

Redeemer Family Discipleship Roadmap

Family discipleship is about parents and children growing in the grace of God by living more deeply in the great wealth of our beloved identity in Jesus Christ.

1. Using Time

One of the most powerful things in a child's life is the presence of a loving and attentive parent in continuous heart-relationship with them giving them daily time and moments of care.

Sunday morning services, small groups, Bible studies, and our *Redeemer Kids* ministry are designed to help each of us rest from our self-reliant striving as to know a spiritual growth that occurs only by God's work in our lives. We believe this growth in grace for us as individuals will impact our family and parenting as we become more vulnerable, loving, and wise. Our hope is for families to desire, and learn in time, the importance of both praying and playing together – to learn and laugh. Through our church's overarching teachings, resources to parents, and parenting seminars, our hope is to inspire and equip you to carve out more time to be present with your children in routine devotional time, meaningful conversations, and light-hearted togetherness.

2. Using Moments

Most parenting is not inside the walls of the church but in your home and in the world, where parents can capture opportunities for vital conversations as topics arise in the life and heart of the child and student. In other words, discipling of your children by you is always happening. Some of the most important conversations you will ever have, you will not prepare for but stumble upon. Our hope is that your heart and mind are ready to listen to your child and speak into their life when they present themselves.

To help parents capture family discipleship moments Redeemer Kids sends children home with lesson summary sheets and Redeemer Students sends out monthly emails with the teaching content calendar. These summaries are created for you to know what your child is hearing and prepare you to engage.

3. Celebrating Milestones

1 - Baby/Child Announcement – Welcoming the Child into the Covenant Faith Community

Children are a blessing both to their family and the family of God. To mark this first family discipleship milestone, we celebrate these precious gifts from the Lord. We announce new babies and adopted children to the congregation through our monthly email newsletter. A pastor visits the family and prays with the family and for the baby. As well, we offer infant (child) baptism or dedication (upon the family's personal belief, read here for more info).

2 - First Picture Bible – Beginning Teaching Content in the Lives of 2 Year Olds

Becoming a toddler is a blast for the child and family, but there is much more to celebrate than first words and endless exploration of walking, running, and falling down. In *Redeemer Kids*, after a child turns two, this milestone is marked by the beginning of classroom curriculum and Bible teaching time. To celebrate this transition, you will receive a Picture Bible from Redeemer for your child.

3 - Kindergarten Blessing – Sunday Morning Recognition and Prayer for Upcoming Kindergartners

Kindergarten Blessing marks the first big ministry transition for children at Redeemer. After five or six years in our church, children are now heading into Elementary school and ready to promote into our Elementary Sunday School classrooms.

This significant milestone is celebrated every August on the Sunday prior to Promotion Sunday. Redeemer marks this important transition with a time of blessing and prayer for these little ones in our Sunday morning service, where the child will be recognized, prayed for, and given a Children's Bible.

4. Mix 45 – Quarterly Fellowships for 4th and 5th Graders

In order to ease the transition and bridge our children into *Redeemer Students* (6th-12th grade ministry) we have *Mix45* fellowships and gatherings for them. *Mix45* are quarterly fellowships for 4th and 5th graders to be together in a fun and exciting environment allowing them to begin to transition out of *Redeemer Kids*, know our student pastor, and meet a handful of older students in *Redeemer Students*.

Lastly, *Mix45* provides a gathering in late fall of each year for 4th and 5th graders and parents to come together for a fun and insightful time to prepare children spiritually, emotionally, and physically for adolescence.

5. 5th Grade Blessing – Sunday Morning Recognition and Prayer for Graduating 5th Graders

The transition from elementary to middle school is a big one for both kids and parents. During their final Sunday in elementary school, 5th graders will be recognized and prayed for in our Sunday morning service. Following the prayer, the student pastor will lead the graduating 5th graders into the Student Chapel for a talk about communion, congregational worship, and the Student Ministry. As a graduation gift, they each receive a Student Bible and devotional journal to encourage and teach them to read the Bible on their own. In the following weeks, these upcoming 6th graders are welcomed into the Redeemer Student Ministry.

6. Baptism and Communicants Class – Periodic Gatherings for Students About Baptism and Communion

Baptism is a celebration in the child, student, or adult's life for the work of God in their heart. Redeemer serves families that believe in either infant baptism or

believer baptism. For those families who believe in believer baptism we offer the baptism class. We do not offer baptism class based on the age or stage of a child. Rather, this class is offered periodically for children or students of any age to attend, to learn about believer baptism, and discern if God is calling them to be baptized. For adults with questions on baptism, or any questions on baptism, please reach out to a pastor as we are happy to talk and walk with you.

Each April, all graduating 5th graders will be pulled from their classroom by the Student Pastor and led into the Student chapel for a 15-minute chat about what communion is, why we practice it, and why it is important in the life of a believer. After the chat, the Student Pastor will lead the students back into their classroom before the 10:30 service ends.

7. 7th Grade Rite of Passage Dinner – Gathering About Sexuality, Giftedness, and Godliness

Our Rite of Passage dinner is designed to create a fun and meaningful experience between a student and their parent / guardian. It is a gathering to celebrate the ongoing process a child goes through as they journey from childhood to the teenage and young adult years. We will cover the vital issues of giftedness and godliness. The dinner and talk are designed to enhance the bond between parent and student and encourage further conversations about identity in Christ. We also encourage parents to write and gather letters from other key figures in the student's life to share with the student at the end of the Rite of Passage dinner.

8. Retreats – Overnights for Students to Grow in their Relationship with Christ

We believe God does impactful work in our hearts as we retreat from the grind of normal life to quiet our hearts and look to him. Our hope is to have every student attend several retreats during their middle school and high school years in order to foster continued growth in their relationship with Christ.

9. High School Student Mission Trips – Overnight Missions to Serve Others

We believe that God does something profound in the heart of a student when they see how He is moving in places outside of Marietta. Within the mission trip preparation meetings, we teach about raising money for the trip, proper money management as a life practice, and cultural differences we will soon experience. Our hope would be to have every high school student go on a mission trip prior to graduation.

10. Launch Sunday – Recognition and Prayer for Graduating Seniors

Every May, our graduating seniors will be recognized, celebrated, and covered in prayer. This milestone invites the family to affirm their student through encouragement, the body to pray over the students as they transition to what's next, and for the student to consider how God would desire to work in and through them as they head to college/work.

4. Equipping Families

Seminars

Periodically, a parenting seminar is offered on Sunday evenings for parents to learn more about vital parenting topics.

Men's Backyard Gathering and Bible Study

A monthly fellowship and backyard Bible study and prayer time. Bring your own chair, beverage of choice, and open heart.

"Mom 2 Mom's" Group

This mom's group meets every other Wednesday evening to study the Scriptures and allow younger moms to learn from older moms, particularly in regard to parenting.

Quarterly Parent Resource Email

Each quarter an email filled with parenting resources is sent to our families to equip them with current information on parenting issues, possible struggles of children and students, and devotional ideas for parents and families.

Redeemer Kid's Curriculum

Our hope is to tell the story of Jesus as our rescuer, have fun, and trust the Holy Spirit in the life and heart of the child. Beginning at age 2, extending through Pre-K, our children receive teaching content and progress through curriculum which focuses on the whole counsel of God, introduces the basic concept of what Christ has done for his people, and teaches children to begin to see Jesus in all of the Bible. From K-5th grade the child progresses by learning a gospel-centered emphasis of the story of salvation by Jesus in every lesson. Our goal is to train up young disciples in the whole Word of God, emphasizing a high view of scriptural authority and a gospel focus. We are inviting the youngest of Christ's family to get to know their Savior, their church family, and their place in the Kingdom of God through weekly teaching and activities.

Redeemer Student's Curriculum

As a child transitions from Redeemer Kids to Redeemer Students we believe it is our role to help students awaken and journey in their lives with Jesus as they grow in their understanding that they are beautifully created, more broken than they originally thought, and more loved by God than they ever dared to dream. Our teaching calendar, small groups, and retreats are Scripture-based, Jesus-centered, and topically relevant for our students to continue their walk with Jesus.