

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**



Simply put, in Sunday School we teach kids the Bible in an age-appropriate manner. To accomplish this, we use a chronological, Christ-centered curriculum for children of all ages that seeks to present God's story of redemption through Jesus. Each week, these stories come to life through video, music, activities, and more.

This ministry's purpose is to help families worship together. Therefore, our lessons are centered on instructing children ages 3-5 on the different elements of the Sunday gathering, such as singing, corporate prayer, giving, preaching, baptism, and the Lord's Supper.



**116 KIDZ** is a discipleship program for children in grades preschool – 12th grade that seeks to, by God's power, make young disciples who are unashamed of the Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16). Each Sunday night, starting at 6:15, we fellowship, sing fun Christ-exalting songs, play games, learn about and pray for missionaries around the world.

We are located at 5610 US 127 South, Frankfort, KY. Sunday School: 9:30 AM (breakfast at 9:15); Morning Worship: 10:45 AM; Evening Worship: 6:30 PM (116 KIDZ at 6:15). More details at [farmdalebaptist.com](http://farmdalebaptist.com).

## Philosophy of Children's Ministry



## Equipping Families to Worship Together

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

It has often been said that the most segregated hour in America is 11 am on Sunday morning. This should not be! If there is one place where differences of skin color should not matter it should be in the church of the living God. But what is true in regard to segregation due to skin color is also true many times in our churches in regard to age. The church often divides families into various age groups on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, and Wednesday nights. The result is that there is no time during the week when the families of the church come together to worship God. This also should not be!

We believe there is a better way. This better way allows us to continue ministering to children on their level by providing children's church and nursery for children under 6 and children's bulletins to help the older children to understand better what we are doing in worship. We also provide age-based teaching for children and youth of all ages during our Sunday School hour, as well as on Sunday nights (116 KIDZ).

Indeed, one of the great benefits of this approach is that our Sunday evening time is much more focused and efficient at providing an opportunity for fun, interactive learning on the part of our children.

## Core Convictions

There are a couple of core convictions which motivate our thinking on this subject.

**First**, we believe in the priority of the Word of God preached. When the apostle Paul wrote his letter to the church in Ephesus, a letter to be read to the entire congregation when they gathered for public worship, he did not hesitate to address the children whom he knew would be present in that assembly: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1). In the Old Testament when the people of Judah gathered to hear Ezra read the Law of God the congregation was made up all the men and women, but also "all who could understand what they heard" (Nehemiah 8:2).

We are not given precise ages, but clearly children were present at this assembly. God has promised and been proven to bless His Word by imparting spiritual life to its hearers (see 1 Peter 1:23). God's Word is also the primary means by which believers are sanctified (see John 17:17).

Therefore, we want as many people as possible to be under the sound of the preached Word. This includes those children who can hear with understanding, as well as the children workers who are often cut off from the benefit of hearing God's Word preached.

**Second**, we believe that families should worship together. We believe that this is a healthy practice for children to learn to worship God by observing their parents, grandparents, other family members, and the entire body worshipping God. We further believe that by giving the families of our church the opportunity to worship together, their families will be strengthened spiritually as they interact with each other regarding the listener's guide to each Sunday's sermon provided in the children's bulletin.

## Benefits of this Approach

We believe that our philosophy of children's ministry has a number of benefits. **First**, it allows everyone to have the opportunity to attend and participate in our Sunday morning worship. **Second**, it helps families to be strengthened spiritually through the tools that are provided them. **Third**, it ensures that our children's workers will be encouraged and equipped for greater and more effective ministry because of their opportunity to hear God's Word preached regularly. **Fourth**, it permits our church to be better focused and more efficient at providing a Sunday night learning opportunity for our children and evangelistic outreach to our community.

*For more details/resources, please visit [farmdalebaptist.com/ministries/children](http://farmdalebaptist.com/ministries/children).*