

**PARENT**

**HAND  
BOOK**

## ***HEY THERE!***

We know being a parent is one of the hardest jobs on the planet, but it's also the greatest thing you will ever do.

We know your job isn't always easy, but here's what we want you to know: we're here to help in any way we can. We may be a children's ministry, but that doesn't mean kids are the only people we care about. We care about you too!

No matter how connected (or not connected) you are with our church, this Parent Handbook will show you some of the ways we're trying to care for your kid and serve you at the same time.

Thanks for letting us be another voice in the life of your child. Your trust and partnership means a lot to us.

We can't wait to see what this year has in store!



# ***WHAT'S INSIDE***

## **THE BASICS**

Our Staff.....	1
Our Ministry.....	2
Our Big Win .....	3
Discipling Students .....	5
Engaging with Small Group Leaders .....	6
Contact Us .....	7



# THE BASICS

## OUR STAFF



**Maria Karesa**  
Kids Lead  
maria@np.church



**Faith Anderson**  
Preschool Lead  
faith@np.church



**John Pangan**  
Elementary Lead  
john@np.church



**Tori Baltgailis**  
Mid-Week Program Coordinator  
tori@np.church



**Ashley Commandeur**  
Volunteer Coordinator  
ashley@np.church

So that's us! Let us know if there's anything you ever need.  
We're here to help!



## OUR MINISTRY

### OUR WEEKLY PROGRAMS

#### **ANTHEM PRESCHOOL | SUNDAYS AT 9:30AM, 11:00AM AND 12:30PM**

During the Sunday morning services, we offer preschool and nursery ministry.

#### **ANTHEM KIDS | SUNDAYS AT 9:30AM, 11:00AM AND 12:30PM**

Our children's ministry meets for fun, kid-friendly worship services during the Sunday morning services.

### OUR ENVIRONMENTS

There are three kinds of environments for kids in our ministry. Each one is designed to strategically invite kids and families on a journey into deeper relationships with their peers, our adult volunteers, and Jesus, and each one is designed with every kid in mind — the kids who've grown up in church and the first-time visitors too.

**EVENTS:** Throughout the year, we as the church host several big events designed to help kids connect with each other, with their families, with their church family and surrounding community. These events are hosted by the entire church staff. This a great opportunity to bring friends and/or families who may not have a relationship with Jesus.

**MID-WEEK PROGRAMS:** This year, we are launching mid-week programs that will happen on (Wednesday/Thursday) every single week. They're designed to help kids grow spiritually in four key areas. (We'll get to those in a minute.)

**SMALL GROUP:** Small groups are the most important part of what we do. They happen every week in all our programs and are designed to connect every kid with a consistent trustworthy adult and community of their peers.

## OUR BIG WIN

It's hard sometimes to know when you're winning in children's ministry, you know? Like, is anything we're teaching actually sinking in? Are kids really growing in their faith? That's why we decided to go ahead and define the big win for our ministry. It's the one thing that we, as a ministry team, want to achieve. It's the goal we want to keep in mind at all times. And it's what motivates and guides everything we do. It goes like this . . .

### **REAL HOPE NEW LIFE LASTING PURPOSE**

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#### **REAL HOPE**

Knowing who Jesus is and having a strong foundation.

#### **NEW LIFE**

Taking a step towards owning their faith. Now, we say "taking a step" for a reason. It's because there's no finish line or certificate of completion when it comes to spiritual growth. Instead, spiritual growth is a journey (a life-long journey) and no two journeys are identical. We win anytime we see a kid take a single step closer to owning their faith.

#### **LASTING PURPOSE**

Owning their faith. What, exactly, does it look like for a kid to own their faith? Well, we believe there are four things that both lead to, and are a result of, spiritual growth. We call these four things our four spiritual habits.

1. **SPEND TIME WITH GOD:** This is an obvious one, right? Sometimes it's the only spiritual habit we can name. After all, isn't "growing spiritually" synonymous with "spending time with God"? Well, not exactly, but it's still pretty important. After all, if kids are ever going to make their faith their own, they've got to start spending time with God on their own. It means opening the Bible on their own, having conversations with God on their own, and discovering how they best connect with God through worship on their own.
2. **SPEND TIME WITH OTHERS:** Engaging in healthy community can, and should, be a spiritual habit we help our kids develop. But "healthy community" doesn't just mean hanging out with Christians. This spiritual habit is about growing in Christlike relationships with everyone.
3. **USE THEIR GIFTS:** Kids need to know that God made them unique, and special, and with really specific gifts, talents, passions, and resources. Then they need to use those gifts to love God, love others, and influence the world around them. Because when kids begin to discover who God made them to be, and then use their unique identity to love both God and others, they grow.
4. **SHARE THEIR STORY:** Kids need to learn how to talk about God. Sharing your story is the spiritual habit of making faith a regular, every day, go-to topic of conversation in our lives. Because when we talk about God and His place in our story (or, more accurately, our place in His story), it helps us believe, helps us understand, and helps us take ownership of our own faith.

We count it as a win whenever a kid takes a step toward owning their faith by practicing one, or maybe even all four, of these spiritual habits.

## DISCIPLING CHILDREN

Do you know the last thing that Jesus said to His followers while he was on earth? Some people call it The Great Commission: “Go and make disciples.” Duplicate yourselves. Go and make more of you. Take your faith and pass it on to someone else. **When we talk about helping kids begin to own their faith, we’re really just talking about discipleship.** So, what is discipleship? Here are three thoughts . . .

### DISCIPLESHIP IS ABOUT LIVING, NOT LEARNING

Rather than only asking, “What can we teach a kid about God?” we ask, “How can we help a kid live out their faith?” It’s not just about teaching them about Jesus — it’s about modeling what faith in Jesus looks like. That’s why relationships are such a key part of our ministry. Because discipleship isn’t taught in a classroom — it’s modeled in everyday life.

### DISCIPLESHIP HAPPENS IN COMMUNITY

In the Gospels, you don’t really see Jesus doing one-on-one discipleship. That’s because discipleship happens best in a community of people. That’s why we focus so much energy on getting kids plugged into consistent small groups, why we emphasize the role of parents and families, and why we surround kids with tons of Jesus followers. Because discipleship takes all of us!

### DISCIPLESHIP IS A PROCESS

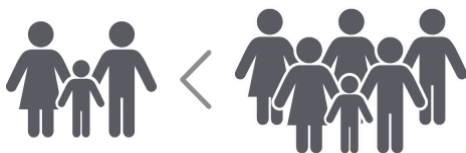
Discipleship is never really complete because learning to live out our faith is a life-long process. And because we know discipleship takes time, we want to put people in the lives of kids who are in it for the long-haul. That’s why our small group leaders don’t bail on their groups after a few months but stick with them for the whole year — because it’s a process.



## ENGAGING WITH SMALL GROUP LEADERS

As a parent, you are making a huge impact in your kid's life. The impact you're making is far more significant than any impact we, their church, could ever hope to make. You are the most important voice in your kid's life, both now and for a lifetime.

But in all of our time caring for kids, we've learned something really important. (We drew a picture to help you remember it.) We believe that, in every kid's life, this is true: your best chance at influencing your kid's faith and future is to recruit other adults to influence them with you.



Dr. Kara E. Powell and Dr. Chap Clark, authors of *Sticky Faith*, encourage parents to “develop a sticky web of relationships” for their kids. We love that idea!

Especially during the childhood years, when you're laying a foundation for your kid's future faith and choices, we want to come alongside you by creating a pool of trustworthy adults who can help you influence your kid.

That's why our ministry is so committed to small groups. Small groups are about more than just good discussions. Small groups exist to connect your kid with an adult you can trust so you can better influence their faith and future.

So, this year, engage with your kid's small group leader. They can be a powerful ally for you and your family!

# CONTACT US

## LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

This year, we'd love to stay in conversation with you. Here are a few ways we're hoping we can keep the lines of communication open . . .

### EMAIL

We send an email just for parents every month. It's packed with information on our ministry and on how to be a more awesome parent of your kid. Subscribe at [www.np.church/kids](http://www.np.church/kids)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

We post photos, videos, and updates from our ministry each week. Follow along at . . .

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/anthemkidsyeg](http://www.facebook.com/anthemkidsyeg)

**INSTAGRAM:** [www.instagram.com/anthemkyeg/](http://www.instagram.com/anthemkyeg/)

**YOUTUBE:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCab4Ilk2QX0-vaSzbGVGYcQ>

### DISCUSSION GROUPS

Throughout the year, we'll host a Discussion Group or two for parents. If you'd like an invitation, let us know!