

along the way

JANUARY 2026

Along The Way is a monthly resource for families to nurture faith by connecting church and home. The ideas shared are taken from the stories the kids are exploring at church on Sundays this month.



BLESS

Wee Ones (Birth -3 Years)

Jesus knows you,
Jesus loves you,
And He is always with you.

Loft (4-6 years)

God made you, God loves you, God blesses you and God is with you.

Wonderground (1st-5th)

You are prized and precious, liked and loved, capable and curious, blessed to be a blessing, a child of God and treasure in our family.

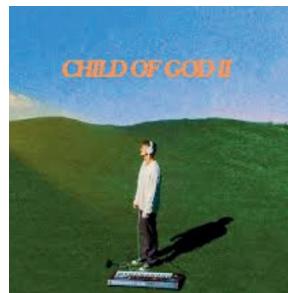
Go in God's love.



SING

Forrest Frank songs:

Some of our favorites...
Thank You
Up!
Your Way's Better
Amen
Never Get Used to This
Lemonade



READ

Wee Ones (1-3 yrs)

Read Luke 2:22-40 about when Baby Jesus visited Simeon and Anna at the temple.

Loft (4-6 yrs)

Read Luke 2:41-52 about when boy Jesus visited the temple.

Wonderground (1st-5th)

Read
Mark 3:31-35
John 15:13-15
John 10:14



TALK

Wee Ones (1-3 yrs)

I wonder if Jesus was excited to go on a trip with his family to the temple. If you could go on a trip, where would you like to go?

Loft (4-6 yrs)

When Jesus was a kid, what do you think he liked to do? Do you think he liked playing with his brothers and sisters?

Wonderground (1st-5th)

What do these passages tell you about Jesus? If you could use one word to describe Jesus, what would it be?



PRAY

Opening Door Prayer

Gather at the front door of your home. Open the door and pray: This is a new day that's never been before.

This is a new year... the opening door.

We welcome you Jesus.

We welcome you in.
Into our neighborhood, our house, our family, our friendships, our work & our play,

Come into our thoughts and our hearts.

We find joy in your coming.
We open the door.

Amen

(adapted from Northumbria Community)



jacob's well
a church in midtown

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. DEUTERONOMY 6:6-8

Playgroup
for babes-5 year
olds & their parents

Tuesdays
9:30-11:30 am

Serve
Together:
Avenue of Life
Jan 10
8:30-10:30 am

Club 5.0
for 5th graders
Tuesdays
Jan 13 & 27
6:30-8 pm

Anxious
Generation
Workshop
Tuesdays
Jan 27-Feb 10
6:30-8 pm

CREATING A FAMILY CULTURE OF SERVICE

Jacob' Well Justice Coordinator, Emily Rietema, wrote this article for Youthfront Family!

Often we think of service as something to “add on” a few times a year—dropping off canned goods at Thanksgiving, or volunteering at Christmas. While those acts matter, they don’t necessarily shape our children into people who see service as part of everyday discipleship. A culture of service goes deeper. It means serving together becomes part of your family’s identity, woven into rhythms and rituals of life and relationships.

When we serve as a family, we are joining in God’s kingdom work—the ongoing story of love, reconciliation, and renewal that Jesus invites us into. Service isn’t only about helping others; it’s about participating in the love of God that is already present and at work in the world.

An important part of family service is remembering that it’s not one-directional. Too often, service is framed as us giving to those who lack. But the kingdom of God reveals something different: all people are made in God’s image, with gifts to share. Instead of focusing on what’s missing, we ask: What strengths, gifts, and resources are already present here? This mirrors the truth that God’s Spirit is already alive in every neighborhood. For example, instead of saying, “We’re going to feed people who are hungry,” say: “We’re going to share a meal with neighbors. God will be with us at the table.” Or, instead of, “We’re helping kids who don’t have much,” try, “We’re going to play, laugh, and learn with new friends.”

Families often discover that they walk away with as much as they gave: a preschooler learns new words in Spanish from a new friend; an elementary child learns soccer tricks from refugee kids; a teen discovers shared music tastes with someone they served alongside.

When kids grow up seeing service not as charity but as part of community, they learn that they are not rescuers—they are neighbors. They discover that every person has dignity and something to offer. And they begin to understand that the kingdom of God is revealed most fully when we come together across differences, each giving and receiving, each learning from the other.

Read the full article at: youthfront.com/creating-a-family-culture-of-service

ANXIOUS GENERATION WORKSHOP

Join us to explore the connection between mental health, smart phones and social media. Led by Kim Whitman, we will meet on Tuesdays January 27, February 3 and February 10 from 6:30-8:00 pm. Sign up at the events tab at jacobswellchurch.org. Childcare is available for those who sign up.



CONNECT WITH US

Follow us on Instagram @jwkidskc
For general info & event sign-ups, visit
our website:
jacobswellchurch.org/connect/kids-community