

## A Letter to Parents and Guardians

Greetings,

Here at Citizens, we know that a church for all people includes all ages. Children are a part of the body too! In a sense, they are the closest unreached people group we will rub shoulders with, every single day. So, the important question becomes, how do we teach our children about who God is and prepare them to become a part of the church?



### ***A prayer for our parents***

It is our prayer at Citizens Akron that every parent views parenting as synonymous with discipleship. We define discipleship as “increasingly submitting all of life under the lordship of Jesus.” Children will learn the most from their dads and moms in how to navigate life and how to view the world in light of life’s biggest questions. Our time with your children is a small fraction of the time you will have to impact their hearts, so any program Citizens provides on a Sunday morning should be viewed as supplemental. Given that, we want to help you as you embrace the role of being the most significant spiritual influence on the children God has chosen to entrust you with during this season. Please view the resources at the end of this letter for tools in fleshing the gospel out into all of life for your family and Village (we hope you are already a part of one).

### ***A word about children and inclusion in the Celebration Service***

As a parent, and the main spiritual leader of your children, we leave the decision to you on what age you want them to join the service. For children to feel like they belong and are a valued part of our church body, we believe they should be integrated into the service at an early age. Our suggestion is somewhere around 2nd or 3rd grade. Before children integrate into the service, it is a parent’s responsibility to prepare them. Setting an expectation of how they listen and engage should come from those who regularly discipline them. If your child is distracting others and not ready to participate, we hope, out of respect for the other worshipping members, you will remove them from the sanctuary. When children are at an age that they can make a decision to follow Christ on their own, we invite them to also begin participating in communion. Communion is meant for the believers and is a reminder of a commitment made by an individual. Please take many opportunities to teach your child what communion is, as they witness and ask questions.

## **Check-in/out System**

Drop off for children will begin at 10:00 A.M.

When dropping off your child, you will both receive a wristband with matching numbers. Please keep yours until you pick up your child. The volunteer will match the numbers to you child before you can pick them up.

Sometimes we may serve a snack to the children. We record allergies that any children have upon check-in and will prepare accordingly.

## **Final Word**

We view it a privilege to be stewards of the time we have with your children. As your children learn and grow within Citizens, we truly desire that they would look back upon those years and reflect on how they saw, and experienced, the people of the church *center their life on the **Gospel**, live life together as a **Family**, engage in the **Mission** of God wherever they are, and have a love **For All People**.*

All for Him,  
Carl Olson

## Citizens Kids — Recommended Resources

- *The Biggest Story* by Kevin DeYoung
- *Old Story New* by Marty Machowski
- *Long Story Short* by Marty Machowski
- *The Ology: Ancient Truths, Ever New* by Marty Machowski
- *The Big Picture Story Bible* by David Helm
- *The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name* by Sally Lloyd-Jones
- *The Story of God for Kids* by Michael Novelli and Caesar Kalinowski
- [www.thebibleproject.com](http://www.thebibleproject.com)
- *Give Them Grace: Dazzling Your Kids With the Love of Jesus* by Elyse Fitzpatrick
- *Parenting: Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family* by Paul Tripp