

## The Preschool Ministry and Sunday Morning

This document is meant to be a helpful guide by providing questions and answers concerning Sunday morning activities of the Preschool Ministry. It is meant to address some of our convictions, expectations, and activities of a common Sunday morning.

### What is the goal of the Preschool Ministry?

First Irving Preschool exists to equip and assist parents in the discipleship of their children for the glory of God.

This means that we view our ministry on campus as a supplement to the discipleship that should be occurring in the home. Our responsibility is to come alongside parents to equip and train them in how to disciple their children in the fear of the Lord.

### Who does the Preschool Ministry serve?

The Preschool Ministry serves parents and their preschoolers from Birth through PreK. Preschool Ministry is available during 9:30 AM and 10:45 AM.

### What does class time look for a Preschooler?

**For Babies:** Babies are cared for by our loving volunteers in well-appointed nursery rooms. Our rooms are equipped with cribs, swings, bouncers, crawling mats, and walkers. We believe children are never young to begin learning of Jesus Christ. Gospel-rich books are available to be read to the babies and we often play music from our Corporate Worship Playlist.

**For Walkers – PreK:** Once babies begin walking, they are placed in an age-appropriate class and begin our Sunday morning bible study time. Each hour begins with free-time play allowing preschoolers to engage with a variety of hands-on activities related to our bible lesson. Teaching time consists of a recap of the previous week's lesson, an active story opener, bible lesson and main truth. We close by practicing our memory verse and listening/singing to the corporate worship hymn we are currently learning.

### What curriculum is used by the ministry?

We use the Jesus Storybook Bible. Our curriculum plan for the entire year is available to view at [firstirving.org/preschool](http://firstirving.org/preschool)



## Why did you choose the Jesus Storybook Bible Curriculum?

- **First, the curriculum makes God the main character of each story.** Our desire is to read and teach the Bible to our preschoolers with the idea that God has given us His Word so we might know him and His saving acts.
- **Second, the curriculum maintains the harmony and unity of the Bible.** From Genesis to Revelation, each story and section is connected together to teach us about how God would provide a Seed that would crush the head of the serpent to reconcile men and women back to Himself. This curriculum makes Jesus the key to understanding both the Old and New Testaments.
- **Third, we can create resources for use in the home.** Our desire as a ministry is to supplement the discipleship that should be occurring in the home. This curriculum helps us to encourage families that are newer to the concept of family worship to begin its practice with a curriculum that we can create helpful additional resources that are accessible in the home.

## Who will be serving in the classroom with my Preschooler?

Each volunteer is a carefully screened church member having completed our Preschool Ministry Volunteer onboarding. Each volunteer completes an application, background check, Ministry Safe, and in-person interview before being considered as a Preschool Volunteer. Only Preschool Volunteers who have completed this process are allowed in classrooms. Two volunteers must be present in the classroom.

## What is your diapering and restroom policy for Preschoolers?

Only women are allowed to attend to diaper and restroom needs for preschoolers. Infants are changed according to our diaper changing policies on the changing table located in each room. The diaper changing station is sanitized after each use.

Preschoolers who are potty trained use the restroom located in each classroom under the supervision of the volunteers. Help is given as needed or requested by the preschooler.

## What is your snack policy?

**Babies:** Babies (birth to walkers) are only given snacks that are brought from home. This ensures we do not unknowingly introduce a new food to a baby. If your baby is not yet walking, we ask that you kindly pack all necessary bottles and snacks for their time with us.

**Walkers – PreK:** We provide five options for snacks which are rotated each week. We serve the following: Ritz crackers, Vanilla Wafers, Goldfish, Cheez-Its, Animal Crackers or Veggie Straws (gluten-free option). This ensures we are not introducing a new food item to a preschooler. Occasionally, we will offer a “special snack” that corresponds with our Bible



lesson. In the event we are offering a special snack, there will be an allergy alert sign located on the door of each classroom. In addition, a sign is posted in each classroom for children with known allergies to alert volunteers.

## How do I get ready to visit?

First, we would encourage you to prepare your preschooler to gather with the church on Sunday. There are practical things you can do, like set aside their clothes and breakfast options to avoid a hectic morning. But there are also spiritual components to consider, like praying together as a family in preparation of Sunday Worship.

Second, we do have a check-in process, so if you are visiting for the first time, plan to arrive 10-15 minutes early if you plan for your preschooler to attend Preschool Ministry.

Third, if you have any questions, you are free to contact our staff at [firstirving.org/preschool](http://firstirving.org/preschool)

**Babies:** Please label all items you are bringing with your baby. This includes pacifiers, bottles, cups, or burp cloths. This ensures your baby's belongings remain with them. Plan to pack enough snacks, bottles, and diapers for use during their time with us. Please provide a change of clothes for your baby in case their clothing becomes soiled.

**Pre-potty Trained Preschoolers:** Please pack adequate diapers or pullups for their time with us. Please provide a change of clothes for your preschooler in case their clothing becomes soiled. Please label all items, including your preschooler's backpack and sippy cup, with your child's name.

**Potty Trained Preschoolers:** Please label all items, including backpacks and sippy cups, with your child's name. You are encouraged to pack an extra change of clothes in case of any accidents.

