

BBC Sunday School Program?

School material to be strongly gospel orientated. It is a time not to entertain, but to instruct their minds.

In previous decades the idea has emerged in Christian circles that the church has the primary responsibility for the spiritual training of children. Sadly, many Christian parents have relinquished their responsibility and left it entirely for the church. However, such a practice finds no justification in Scripture. God has constituted Christian parents to be the primary instructors of their children (Gen.18:19; Deut.6:6-9; Psalm 78:5-7; Eph.6:4). BBC seeks to be sensitive to that priority of responsibility, whilst not ignoring it's secondary responsibility.

We desire to have a Sunday School teaching program that encourages parents to fulfil their God-given role and be the main teachers of their children in the context of their home. In particular, we want to assist Christian fathers to take the lead in the instruction of their children.

In order to incorporate the primary responsibility of Christian parents with BBC's secondary role in 'feeding the lambs' and proclaiming the gospel, we have designed a home Bible reading schedule, upon which the Sunday School lesson is based. We encourage our parents to read these verses to their children and teach them at home during the week, so that when they come to their lesson on the Lord's Day the teacher will basically be revising what the parents, as the primary teachers, have already taught in the context of the home. We also provide children's catechism questions and memory verses for learning in the family, which is revisited during their Sunday School lesson.

In Summary

We love children and desire their salvation.
Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me and do not forbid them, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 19:14

For clarification or further information on any of the points in this brochure please speak with one of the BBC elders.

Berean Bible Church is an independent, evangelical congregation that adheres to the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith.

Berean Bible Church

3 Three Important Questions

Understanding BBC's Children's Ministry

Where is the BBC Childrens' Church?

What about babies & little ones?

What about the Sunday School Program?

"Let the little children come to Me and do not forbid them." Matt. 19:14

As a congregation we are blessed to have children among us and we love each one of them. So what do we have for them? Parents (novel concept)! God's plan for children's ministry is parents and church ministry. So what does that look like at BBC? We would like to answer that by raising the three questions in this brochure

Where is the BBC "Children's Church"?

It is common in many churches today that during the public worship service the children are taken out for their own program. Many have called such a ministry, 'Children's Church.' This is a practice that Berean Bible Church has chosen not to adopt, not because we are trying to be old-fashioned, but simply that we want to be guided by the Word of God. We believe there are some important Biblical principles that direct us in considering this issue.

In brief, we're persuaded the best place for our children to be is under the preached Word. That is, to be part of all of our public worship service and not just the singing! We want our children under the Word of God when it is publicly read (1 Tim.4:13) and proclaimed (2 Tim.4:2-4).

When we open our Bibles we believe we find a pattern of conduct that supports this practice. Notice the presence of children in the following passages: Deut.31:12; Josh.8:35; 2 Chron.20:13; Neh.8:2-3. If such a practice was appropriate and achievable in Moses', Joshua's, Jehoshaphat's and Ezra's day, then why should we think our day is so unique? Are our children any different to those in former generations?

Consider also, that after the New Testament letters were written, they were then circulated among the churches and read to the congregations (Col.4:16; Rev.2-3). Paul expected that when his letters were read to the gathered people of

God, that children would be physically present in those assemblies, particularly those with understanding – for he specifically addressed them (Eph.6:1; Col.3:20).

Furthermore, we desire our children to be saved under the preached Word. "It pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe" (1 Cor.1:21).

When we as a local church gather for public worship, we want to do so as families, old and young together - indeed we aspire to be a local church family, made up of children, teenagers, parents, singles, older ones and widows. We want all voices blending in praise (Psalm 148:12), all hearts bowed in prayer, all ears hearing God through His Word.

We are persuaded that these are clear Biblical reasons why our children should remain with us for our entire worship service.

What About Babies & Little Children?

We believe that encouraging families to stay together during the worship service must also be tempered with a sensitivity and consideration of others (Matt.7:12; Phil.2:4), especially when the little ones become restless and noisy. When we gather together into God's special presence for worship (Matt.18:20; Rev.2:1c) it is a unique context of reverence that ought to be guarded with care (Heb.12:28-29).

On those occasions when little ones are vocal, we ask our parents to be conscious of how easily distracting this can be for others (especially those not used to the normal activity of young children). Surely such thoughtfulness of others is an outworking of Christian love (1 Cor.10:24). Therefore on a very practical level and in order to assist us in seeking to maintain a context of reverence in worship, we ask parents with vocal babies and restless little ones to make

use of the crèche facilities or the extra space available in the adjacent hall where a video relay is available. We encourage parents with young children to arrive at the service early in order to secure their seating close to the front door. All this will help minimise potential disturbance.

We are convinced that the battle to have our children respect the sanctity of the worship time with God's people is largely won or lost in the family home. We therefore urge Christian parents to begin the training process for their children to sit quietly and still in church by daily conducting family worship in their home. Experience has taught us that those parents who take seriously their responsibility to train their children in these ways at home, have minimal problems with their children in the context of the worship service. We also understand that from time to time, parents may need to temporarily remove their young one in order to appropriately correct and instruct them.

What About the Sunday School Program?

As a church we also believe it is legitimate and prudent to have Bible classes, separate from the public worship service, to teach the Word of God and proclaim the gospel at the appropriate level of understanding.

Our Lord Jesus said to the Apostle Peter, "Feed my lambs" (John 21:15). He said in Mark 16, we are "to preach the gospel to every creature." Jesus would have us proclaim the good news not just to adults, but also to young children, even our own children, for surely they are part of 'every creature' that Jesus mentions. In particular, we believe that having classes for younger children helps us to preach the gospel on their level, in a more personal and one-to-one way. With this in mind we want our Sunday