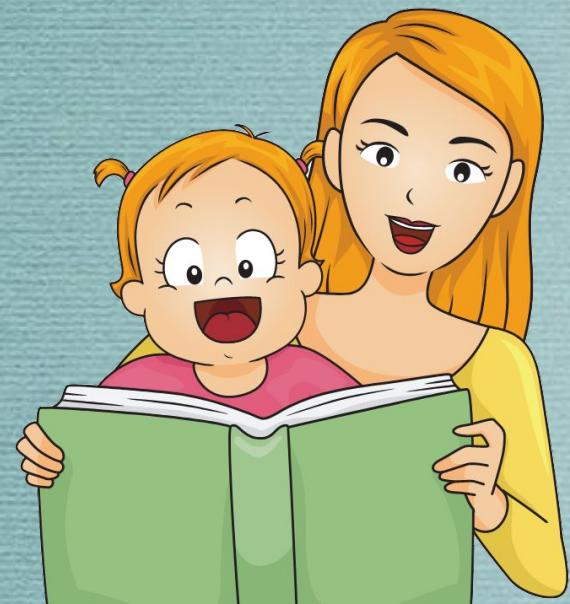


# Discipleship in the Nursery: Shepherding the Littlest



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“But Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.’”

Matthew 19:14

# What is a Nursery Ministry and what is its purpose?

- ❖ A safe space for our little ones to enable parents to be able to attend and participate in worship service and Sunday school classes
- ❖ Not merely childcare
  - Nursery children are Covenant children, even our youngest infant
  - Partner with parents to make disciples of our Covenant children
  - The first introduction of discipleship of our Covenant families
    - Disciple our children from day one
    - Pointing our children to Jesus

# Importance of Nursery Environment

- ❖ Welcoming
  - Often the place first impressions are made
- ❖ Safety & Security
  - Policies & Procedures
  - Child Protection Policy

# Partnering with Parents

- ❖ Parents are the first line of discipleship to their children
- ❖ We, the covenant church family, come alongside them for support and encouragement
- ❖ Open communication between parents and nursery ministry
  - What are their children learning in church
  - How can we help them in daily life

# What Discipleship in the Nursery Looks Like

- ❖ Caring for children in basic ways
- ❖ Praying with children
- ❖ Praying for children
  - Each child should hear their name in a prayer at least once every time they are in your care
- ❖ Reading to the children
- ❖ Use words of our faith to instill into their vocabulary: God, Jesus, Bible, pray, love, forgive
- ❖ Bible curriculum in lesson/story/circle time

# How the Nursery Connects to Children's Ministry and Church

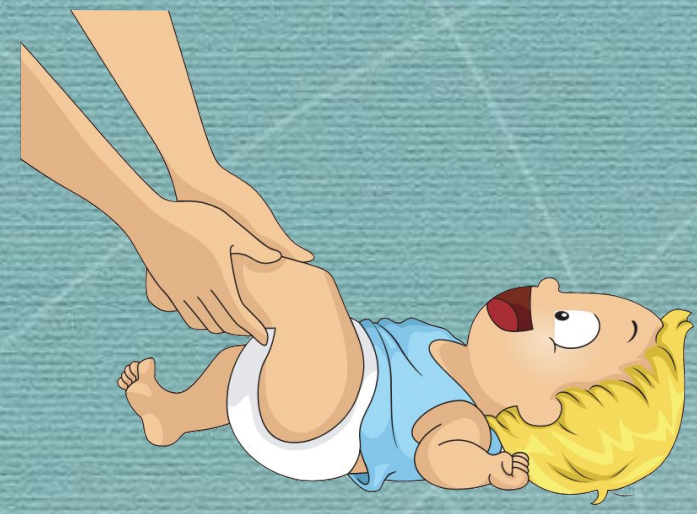
- ❖ Greeting and gathering information of new families
- ❖ Be sure to include the Nursery in church tours of new families with and without littles
- ❖ Celebrate milestones
  - Births
  - Baptisms
- ❖ Connecting flow of curriculum and routine
- ❖ Coordinating Nursery activities with Children's Ministry activities - examples:
  - Vacation Bible School
    - How can you minister to the little ones during VBS?
  - Parents'/Kids' Night Out
    - We do this quarterly with Nursery, Children's, and Youth Ministries teaming up together

# Special Event Ideas

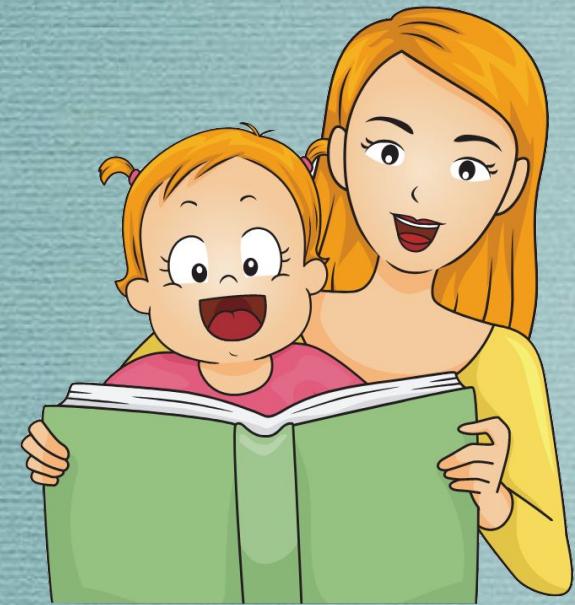


## DADDY & ME Toddler Treehouse





# Thank you!



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