

# **Nurturing faith, encouraging discipleship**

## ***A framework for our ministry to Under-18's at Hay Hill***

*For the purposes of this document, 'children' refers to all those who are under 18 years of age.*

### **VISION**

Our vision is

***To see every child under our care living as a committed disciple of Jesus.***

### **VALUES**

The following values underpin all that we do:

- All children should be viewed as belonging to the church family, as unique individuals;
- All children should be regarded as disciples of Jesus and encouraged to follow him from the outset;
- All children should be encouraged to ask questions and to develop their own personal relationship with God;
- We will work to a high standard and provide regular opportunities (at least twice a year) for team meetings and training;
- We will ensure that children are kept safe from harm while in our care;
- We will present a model of joyful, authentic discipleship;
- Our aim is to support (rather than substitute for) parents in their role of nurturing faith and encouraging discipleship in their children;
- Ministry to children should be seen as the responsibility of the whole church.

### **OBJECTIVES**

By the age of 18, each child will:

- Understand that God is their Father and calls them into relationship with him as sons and daughters – they will understand the nature of grace;
- Have a good overall knowledge of the whole Bible, and have tools for applying the Bible to their lives;
- Have been encouraged to develop their own understanding of, and relationship with God – through prayer, worship, the ministry of the HS etc;
- Understand the significance of baptism and have been encouraged to consider taking this step for themselves;
- Feel that they are part of the church family;
- Be confident in expressing their uniqueness and individuality;
- Be using their gifts and serving in the church in some capacity;
- Understand that they are called to be disciples of Jesus, joining with God in what he is doing in the world;

- See that following Jesus is relevant to their everyday lives;
- Have the confidence and discernment to know when and how to share their faith with others;
- Be seeking to understand and meet the needs of those less fortunate than themselves;
- Have an awareness of 'global mission'.

## **CURRICULUM**

There is value in having an overall 'shape'/direction to our work with children, without being overly prescriptive.

Three strands:

***Understanding*** (doctrine/teaching)

***Spirituality*** – relationship with God (prayer, worship, HS etc)

***Conduct & lifestyle, values & priorities*** etc

Woven into this is ***commitment*** – as they grow, children will be encouraged to go on committing themselves to God and trusting him.

There may be a tendency to focus on Understanding, especially within a 'teaching' model. So it will be important to keep the other strands in mind, perhaps with occasional series on 'prayer' or 'worship'. It will also be important for leaders to share from their own experience (and that of others), so that the children have a rounded view of discipleship.

A broad curriculum could look like this:

**Tiddlywinks** – introduce basic concepts of God, creation etc – also prayer and worship – being kind and helping others

**Kidz 1** – introduction to the Bible – children learn how to handle their Bibles – use key stories, based around framework of church year (OT/gospels/NT) – Storyteller Bible? Open the Book? – continue to explore spirituality and basic application

**Kidz 2** - overview of the 'Big Story', helping children to see how things connect together, still using the church year framework ... - spirituality and application

**Underground** – focus on discipleship – looking particularly at Jesus? Ethical issues, questions of faith etc. Opportunities for serving. Times of prayer and worship etc (perhaps with other churches?).

## **REVIEW**

This framework will be reviewed at least annually