

Destiny Kids - Preparing For Children's Ministry

1. Children's Ministry Calendar

- Review the children's ministry calendar prior to the next month to see when you're scheduled.
- A link to ministry calendars will be emailed out monthly and for those without email, Ministry calendars will be mailed out.
- Add that date to your personal calendar.
- Email or call in a request for a particular day(s).
- Make arrangements to swap ministry time with another volunteer when you are unavailable.
- Notify children's pastor and class director when there is a change in schedule as well as if you need assistance in making arrangements.
- calendars.destinychurch.cc | children@destinychurch.cc | 210-349-2295

2. Email

- Read news for personal encouragement and testimonies to share with others. Let's create a buzz about what God's doing with us and through us.
- Read articles providing tips for ministering to children. Let's continue to grow in our ministry gifting and effectiveness.
- Stay informed about programs and events. Let's all be in the know about all that we offer the family, including parents and children. Let's all be ready to answer any questions that come our way from new or existing people.
- Read Anna and Ted's Blog to get a glimpse into what God is doing in our lives and it just may bring some encouragement your way.

3. Lesson

- Review or print lesson online several days before class.
- Read and study lesson to prepare your self to effectively teach the children that have been entrusted to you.
- Pray over what you have read and studied believing for fresh revelation from the Holy Spirit. He can remind you of a story to share, give you a creative idea, and essentially give you the grace to teach.
- Pray for the children who will receive love, care, leadership, teaching, enthusiasm, fun, high fives, games and much more from you. Pray for their little hearts to receive the love and truth you share.
- Review the lesson even if you're not a lead teacher. Who knows, you may be called on to lead or maybe that time you spend preparing will equip you and encourage you to lead. We need leaders.
- Have high expectations. With God all things are possible.

4. Schedule

- Pastor Dave and the pastoral team would like to see everyone who's ministering in any area, with any role (including children's ministry), on a given Sunday participating in Power Prayer.
- Our Sunday schedule is as follows:
 - Power Prayer 9:30 am
 - Coffee and Fellowship 10:00 am
 - Worship Celebration 10:30 am (children's classes begin)
- Please report to your respective children's class ready to serve at 10:00 am on Sunday's and 6:45 pm on Wednesday's.

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- I appreciate your commitment to be on time and ready to minister. The people the Lord is sending to us need to be received with love when they arrive.
- Please check out with the lead teacher of the class you're serving in. Check to see if they need help greeting parents, checking out children, putting things away or cleaning up. If we all work as a team and share the responsibility it will lighten the load for everyone.

5. Classroom

- Remember to smile, greet, call by name, encourage, involve, correct, express enthusiasm and have fun with each child. Our attitude and actions will be the determining factor of whether they receive what God has for them through us. Relationship and learning should go hand in hand. If they like you, they will receive from you and they will beg their parents to bring them back. Let's be confident to speak up and speak out. Only when we speak God's Word and his heart in applicable and relevant ways are we leading. Leaders are called leaders because people are following. Why do people follow? Because a leader is doing something or saying something worth following.
- Report testimonies back to the children's pastor so we can all praise God for evidences of grace including - salvation, healing, requests for baptism, spiritual growth and encouraging stories.
- Correct children gently when necessary. For example, when there is unrelated talking or distracting of another child. It's easy for children, and some more than others, to distract themselves and many others, which inhibits several children from learning and growing. Simply giving a warning to stop talking and then following through with separating children can solve the problem. Maybe a particular child needs constant volunteer supervision. Maybe a parent needs to be notified of their child's challenges. When communicating with parents about their child's behavior we want to be careful to start with affirming the value and grace in their child's life and then present the current challenge at hand. This gives hope to the parent, but also gives them needed information to bring appropriate discipline. When dealing with a conflict we never want to come across frustrated or make over arching statements such as, "Johnny always talks too much in class". Let's deal with the issue at hand such as, "I've been really encouraged by Johnny's consistent giving, but today he had a real hard time listening." Making categorical statements such as, "you always or you never", can easily enflame people and they can sense that we don't really value them or the people involved. Gentleness, on the other hand, provides hope that they or someone they love has another chance to redeem them-self and do better the next time. Enlist the help of the children's pastor or class director when necessary in dealing with corrective issues.
- Report incidents or concerns to the children's pastor so we can address each issue with gentleness. If there is an injury, we need to document the incident for future reference and clarity if a disagreement arises at a later date. If a child confides or confesses to abuse in the home, school, or anywhere we need to check into that as well. If there are concerns with volunteers and how they interact either verbally or physically with children, we need to know that as well. If there are concerns with older children and how they interact either verbally or physically with the younger children, we need to know that too.
- Always be watchful of strangers in the children's ministry area in both facilities.

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Notify the children's pastor, class directors or security if you have a question or concern. It's good to be safe.

- Children need to be escorted to the restrooms by a volunteer. Simply waiting at the classroom door in full view of the class and in line of sight of the restroom until the child has returned to the classroom will suffice for older children and provide a good safeguard. Younger children may need help such as a diaper change or trouser adjustment. It's good to have women taking care of this function and even going in groups to the restroom. For example, leading the entire preschool class guided by a rope to the restroom with two or three teachers involved is a good safeguard. This is good accountability for all the teachers and ensures we are above accusation. In other places, too many unfortunate improprieties have been committed against children and even false accusations against those that care for children. We need to take the utmost care, in this day and age, in caring for these precious ones, which parents and the Lord have entrusted to us. This includes protecting the children, each volunteer and our local church.

6. Teamwork

- Let's remember that it takes many people to accomplish this task of caring for and teaching children. Currently we have 75 volunteers enlisted on a rotating schedule to minister to children. This should produce humility in all of us that this task is too big for any one of us. The children's pastor cannot lead without each person and the class directors cannot function without helpers and helpers are dependent on other helpers to cover for them at times as well. We are an interdependent team of people that should consider the other people we serve with better than ourselves, like Jesus consistently did. Some may do more than others, but let's trust God to be the great equalizer. Let's value one another and pray that God works his purposes in our lives as we make great sacrifices for him.
- Remember that serving together is going to strengthen our relationships. It's a place of community. Consider how you can serve, pray for and support your fellow team members. Ministry should flow from us to the children, but also between us.
- Remember the important kingdom principle that as we seek first the kingdom of God all these things will be added unto us. God knows our needs and his heart favors us when we are cooperating with him in his purposes. Just as there's a blessing for tithing and offerings, there are blessings and rewards for serving. Yes it's a sacrifice to prepare and provide all the care we've already discussed, but the benefits far outweigh the sacrifices. The benefits of God only come through sacrifice. Let's not be deceived, there are no shortcuts to godliness and blessing. It all comes through sacrifice. If we want the joy of mutual love and affection that comes from being someone's spiritual father or mother we must serve others, if we want God to conform us to the image of Christ we must serve others, if we want our financial and physical needs met we must serve others, and if we want to here the words, "Well done my good and faithful servant", on that final day along with the rewards of heaven we must serve others. Be encouraged, there are so many pleasures that await you as you serve.
- Realize that children's ministry may be a season of your life, so make the most of this opportunity. Serve as if you'll do it forever, but be open to the leading of God. Always be investing in others, preparing them to take your place at the proper time. Stay in contact with the children's pastor and class directors concerning any

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transitions you feel you need to make. Let's communicate and plan a wise transitional strategy that benefits you, as well as those you are serving. Timing is so crucial with life change issues and we should involve family, friends and leaders in our decision making process. The scripture says, "There is wisdom in many counselors." Read John 7 and consider how even Jesus recognized that there was a right time to start his public ministry and he did not rush into it, even at the sarcastic prodding of his biological family. God has a proper time for all of us in each season of our lives and I encourage you to cooperate with him and trust his timing.

7. Class Leaders

- Chris and Jaime Flores - Nursery (3 months - 2 1/2 years, Sunday and Wednesday) jicflores@gmail.com (Assistant Leaders - James and Tara Vasquez)
- April Gillett - Destiny Park (2 1/2 - 3 years, Sunday) april_gillett@yahoo.com (Assistant Leader - Lorene Gonzales-Mazmanyen)
- Richard and Brenda Medina - Big Kids (4 years, Sunday and Wednesday) rbtmedina@yahoo.com (Assistant Leaders - Rick and Casey Annunzio)
- Marie Valdez - Big Kids (5 years, Sunday and Wednesday) amval70@aol.com (Assistant Leader - Teresa Hansen)
- Julian and Veronica Macias - Bible Blitz (6 - 12 years, Sunday and Wednesday) jymacias@yahoo.com (Assistant Leaders - John and Jessica Ramon, Steve and Lydia Huerta)
- Ramiro and Patsy Gutierrez - Destiny Kids Greeting and Registration - patsygutierrez74@yahoo.com

8. We're Here For You

- We're here for you if you need prayer, encouragement, counsel...you name it.
- Anna and I are here to meet your needs and that of your family. We consider you uniquely valuable to God and us. We want you to know and feel that we want relationship with you above the convenience of your service with us. We desire to have you around us and help us not just because you make our lives easier, but because God has called us to a great mission together. We can accomplish so much more together and have a blast doing it. Our desire is that as time passes our relationships would grow with one another and God. That we could spur one another on toward good works and then look back with appreciation, that us being together was all part of God's providence in our lives. Let's live and serve for the glory of God!

Together In Christ,

Children's Pastor

Ted Thevaos

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