



**West Side**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

[www.wschurch.org/family](http://www.wschurch.org/family)

### **Family Ministry Staff:**

EARLY CHILDHOOD

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**NAVIGATING THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF YOUR FAMILY**

The goal of the family ministry team at West Side is to **equip parents to be the primary spiritual leaders of their homes.** We have age specific programming for kids designed to meet them where they are and challenge them to take their next spiritual step.

We look forward to partnering with your family to raise spiritual champions.

## Family Ministry Overview:

### Understand That Jesus Is - Early Childhood

From the moment children are born, they are learning. At West Side, we introduce kids to Jesus from their earliest days in the nursery and continue to lay a faith foundation throughout their early childhood years. Through play, worship and storytelling, we teach that God made me, God loves me and Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

### Understand Who Jesus Is - Elementary (K-5th)

During the elementary years, we expand upon the foundation laid in early childhood. As kids understand who Jesus is, that He made them and wants what's best for them, they begin to obey His commands. As they grasp how much He loves them, they learn to love others with more determination. Most importantly, once kids encounter the forgiveness that Christ offers and realize that he wants to have a relationship with them, they are able to make the most significant decision of their lives – to accept God's gift of grace and be baptized.

### Understand Who You Are In Jesus - Jr. High (6-8th)

Jr. High is a time when students are trying to establish their identity. They begin to ask the question, "What makes me special?" Our goal during these years is to help each student understand that their true identity can only be found in Jesus. Because they were created uniquely by Him, they are loved unconditionally by Him. When kids realize they don't need to worry about the opinion of others, they are free to live the incredible life God desires for them. Once students understand that Christ is living and working in them, their own lives are changed and they begin to discover the unique ways God wants to use them to reach out to their community and their world.

### Become Jesus to the World - High School (9-12th)

As our students enter High School, we concentrate on sending them into the world with a faith that will last. In a world that promotes self-centeredness, we direct their attention outward as they put faith into action and live like Jesus in the world. We want high school students to discover meaningful, Jesus-centered friendships in our student ministry while also connecting with the inter-generational church community at West Side. We pray that West Side students grow to love The Church for life and find ways to use their gifts and passions to serve and move beyond themselves.

## Seven Spiritual Milestones:

There are a number of significant moments in the spiritual development of every child. We've crafted specific milestone experiences to help families mark those important events and capitalize on their significance for transformation.

