

Kids QUEST Sunday School FAQs

Dear Parents,

We welcome your child to Kids QUEST Sunday School at Parkside Church! We hope to answer most parent questions in this FAQ; however, if you have additional questions, please feel free to talk to one of your child's Sunday School teachers or call the church office for more information.

Our Purpose...

What is the purpose for Sunday School? Kids QUEST Sunday School desires to see *unbelieving children become committed followers of Jesus Christ*. We seek to come alongside parents, the primary teachers in their children's lives, and help children understand who Jesus is and how they can have a personal relationship with Him.

What does Kids QUEST stand for? We have developed the acronym "QUEST" to help frame our purpose:

- Quality time in God's Word
- Understanding Biblical principles for living
- Encouraging Biblical worship
- Strengthening Christian relationships
- Telling others the Good News

Staffing Information...

Who are the people serving in my child's class? Workers are volunteers from Parkside Church. Classroom teachers are Parkside Church members; classroom helpers must be regular attendees of Parkside Church for a minimum of six months before serving.

How often do workers serve? Because we believe that consistency plays a vital role in building relationships with children and helping them become committed followers of Jesus, workers are asked to serve each Sunday for one year, September-July, during either the 9:45 or 11:15 service. We recognize that this is a significant commitment, and in order to allow workers needed flexibility, we develop teams for each room.

How many people serve in my child's class? Depending on the age, we have a minimum of 2 adults in every classroom. For younger preschool children, we usually have teams with 3-4 adults and perhaps 1-2 teen helpers. As children get older, we have 2-3 adults on each team with 1-2 teen helpers.

Security Information...

Do you have any security procedures in place? We take the security of children very seriously at Parkside Church. In all of our Kids QUEST classrooms, we follow a two-adult rule that states no adult should ever be alone with a child. This may mean that parents are occasionally asked to stay in the classroom to assist on days when not enough workers are in attendance. We also ask that all workers 18+ years of age complete a criminal background check as well as provide a church testimony application that gives details of their faith in Christ, their prior ministry experience, and prior experience working with children. We also utilize a security "tag system" for children birth-kindergarten (see "Coming and Going" below).

Coming and Going...

Do I need to register my child? It is helpful if all children are registered when they begin regularly attending so we have accurate contact and allergy information for each child. Registration cards are available in all classrooms.

What time should I bring my child to class? Most classroom workers arrive at 9:30am for the 9:45 service, and workers are in the classrooms until the conclusion of the 11:15 service (11:15 service workers arrive at 11:00). We encourage parents to bring their children to class on time. We recognize that this is a large building and children are in various areas throughout the building, but it is helpful to children when they consistently arrive on time and are able to participate in all the activities.

What do I do when I bring my child to class?

- **If your child is kindergarten-aged or younger:** you will sign your child in each week on a roster. Please be patient, as workers can only accept one child at a time. Please make sure to write the full name of the person picking the child up and your location during the service(s). You will be given a yellow security tag with a number on it; a matching tag with the same number will be pinned to your child's back. This number will be used to page you in the auditorium if your child needs you. If you are in a class or serving in another ministry, a worker will come notify you if your child needs assistance.
- **If your child is in grades 1-2,** you must sign your child in each week.
- **Children in grades 3-5** may come and go with parent permission, but a "release authorization" must be on file with the classroom teacher. Even though you are not required to sign older elementary children into rooms, we encourage parents to regularly come to their elementary children's classrooms to talk with the teachers and learn about what is happening in class.

What do I do when I pick my child up from class?

- **If your child is kindergarten-aged or younger:** a child will be returned ONLY upon presentation of the proper security tag by the parent. If a tag is lost, a child will only be released with a pastor's or elder's approval. Your help and consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated. Workers can only release one child at a time, so we ask for your patience at pick-up, especially during the transition time between the 9:45 & 11:15 services. Please do not reach over the counter, come into the classroom, or remove your child's tag. Workers need to remove tags to verify matching security numbers.
- **If your child is in grades 1-2,** we ask that you pick your child up each week.

During Class...

What happens in a typical Sunday School class? There is usually a welcome/arrival time that offers free-play for children; this is a great time for children to build friendships with other children. Our classrooms usually have a weekly time of worship, either in their individual rooms or combined with other ages. There is a weekly Bible lesson that helps the children understand God's Word at age-appropriate levels. There are crafts and games that help to apply the Bible truths that the children are learning. Children memorize Bible verses; each classroom teacher has the option of selecting verses that match the curriculum and may choose to focus on one verse/month or one verse/week. In younger classrooms, we offer a simple snack each week (water, animal/goldfish/graham crackers or vanilla wafers).

What do I do if my child has allergies? Please make sure your child is registered so that we can note this on our main classroom roster. Also, for younger children, please note this on the sign-in sheet; a “hot pink” tag can be attached with your child’s security tag to alert workers to allergies. If your child requires a special snack, we ask that you provide one each week, keeping in mind that our snack times are usually only 5-10 minutes long, so snacks should be simple.

What curriculum is being used in Sunday School?

- 2’s-5th grade, 9:45 hour: *Show Me Jesus*, published by Great Commission Publications
- 2’s-1st grade, 11:15 hour: repeat *Show Me Jesus* for reinforcement (different activities for application)
- 2nd-3rd grade, 11:15 hour: *Kids Catechism Club* by Great Commission Publications
- 4th-5th grades, 11:15 hour: Big Book of Questions and Answers by Sinclair Ferguson, combined with various studies on the Apostles Creed, the Ten Commandments, the Lord’s Prayer, etc.

How can parents make Sunday School more meaningful for their children? Arrive on time so that children can build friendships with other children and connect with their teachers. Take time to talk to your child’s classroom teachers—ask questions about the lessons, volunteer in the classroom occasionally. We encourage parents to utilize the “Take Home” papers to discuss what children are learning in Sunday School and to reinforce the truths that are being taught. Find out what the memory verse is each month and work on it at home. Connect with other families in your child’s class--ask your child the names of friends and talk to the teacher about how to contact those families.

We hope that this Sunday School FAQ has been helpful to you. It is a privilege to serve Christ by teaching these children each week, and we pray that many children will come to know Christ as their personal Savior at young ages through our Kids QUEST ministry.