



genesis



WHERE FAITH GROWS

*Family
Welcome Packet*

On behalf of Imago Dei Church, welcome to Genesis! The care and formation of our children is incredibly important to us. Research and life experiences have proven that so much faith formation and worldview development happens during childhood.

Our goal in Genesis is to provide quality care and curriculum each Sunday morning as a way of partnering with parents to nurture faith in our children and families. Because the majority of faith formation happens through what is taught and modeled at home, we also strive to find ways to empower you as a parent in this humbling responsibility: by getting to know you, offering opportunities to practice your faith as a family, and providing you with resources to learn and grow.

We hope this helps you gain an understanding of the logistics, guidelines, and expectations of our ministry. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me:

Genesis Director -- Holly Earleson
hollyearleson@imagodeichurch.org (309) 369-5205

Facebook Groups

If you use Facebook, please join our "Genesis Parents" group for regular updates and a chance to communicate with other Imago parents. Posts range from "check out this excellent consignment sale" to "anyone want to join us at the Playhouse Museum on Saturday?" to "we use the Jesus Storybook Bible during bedtime and really love it".

Curriculum

Godly Play is a story-based curriculum that invites the children to wonder about the story through conversations and various art forms. Rather than being told what to learn or memorize from a lesson, kids are encouraged, through deeper questioning, to ponder what they can discover and explore for themselves. We also teach the children about the liturgical church calendar. This is a perfect fit for Imago Dei as we are all on our own faith journeys. It fosters growth and exploration in the children and us - wherever we are.

For family discussion at home, parents are emailed about the story on Sunday afternoons/evenings with some questions to chat and wonder about together. Here are four questions we ask a lot in Godly Play:

I wonder what part of the story you liked best?

I wonder what part of the story is most important?

I wonder what part of the story is about you or who you are in the story?

I wonder if there is any part of the story we can leave out and still have all the story we need?

Notifications

Please keep your cell phone with you on vibrate during the service. If there is an incident or emergency with your child, we will either text you or come get you from the service. If at any time you change phone numbers, please notify us. Thanks in advance

Age of Care

Children from 3 months through 6th grade are welcomed in Genesis. For the younger kiddos (3 yrs and below), our focus is caring for them in a safe, loving, faith-filled environment. Play, friendship, and nurturing is critical in these early years. Though we may sing songs, read books, or watch family-friendly videos that center around Jesus and the Christian faith, classroom learning is not emphasized until 4 years old. Children who are ages 4 through 6th grade are given the opportunity to attend classes in our Godly Play room on Sunday mornings(see schedule below).

Sunday Mornings

9:20 - Nursery open for child drop-off - ages 3 mo. - 3 yrs

9:30 - children (4 yrs. - 2nd grade) begin service with parents, then are dismissed to the Godly Play room

10:35 - the children who are ages 4 - 2nd grade transition from the Godly Play room to the playroom for a snack and playtime

10:45 - children in 3rd - 6th grades have their Godly Play time

11:45 - children are picked up from the Godly Play room or are taken to their parents

Nursery

Snacks and drinks will not be provided in the Nursery. Children in the Nursery may bring their own sippy cup as long as it is labeled with their name. Volunteers don't provide feedings, so feel free to go get your child out of the Nursery for a feeding. We know keeping them on a schedule is important, so there is no problem with this at all. The office across the hall (Youth class) isn't used during service, so it could be a good place to breastfeed or have a quiet getaway. Your child is welcome to return afterwards. Please leave only essential items with your child (i.e. diaper, pacifier, special blanket). If your child requires a personal item, please label it and let one of the volunteers know that the item belongs with your child. We have diapers and wipes in the nursery to use when changing diapers, so you don't need to provide them unless you prefer that we use use certain diapers and wipes.

We know that it takes time for children to adjust to new people and environments. If you'd like, you may linger in the classroom the first few times to help them get acclimated. If your child cries for more than 10 minutes after drop-off, we will likely text you or come get you. Please let us know if you have a different preference.

Health & Safety

For due diligence & the safety of our children, all volunteers must submit to a background check prior to serving in Genesis. We know building safe, nurturing relationships is so crucial to healthy growth, and our volunteers are honored to be part of your family's journey.

For the health of all children and volunteers in Genesis, please use wisdom and common sense if your child is sick. Do not drop-off children that have had any of the following symptoms in the **past 24 hours**:

fever	eye infections/pink eye
diarrhea	contagious skin rash
infected wounds	cough
ringworm	other common to illness symptoms
runny nose with green/yellow mucous	taking antibiotics for less than 24 hours

Allergies & other concerns

If your child has any specific allergies, please let Holly know immediately as well as the classroom volunteers.

We would also like to know if your child has any other special circumstances, such as a medical condition, sensory needs, or unique challenges. We will do our best to adapt and accommodate. Please let Holly know of these or other concerns.

Front Lounge

Feel free to use the front lounge/coffee area as a hang-out area if you arrive early or are waiting for a room to open.

Volunteering

We believe that the spiritual formation of our children is everyone's responsibility. After all, it takes a village! For this reason, we hope to involve all parents in a volunteering role that fits the specific interests and life circumstances of each parent. (most serve once a month) This is encouraged, not required, and it is definitely not expected for new families. Eventually, we hope you'll join one of our teams and find a good fit!

Genesis Child Registration Form

Parent/Caregiver Info

Name _____ Relationship _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Name _____ Relationship _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

Child(ren)'s Info

Name	Date of Birth	Age	Grade (ex: 1st)

Allergies/Medical Concerns

1. Who can pick up your child(ren) besides the parent/caregivers listed above?

2. Can we post pictures of your child(ren) on social media? No - Yes

If Yes, just on our internal Facebook groups, or also allowed on our public page?

3. Are there any special accommodations we need to be aware of for your child(ren)?

4. Is there anything else you'd like us to know about your child(ren)?

5. What's something your child(ren) really likes? (Ex: art, dolls, singing, bugs)

