

# Welcome to Explorers!

Centennial Evangelical Free Church's children's ministry welcomes you and your students to be a part of Explorers. We invite you to get to know more about who we are and why we do what we do.

## Who

Explorers is for students ages 3 through 5th grade. We have different classrooms for different ages and will divide the students depending on their ages, abilities, and our numbers; we will provide as many classrooms as needed. Below are our general guidelines:

Pioneers are ages three to five years old.

Pathfinders are Kindergarten to second grade.

Voyagers are third to fifth grade.

## Where/When

Explorers is a Sunday morning ministry. We meet in the children's ministry area, which is located through the door on the far side of the sanctuary.

## What - Curriculum

Pioneers use a one-year curriculum that is designed to expose children to the foundational teachings of the Bible in an interactive and enjoyable atmosphere.

Pathfinders and Voyagers use a three-year curriculum that chronologically goes through the main stories of the Bible and explores their theological significance and how to apply it to our lives.

Both curricula were written by Centennial members for Centennial's children. A large part of the curricula use the "Jesus Storybook Bible" by Sally Lloyd-Jones. This story Bible does an excellent job of showing how the whole Bible points to Jesus. Throughout the curricula, the students will gain a better understanding that Jesus truly is the center of the Bible and needs to be the center of their lives.

# What - Sunday Mornings

## **Pioneers**

Pioneers begin their time with a Bible story, which we encourage parents (through a weekly newsletter) to be reading this story from the Bible with their children prior to Sunday in order for the children to be familiar with it when they hear it in class. After the story, the teacher will ask comprehension questions that range from simple recall to life application. Pioneers will participate in structured play, circle time, and an activity. Structured play is designed to bring the story to life and/or emphasize the story's lesson and get the children moving. During circle time we sing a song, work on a memory verse and put stickers on our attendance chart. Lastly, we do an activity which is usually a craft related to the story and we talk about the lessons the story can teach us.

## **Pathfinders and Voyagers**

Pathfinders and Voyagers open with a large group time of learning the theme (or 'word up') for the day, singing, game time and the Bible story. After this large group time, students will divide into their age based small groups (Pathfinders and Voyageurs). During small group time, students will have the opportunity to share about their week, discuss the Bible story, ask questions, develop deeper friendships and participate in an activity. The morning will close with a large group time of reviewing the lessons they have learned and work on learning a memory verse.

We encourage parents to attend The Living Room during this time each week which meets in The Edge building across from the church building to enjoy snacks, fellowship, and deeper connections.

Our goal in Explorers is to walk alongside of you as you nurture your child's faith. Therefore, we invite parents to our "Parent Day" after each Explorers unit is completed. Students will come to the first half of Explorers alone on these mornings (as usual) and have a time of review and create something to present to parents about what they have been learning. Parents will be invited to come at 10:15 (leaving The Living Room early) and enjoy this time with their child(ren).

## 2016-17 Parent Week Dates

October 2

November 20

January 8

February 12

March 19

May 7

The Explorers team loves the opportunity to work alongside you as parents to aid you in the spiritual development of your child and enhance what you are already doing at home. We pray that our students can continue to process and put into action the knowledge, skills, and values discussed on Sunday mornings.

## **Why**

As a children's ministry, we are striving to bring children and their families into healthy relationship with Jesus.

We strive to create a loving, safe, and fun environment where our students can learn, grow, and feel free to ask questions. We pray that our students will not only learn the content of the Bible, but even more important, become acquainted with its Author. We hope that as our students are coming to personally know Christ, they will also build personal relationships with their teachers and peers that will last for years to come.