



I am so excited to be overseeing youth and family ministries and so honored that you've entrusted me with overseeing the discipleship of your children in our church. As a parent of young children, I see the incredible power of discipleship in my own children's lives and that includes the influence of so many of you in our congregation. Parents, you have a huge role in discipling your children, and as parents, we need to be discipled as well, myself included as we lean on Christ to equip us as we lead our families. This is something I am stepping into with anticipation, leaning on the Lord as I walk alongside parents, and oversee children's discipleship in our church (as well as continuing with youth discipleship)

I've been formulating a plan of discipleship from ages 0-18, where children and youth can continually grow layer by layer in their faith as they grow up in our church community.

One of the first things we are implementing is teaching the overall story of scripture chronologically from Genesis to Revelation and showing how all of scripture points to Jesus. I know this is something I didn't understand going through church programs as a kid, but later in life it's been so foundational to how I understand scripture and encounter Jesus personally in my life. The curriculum we found which fits this vision is called the Gospel project, which is what we will be going through with our Sunday morning kids ministry.

Second, our vision is to see Tuesday kids night fit the same theme and vision as our Sunday morning kids discipleship. So, our Tuesday nights will be following the same chronological study through the Bible as Sunday morning, however where Sundays will focus on teaching through the story of the Bible. Tuesday nights will take the same scripture but focus on applying a spiritual discipline that correlates to the Sunday lesson. For example, the first lesson on Sunday teaches about Creation and how it connects to Christ. On Tuesday the lesson is on the Spiritual discipline of rest from day 7 of creation, and the application of why and how we can practice rest.

Our vision is to create a unified ministry from ages 0-18, and the names of our ministries and theme will reflect this as well.

Our youth ministry is called befree youth, BeFree based on the passage from John 8:36 - So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

We want our youth and children to find freedom in Christ, freedom from sin, freedom to become who God created them to be, and freedom to worship in our church community. BeFree also fits our greater church vision as it also stands for Brooks Evangelical Free Church. So, our children's ministry will follow suite. Befree kids will be the name of our Sunday morning kids ministry and befree kids night, or just kids night for short will be our Tuesday night kids ministry.

If you would like to be part of our vision and our incredible church in this powerful way, first pray about it, then don't hesitate to come talk with me about where you could fit! Thank you for caring about our children and youth, and I invite you to pray for them along with their parents as we take part in discipleship together. I'm so excited for what Jesus has in store!

Pastor Josiah