



Calvary Chapel Bradenton Children's Ministry

Vision Statement

2 TIMOTHY 3:15 – "...and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

The following is a vision statement for children's ministry at Calvary Chapel Bradenton. While not all-inclusive it gives us a reference point as to why we minister to children and how we should be ministering to children. It also provides encouragement for us to press on towards the goal of reaching all children everywhere with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. **CHILDREN hold a special place in the Lord's heart** (Matthew 18:5; Matthew 19:14,15), therefore we make it our aim to love and receive children as the Lord Himself would. We want children to feel welcomed, loved, accepted and special in our ministry to them.
2. **CHILDREN can and should come to the Lord for salvation** (Mark 16:15), therefore we make it our aim to preach the gospel to every child. We look for opportunities to creatively tell the story of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ in ways that can be understood by children. Then we encourage the children to place their faith and trust in Jesus alone for their salvation.
3. **CHILDREN should be taught the word of God** (2 Timothy 3:15), therefore we make it our aim to teach the word systematically in its entirety. We teach the Bible from Genesis to Revelation to the children in age appropriate and creative ways. Children need to receive the "whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27) as a foundation to build the rest of their lives upon. Teaching the Bible to children will produce salvation, growth and maturity in their hearts.
4. **CHILDREN should be discipled as followers of Jesus Christ** (2 Peter 3:18), therefore we make it our aim to be examples of Jesus to the children. As children's ministers we desire to live out an authentic and lively relationship with the Lord that the children can see and desire to imitate (1 Corinthians 11:1).
5. **CHILDREN should worship the Lord** (Psalm 89:15; 1 Peter 3:15), therefore we make it our aim to provide opportunities for the children to worship together. It is our desire that the children be led in times of genuine worship as they learn to praise the Lord for all He is and for all He has done.
6. **CHILDREN should be given fellowship opportunities** (Hebrews 10:25), therefore we make it our aim to provide opportunities for the children to spend time together. Godly relationships are important so we desire to provide special events in addition to our regular events that will foster godly friendships and fellowship among the children.
7. **CHILDREN should be primarily taught concerning the things of the Lord in their homes** (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), therefore we make it our aim to come alongside parents and families to assist them in any way possible in the training of their children. We understand that we can never replace the role that God wants the family to be in the spiritual training of children, but we do desire to be an encouragement and a resource to help families in the spiritual nurturing of their children.