Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, **"This is the way, walk in it."**

## The 5 Non-Negotiables

1. Praise & Worship (Age-Appropriate)
2. Scripture Memory
3. Bible Teaching
4. Small Group Discussion
5. Take-Home for Parents

# Your Leadership

Dear Creek Kids Team,

Thank you so much for joining our team! What a joy it is to serve alongside you in ministry. Our prayer is that every child, birth to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, would experience the love of Jesus Christ while they are in our care. We pray that the experience children have in CREEK KIDS would plant seeds and spur them on to a relationship with Jesus!

We are thrilled to have the curriculum that we have, *The Gospel Project*. This curriculum is a chronological teaching of the Bible. We have seen God work through amazing things in the Old Testament and the hearts of the Israelites and we are currently diving into the New Testament with Jesus and John the Baptist. Wrestling big questions with our kids on fear, frustration and fairness have provided great discussion in our small groups.

It is our desire that CREEK KIDS be welcoming, warm, and safe. We pray that children feel valued at CREEK KIDS and that they enjoy the age specific ministry offered here.

Thank you for jumping in with both feet to children's ministry! I pray that you are blown away with how much God loves you and that you experience how great it is to be His vessel for children! As you bless children, I pray that you too are blessed!

In Him,

Ashleigh Marshall

# Frequently Asked

## **The students are so quiet. They just stare at me. It is so awkward. What do I do?**

There is not one answer to fix this. But start by asking them questions about themselves. What they like doing? What their least favorite class at school is...then move to asking questions that prompt an answer like 'What did you learn from tonight?' or 'What do you think that means?' It is baby steps. For some groups, a win might look like just trying to get everyone in the group to say something. Over time, students will open up. The main reasons students don't answer questions is they don't think their answer is right or they don't think anyone will care to hear what they have to say. Try to squash those fears.

## **My group will not stop talking. They do not listen to me. They do not stay on topic. It is a train wreck every single week. What do I do?**

Try setting up some rules. Remind them that you love and care about them but it is not respectful to you the leader or the other members of the group to be so disruptive. If that does not work, let one of us know and we will make an appearance in your group and help the students understand better the point of the small group time.

## **I have one or two students who answer every question and everyone else just sits there disinterested. What do I do?**

After group, ask those students to stick around after. Let them know how excited you are that they know this stuff so well. Ask them for their help. Tell them your desire as a leader is to get everyone else to begin answering questions and you need them to help you get others involved. If it still is an issue, talk to one of the pastors.

## **What if a student begins sharing something that is not appropriate for the group?**

Stop the conversation. It may be awkward to do so but it is important. Let the student know that is not appropriate conversation for this setting but that they can talk with you more about it later.

## **What if a student shares that they are being abused or thinking of hurting themselves?**

Immediately contact a pastor. Depending on the immediacy of the situation, do not leave the student unattended.

# Remember

- **You are not alone.**

If you get a tough question, have a tough student, or just need some help, please come find a staff member. Our goal is to have 2 adults for every group.

- **Guess who.**

You will often not have the exact same group from one week to the next. Don't let that throw you off or discourage you. Instead, remember God has brought exactly who he wanted to be in your group each week. Rest in that amazing truth.

- **You are in charge.**

Don't go overboard but they need to know you are the leader and in charge. 1 rule should suffice: respect others. That means being quiet when others are talking. That means not sharing with people outside of the group what is shared inside the group.

- **Silence is golden.**

The students just finished listening to teaching for 20 minutes or so. The last thing they want is to hear another person preach. Remember, your role is not to do all the talking. Your role as a small group leader is to get the students talking. Maybe you start out with a question about their week at school and then move into the review questions. Allow for the awkward silence. Take your time getting through the questions. Get them to think about what they just heard and have them tell you something that sticks out. That may get the ball rolling. A great question to ask is "What did you hear in chapel this morning?"

- **Just a guide.**

Feel free to chunk the questions if they are not working for you. But make sure you don't chunk them and then start into a sermon. Students want to talk, they just need to be asked the right questions. Create your own questions if you would like.

- **Prayer matters.**

Prayer is vital to a small group. Pray for your group during the week and before you arrive. Pray to start your group time. Pray to end your group time. If time, allow the students to share prayer requests. Make sure you write down the prayer requests. It makes the students feel like their request is important to you. USE THE PRAYER JOURNALS!!!

# Elementary Team

Elementary students are welcomed into each space with a beginning activity that reviews a previous lesson or foreshadows our lesson for the morning. After checking in and getting comfortable in their groups, elementary students will gather in the chapel for their worship service. Students will be involved with an interactive Bible lesson from our curriculum, *Gospel Project*.

**Building: K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade, 2-story; 5<sup>th</sup> grade in separate portable classrooms**

## **Requirements:**

- Please check-in so parents and children can know your name
- Be welcoming, friendly to parents, warm, and inviting to students
- Be patient and flexible
- Be ready and willing to engage students in conversation
- Be willing to sit on the floor, participate in worship motions, and memory verse signs

## **Safety Procedures for Elementary:**

- **High School:** Can serve in all children's areas
  - Walkie-Talkie in each space must be on, one per each room, channel 1
1. If you need anything: page a parent, first aid, sick kiddo, use walkie talkie to communicate
  2. NEVER leave a child or a group unattended
  3. When children are needing the bathroom, please send them in a group of two, adults stay out.

## **Successful Experience:**

- Activity Sheets
- Game Bins to check out
- Prayer Journals

## **Parent Pick-Up**

- Parents MUST have their parent tag to pick up their child.
- Once the codes are matched, both tags are to be placed on the "Tag Sheet" in your room.
- Children, no matter age, will not be released to an under-aged sibling.