



RevolveKids



FABC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Introduction

RevolveKids, the Children's and Preschool Ministry of Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church, Meridian, MS, exists to train up children at the earliest ages in the nurture and admonition of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to transform them into Great Commission Christians. RevolveKids ministers directly to children from birth through 6th grade as well as their parents and families.

Our Purpose

RevolveKids exists to partner with young families as they raise their children to know and love Jesus. Our desire is for children to be drawn into a life-changing relationship with Christ and develop a strong relationship and fellowship with other children and other believers, thus developing a worshiping community that learns to go and make disciples in the world around them. In keeping with the teachings of Jesus, children will learn to "love God and love others" (Matthew 22:37-40).

Core Values

The following core values drive all levels of ministry to children at Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church:

1. Every child matters.
2. Ministry to children is a blessing.
3. Parents are the primary disciples of their children.
4. Our goal is individual transformation.
5. The Gospel is central to everything we do.
6. God's Word is our ultimate authority.

Biblical Foundations

- Jeremiah 29:11-13 clearly states that God has a purpose and plan for His people and that His plan is personal, perfect, promising, and perceivable. God also tells Jeremiah at the outset of his calling, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you" I ordained you as a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5). This means Jeremiah was equipped by God to carry out His tasks before he ever learned to speak or walk. God has a personal plan for every child. They are threads in the tapestry of God's universal story. God's plan is perfect in that He, as the omniscient creator, has a perfect will and way in which He desires to work through His people to bring about His Kingdom Growth and Kingly Glory. God promises that if His people will give themselves over to the fulfillment of His plan and purposes, then He will prosper them and

give them hope and a future. God's plan is the only one that comes with this promise. God does not delight in hiding Himself or His plan from His people and promises that, if His children seek Him, He will reveal His will to them.

- In Matthew 28:18-20 and Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus reveals more clearly exactly what God desires from His children as they seek to further His Kingdom and live within His family. In the Great Commission Jesus clearly illustrates that Christians are to be about the business of evangelism - a process that is not complete until the evangelized become evangelists. As the church is going about making disciples they are to evangelize the lost, disciple the saved, and foster Christian fellowship. In Matthew 22 Jesus states that the entire law and prophets hang on two commands – 1) to love God with all of your soul and mind, and 2) to love your neighbor as yourself. In other words, Christians are to be about loving God and loving others. God is glorified as Christians live out a lifestyle of worship and develop an attitude of ministry. In these two passages, Jesus identifies five basic elements that should be present in every church and in every Christian's life: worship, ministry, evangelism, discipleship, and fellowship.
- Deuteronomy 6:5-9 clearly defines the role of parents as primary disciples of children. It is the job of parents to teach children of God: His love, His commands, His provision for salvation, and His authority over every part of life. The parent/child relationship is meant to be one of affirmation, encouragement, accountability, discipline, training, and spiritual nurturing. Parents are inherently accountable before God and His church for the training and growth of their own children. While parents may make use of the resources provided by FABC and RevolveKids in this process, the primary source of evangelism for children comes from within the home.

The ultimate goal of RevolveKids is to see children take the first steps to becoming Great Commission Christians throughout the early part of their lives. This is a discipleship process that begins in the home, manifests in conversion, but is not complete until that person is actively discipling others. In order for this to occur, children must understand that Christians, though in the world, are not of the world (John 17), but exist in this world in order to be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16) to lost and dying people.

Structure

RevolveKids is based upon the five elements identified by Jesus in Matthew 22 and 28. Every activity that takes place as part of the student ministry of FABC must, in some way, tie into one or more of these elements.

Fellowship - building Christ honoring relationships

Worship - living a lifestyle that brings honor and glory to God

Evangelism – being on mission with God to seek and save the lost

Ministry - allowing God's love to flow through us as we serve others

Discipleship - being transformed into the likeness of Christ

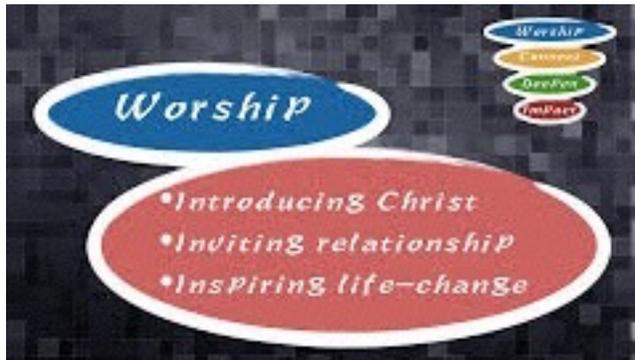
Every activity or event is done with a purpose and objective in mind. And we seek to achieve a balance in inclusion of each element in our overall ministry in every way. All activities and events must conform to the elements of our structure and will be routinely be monitored and adjusted with that goal in mind.



The Process

It is not our desire to supersede or accelerate the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a child. Therefore, no decision by a child to enter into a saving relationship with Christ will be entertained lightly. The initial decision will be followed by counseling with the child and parents, making sure all understand completely the process and personal nature of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. It is important the child understand what it means to be a sinner and the need for a Savior, and that the child asks Christ to forgive his/her sins and become the Lord over his/her life. Finally, they need to understand that baptism is the first outward sign of obedience and does not result in salvation.

Fifteenth Avenue has adopted a discipleship model which focuses on moving individuals through a process that pairs Christian education and relationality. Each phase in this process is more intimate, more intense and more focused than the previous one. Furthermore, each assumes a deeper level of commitment and relationship with Christ and His church. Each stage of this process is primarily based on one of the five elements of the church. As children grow in Christ through RevolveKids, they will be encouraged to develop through each phase until these elements become almost second-nature and result in active discipleship and disciple-making.



Worship

Most often, the Sunday morning corporate worship environment is the initial point of contact for children, students, and adults at FABC. Our goal, in worship, is to create an environment that invites children to explore a relationship with Christ, ask questions of the parents and teachers about what it means to know Him as

Savior, initiate a relationship if they don't have one and, then, go deeper in that relationship. Each week, worship opportunities are provided for children to begin a relationship with Jesus, and, much information is given on how one may become more involved in the Body of Christ. Children also learn the importance of maintaining good relationships with others as an act of worship and in accordance with the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 5:23-25.

God gave us all the gift of music and song as a wonderful expression of corporate and personal worship, and we want to ensure that the children of FABC know how to use their voices in an expression of worship. This is taught through our Children's Choirs as they rehearse on Sunday evenings at 6:00pm. Children rehearse with their leaders to prepare songs to present as an act of worship before the congregation at FABC. In the process, they learn to be lifelong worshippers, using their talents and abilities for the glory of their King.

At this stage, a child is learning to worship within the community. It assumes a new relationship with Jesus or, possibly, none at all. As children mature through worship, however, our desire is they become more connected to Jesus and other Christians.



Connect

Our desire is that all children at FABC be "connected" in a personal relationship with Christ as Savior and, then, to the Family of God. The book of Acts gives a clear picture of what Christian fellowship should look like. Acts 4:32 tells us that "the multitude of those who believed were

of one heart and soul..." In essence, the early Christians were connected. At this stage in the discipleship process, we want children to understand that coming to church is not just something we do on Sunday, rather that we ARE the church, the Body of Christ, promoting community, unity, and fellowship within the family of God in all aspects of life. Our primary connection point, each week, is Sunday School. The focus of Sunday School is relationships... with God and with others. In

Sunday School, children are enrolled in classes according to their grade level in school. Each class has a teacher, whose sole responsibility is to teach children to love and know God through the stories of God interacting with His people throughout the Bible, and an outreach coordinator/secretary, who works to foster a sense of community among the children. The outreach coordinator contacts the members of the class on a weekly basis and constantly searches for ways to share Christ with the children. In addition, he/she works along with the teacher to facilitate class fellowships and ministry activities. Our desire is to offer a children a place to discuss, even question, the deep truths of the faith while laying the groundwork for a Biblical worldview.

Sunday School is merely the beginning point of connecting with God and other Children through RevolveKids. All classes and activities are designed to connect and point children to God the Father, Christ the Son, the Holy Spirit, and the rest of the church as children of God. In Children's Choirs, children develop their ability and discover the importance of being able to worship God with and in front of the church as a group and individually. Bible Drill provides the tools children need to utilize the Word of God as their weapon against the trappings of this world and encourage other children to do the same for the education and edification of all. RA's, GA's, and Mission Friends connect the children of FABC to other believers throughout the world by showing how the gospel is taught and spread to other cultures. Our monthly activities, from Parent's Night Out to LaserTag trips to Outdoor Picnics and Games are designed for the purpose of connecting children with other children who love the same God and follow the same Lord.

There is no doubt that Jesus intends for His people to be intimately connected with Him and one another...this can only happen as we purposefully build relationships. And, as these relationships develop, children and parents are encouraged to continue to go deeper.



Deepen

The Deepen phase of the discipleship process is about helping children become deeply rooted in God's Word until it affects every single part of their lives. Of course, this stage can only begin after a child has made a personal commitment to following Christ as Savior and Lord. For

children, deepening happens at the individual and corporate (connected) level at the same time. In RevolveKids, we recognize the greatest mentors of the faith a child can have is parents. Through parents, children see what it means to live a life devoted to becoming a disciple of Christ. Therefore, modeling Christlike behavior and teaching your children through Bible study, listening to Christian Radio, parental interaction, and "teachable moments" make a more-lasting impression on

the Spiritual development of your child than 1,000 hours in Sunday School and church. It is important for children to see and understand the importance of daily Bible Study and prayer time with God. To assist parents in discipling their children in these areas, we offer a daily devotion parents can walk through with their children.

We offer Bible Drill on Sunday nights at 5:00pm for our children to learn how to interact with the Bible, the books and different parts of the Bible, and memorizing Bible verses and passages of Scripture. The goal is to train children to use the Sword of the Word of God that they “may be complete, and thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:17b).”

The ultimate goal of Deepen is for every child to begin hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit through the pages of Scripture, the songs of worship, and the testimony of the people of God around them. We rejoice when they respond to follow Christ as Savior, and we want them to be encouraged through these early years of their walk with Him. James 2:26 tells us that “just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.” The desired outcome is to see children “living out” their faith through their daily lives and understand that true faith always impacts those around them.



Impact

It is impossible for a person to have an intimate relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ without the power of the Holy Spirit working through that person to impact the world around him. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that His

followers would be “the light of the world.” He specifically told His disciples, “let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matt. 5:16) In RevolveKids, we want lead children in opportunities to let their light shine and give God the glory. To that end, every class and activity contains some component about using our talents, gifts, and abilities to reach the world around us for Christ.

In addition to singing at various times in worship throughout the year, our Children’s Choirs sing in nursing homes, the mall, and in other performance venues for the purpose of sharing the gospel. Having equipped the children through Bible Drill, we encourage them to defend their faith, allowing the Holy Spirit to help them recall scripture they have committed to memory for just such an occasion. RA’s, GA’s, and Mission Friends are designed, at their core, to encourage children to become well-informed responsible followers of Christ, to have a Christ-like concern for all people, to learn how the message of Christ is carried around the world, and to work with others in sharing Christ.

At various times throughout the year, children will be given the opportunity to serve others in ways that demonstrate the love of Jesus in a practical way. In addition to these, other opportunities are provided for students to be involved in ministry within the church with missions, students, music, senior adults, etc.

The end result of Impact should be that our children in RevolveKids impact the lives of other children they meet to the point where they want to know more about the Jesus of whom our children speak. Thus, the new children now have opportunities to develop in the process of Worship, Connect, Deepen, and Impact. The cycle never ends!

Children's Ministry Team and Children's Safety Guidelines

The Children's Ministry Team is made up of individuals who feel a distinct calling from God to work with children. There is evidence of this calling in the way they minister to and deal with children and in their ability to teach and lead children. The team is made up of a wide range of adults who work within the student ministry through Sunday School, Bible Drill, Children's Choirs, and Missions Organizations. Team members are selected by the Children's Minister and are expected to be at regularly-scheduled meetings and to participate in youth events.

As our children's safety is of utmost concern, all adults who wish to serve on the Children's Ministry Team are required to fill out a volunteer application, submit to a criminal background check, and attend FABC Children's Workers' Training. An interview with Children's Minister and/or another Pastor of FABC may be required. General rules that will be followed at all times include, but are not limited to:

- All new children's workers will work on provisional basis for first 6 months...during this time, they will meet with Children's Minister frequently to discuss their work with students. Worker may be asked to remove himself from involvement in the ministry, at any time, if concerns are raised that warrant such action.
- No adult will **EVER** be alone with a single student of the opposite sex.
- In the event that a child of the opposite sex wishes a private conversation with an adult, counseling must take place in a public place that is easily accessible and in plain view of other adults and/or children.
- Adults are never to promise to keep a secret for a child that may involve harm, abuse of any kind or destructive behavior towards self or another person.
- If there is ever a concern for the safety of a child, the worker should notify Children's Minister and/or another Pastor.

- Any allegation of abuse of a child in our children's ministry will be handled with immediate urgency. Adult will be placed on immediate leave, pending an investigation. FABC will cooperate fully in the investigation in consultation with our insurance company and/or attorney.

“The Law of the Lid” states that an organization will never rise beyond the capabilities of its leaders. This is a fact in ministry! Therefore, every adult volunteer that works with our children is expected to be cultivating a passionate love relationship with Jesus Christ. Each is expected to be actively involved in the life of the church. And, each individual should be living out a radical faith that seeks to impact “lostness” and “need” in their community. Children are excellent at noticing the things we would rather try to hide; therefore, it is never acceptable for an adult to say to a child, “Do as I say, not as I do!” Children's Ministry Team members lead by example and encourage through involvement.

Summary

It is impossible for any one person to effectively minister to a large group. Differences in personalities, backgrounds, and family types make this job even harder. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that an effective minister surround himself with a diverse group of people who share a common call and vision. FABC is blessed beyond measure in that it has a very gifted group of adults who feel a distinct calling to serve in children's ministry. These adults represent years of wisdom and valuable resources for carrying out ministry to our children and their families. These adults attend activities, give of their time and talents to teach and instruct the children, talk candidly when necessary with parents of children, and take an active role in the discipling process of children.

As the Children's Minister determines the direction and vision of the children's ministry of FABC, the Children's Ministry Team is the most valuable resource at his disposal.

The overall goal of RevolveKids Children's Ministry is to see children saved, discipled, and empowered to make an impact on the world in which they live. As children grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, they begin to have an impact, not just on those in their peer groups, but on the entire church body. In fact, children are **NOT** the church of tomorrow, but of today...and, it is because of this understanding that FABC seeks to provide a children's ministry that encourages children and families to be involved now in joyfully advancing the Kingdom of God through the church to the city, state, nation, and uttermost parts of the earth.

As the Children's Minister and the Children's Ministry Team seek to lead the children of FABC to fulfill God's plan holistically, the RevolveKids concept is a invaluable tool. This tool identifies what we as a children's ministry are about and helps to determine how we will go about doing effective ministry within the larger context of FABC.