

# Spiritual Formation

## Dear Parents,

Covid-19 has changed many of the things that we used to take for granted. One of them is the way that the church offered Christian education for children. Now that we have gotten used to something of a “new normal,” we need to turn our attention back to spiritual formation for our kids and provide the best options that we can – under the circumstances. Some may even turn out to be better. This document will give you some handles for you to help your kids grow as followers of Jesus.



## Biblical Foundation

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” – Deuteronomy 6:4-9

## What You Do Not Need

With all the extra challenges that virtual learning during the week has brought to each household, what you don’t need is more busy work and things that add stress to already busy schedules.

## What You Do Need

Since the spiritual formation of children is one of the most important things that a parent can provide, what you do need are some handles for you to use that line up well with the age level of your kids and their desire to participate.

## During the Church Hour – Activity Pages

For the 9:00 in-person service, three different age appropriate Activity Pages will be available in the lobby. Clipboards will be provided, but we ask that you provide something to write with.

For the 11:00 online service, these same pages are available for download. They will be attached along with this letter and on the church website.

- **Picture Moments** – Younger KIDZSPACE  
In the old days, tour guides would point out what they called “Kodak Moments,” places on a tour that begged for a picture to be taken. In a similar way, during the church hour, whenever your child sees an image in their head from what they hear, they should draw a picture of it. If they run out of space on the front of the page, they can use the back as well.
- **Service Notes** – Older KIDZSPACE  
This is an abbreviated note taking guide. Everything is generic and can work each week except for the “Key Word” section. This will be supplied each week by the pastor. **For October 4 the two key words are: Nathanael and Jesus.**
- **Service Notes** – BEACON (Middle School and Up)  
This is a more sophisticated note taking guide - for those who aren’t “little kids” anymore.

### On Demand Options – Coming Soon

In addition to the church hour, we are going to offer three other options that can be done anytime. These will be rolled out over the next few weeks.

- **The Gospel Project Bible Story**  
Each week, Miss Joni, or Miss Carrol (and maybe some others) will introduce a short video for your kids to watch (10 minutes). Links will be posted on the church website.
- **Gospel Project Unit Bible Verse**  
Every several weeks, there will be a new Bible verse to memorize. Stay tuned for details.
- **Rightnow Media** (optional)  
Since the church already subscribes to this online “Christian Netflix,” we will offer it to you free of charge. On the kids’ page there are dozens of age specific animated programs to choose from. If you have yet to create an account, please let us know and we can help you get started. This optional resource will provide additional spiritual input for your child.

### Feedback and Motivation

As church leaders, we want to partner with you and help you help your children grow. To this end, we are going to provide a feedback mechanism and some incentive to motivate everyone in the family to participate.

First, here is some extra incentive:

- Complete one of the Activity Pages during the church service \*25 points
- Watch the on-demand Gospel Project Bible Story \*25 points
- Watch an episode from a series of your choice on Rightnow Media \*25 points
- Memorize and recite the Gospel Project Unit Bible Verse 100 points

### Double Points and Rewards

If your children take some time after each of the above activities and talk to you about it, many of the above points\* will be doubled. When the child reaches 1,500 points, they will receive a gift card for a special treat. Households with more than one child engaged can receive a gift card for the entire family when they collectively reach 3,000 points.

### Feedback Loop

To keep everyone on track, we will provide a **simple Google Form** for you to let us know how you are doing. You should be able to complete it in just a few minutes. If you have any trouble using the form, send an email to [kidzspace@1stalliancechurch.com](mailto:kidzspace@1stalliancechurch.com).

**Note:** As we roll this out, there will certainly be questions that we haven’t answered yet, or things that we haven’t considered yet, so please just ask, we are happy to work together with you.

Sincerely,

The Children’s Ministry Leadership Team

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- Joni Miller ... 301-785-8571
- Pastor Mike Mercurio ... 301-974-1837