

GROW

VIRTUAL

TRAINING IN CHILDREN'S DISCIPLESHIP

Launching August 7, 2026



Reflecting the Characteristics of the Covenant

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cdmChildren's
MINISTRY



The Loving God Who Wants To Be with His Children

When we truly enjoy being with children, we show them a God who wants to be with them. This helps them come to know and love Him. God promises to stay with His people, calls them His children, and has accomplished everything needed to be with them forever. Since we are made in His image, we are meant to love Him and be with Him. This should shape how we teach and live together.



Sue Jakes serves as a children's ministry ambassador for the Committee on Discipleship Ministries. She earned a master's degree in education and served as the first Children's Ministry Coordinator for the PCA and as the Children's Ministry Director at Westminster PCA in Atlanta and Covenant PCA in Fayetteville, GA. She is presently revising curriculum for Great Commission Publications and serving on the board of Engaging Disability with the Gospel. Sue is co-author of *Heart of the Home*, a Bible study ministry for moms; *Teach Me to Worship*, CDM's first children's church online curriculum; *Something's About to Happen in Jerusalem*, an Easter family devotional; and has multiple podcasts and blogs at children.pcacdm.org, a primary resource for teachers in the local church. She is the mother of four, grandmother of 13, and resides in Atlanta, Georgia.



Reflecting the Characteristics of the Covenant



Workshops: Reflecting the Characteristics of the Covenant

God's Covenant is Eternally Secure

God's Covenant is Relational

God's Covenant is Familial

God's Covenant is Corporate

God's Covenant is Generational

God's Covenant is Compassionate

God's Covenant is Integrative

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God's Covenant is Eternally Secure

God Has Made His Promises Eternally Secure

Children's ministry is a joyful opportunity to show children God's love and His work in their lives from the very beginning. By teaching the Bible's big story in memorable ways, we help them see God's plan of redemption. As we highlight His goodness, faithfulness, and promises, we build a strong faith foundation. Most importantly, children learn their hope rests not in themselves, but in God's secure and gracious promises.



B.A. Snider has more than 20 years' experience as a children's director in PCA churches ranging in size from 200 to 4,000 but finds her passion is the same no matter how many children she's serving or teaching about Jesus. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Tennessee and taught college until the Lord called her to seminary and full-time ministry. She graduated with a master's degree in Christian Education from Columbia International University. Speaking at conferences, consulting with leadership, and training teachers brought her to [Great Commission Publications](#) in 2014 as the Children's Ministry Consultant and Marketing Director.





God's Covenant is Relational

Christ-centered Relationships with God and Others

God's Covenantal Promises are throughout God's Word! In Genesis 12, we see God's call to Abram, which reveals a relational God who invites us into covenant with Him and others. In this workshop we will discover how prayer, our identity as image bearers, and practices like grace, forgiveness, and mentorship shape healthy, Christ-centered relationships with God and others.



Jeanette C. Simpson serves as the Director of Children's Ministry at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, and is also a member of the PCA CDM Children's Ministry Leadership Team. Jeanette has led preschool and children's ministries for over two decades. She has an MDiv from LAMP Theological Seminary and is a CDM Children's Ministry Certification Program alum (2019). She is blessed to be married to her best friend and life-long ministry partner, Roger. Jeanette loves and lives by Colossians 3:17!





God's Covenant is Familial

Discipling Children in the Covenant Community

God's covenant people are a family, where children are nurtured in faith not only by parents but within the life of the whole body. While parents have a unique role in discipleship, they are not alone. This workshop will explore how the church shares responsibility for forming children through worship, teaching, and relationships, and how households are strengthened as they are rooted in and supported by the broader family of God.



Bethany Belue is on staff with CDM serving in various roles within Children's Ministry. Before coming on staff at CDM, she served as the Children's Director at Redeemer PCA in New York City and Oak Mountain PCA in Birmingham, AL. She currently lives in Mobile, AL with her husband, Dustin, who is the assistant pastor at Grace Community Church PCA. Bethany and Dustin love investing in the next generation from small children to young adults. Life is full with their 2 young children, Patterson and Neely.





God's Covenant is Corporate

The Communal Nature of the Covenant: Why It Changes How We Disciple Children

Let's explore the communal nature of God's covenant and how it reshapes our approach to children's ministry. Rather than focusing primarily on individual faith, we'll consider how Scripture presents children as members of the covenant community. Learn to articulate this vision, examine the impact of overemphasizing personal faith, and apply a more faithful, communal framework that treats children as covenant members.



Heather Dirkse serves as the Coordinator for Teach Us to Worship. She joined TUTW in 2024 as the creative assistant, contributing to the refresh of the children's worship curriculum and the development of new resources for churches and families. Heather has previously worked as an elementary and middle school teacher, a children's ministry coordinator, and a women's ministry coordinator. These roles have shaped her passion for helping the next generation grow in their love for the Lord and His church. She is grateful for the opportunity to support and strengthen churches as they seek to nurture in their children a lifelong connection to the covenant community of believers.





God's Covenant is Generational

Generation to Generation: Spiritual Formation from Womb to Tomb

The whole church community proclaims the work of the Lord for and with the next generation. This workshop equips participants to understand 1) how character forms developmentally and spiritually, 2) why the covenant community is God's primary classroom, and 3) how every generation (from the very young to the very old) shapes and is shaped by the whole Body of Christ. Our hope is that you leave with a practical framework for mobilizing your entire congregation as covenant ambassadors.



Rev. Zack Owens joined [Redeemer Jackson](#) as a college student shortly after she was planted in 2004. After 10 years of summer camp ministry, Zack joined Redeemer's staff as Director of Children's Ministry in 2014. Now as Assistant Pastor of Congregational Care, Zack serves the church and community through pastoral care, counseling, and visitation—equipping and encouraging mutual care for one another in the life and ministries of the church. Zack also provides oversight to the Children and Youth Ministries of Redeemer. He and his wife Kristen have three children: Alex, Jackson, and Ruthie.





God's Covenant is Compassionate

The Mission Minded Children's Ministry

Jesus instructs his people to go and make disciples of all nations! How can we help students and their families live on mission for Christ in their daily lives? This workshop will reflect on what happens when your Children's Ministry lives out the Great Commission through exploring practical ideas. Together we will unpack how you can help lead your Children's Ministry to be compassionate, prayerful, and mission minded both locally and globally.



Saralyn Tyler currently serves as the Director of Children's Ministry at Christ Church Toronto in Ontario, Canada. God has given Saralyn a passion for sharing the gospel with children, encouraging and supporting families, and in helping to encourage others serving in Children's Ministry. She has served in established churches, a church revitalization, and a church plant, in urban, inner-city, suburban, and remote rural areas. Saralyn has led Sunday school, mid-week clubs, summer camps and conferences. Saralyn is a CDM Alumnus from the Class of 2019.





God's Covenant is Integrative

God's Story is the Best Story

God's Story is the best story—one where His church, a covenant family of all ages, is uniquely woven together to glorify Him. This workshop explores how children are members of the body and how churches can live out intergenerational life in both Word and action. Through scripture and personal practical examples, we'll envision together what this looks like and take-a-way some ideas for to seeing that vision lived out.



Laura Tucker is the Children's Ministry Director at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, AL. Laura grew up in the church and spent many summers there and at camp preparing her for a children's ministry full of fun activities and time in God's Word. Laura served as the nursery director before her role over preschool and elementary students. She is married and has three children who keep her involved in volunteer ministry to the youth as well. She enjoys time at the lake, playing tennis and cheering on the Dawgs.



Reflecting the Characteristics of the Covenant



Sample Half-Day Schedule

- Keynote
- Read Reflecting the Covenant in Children's Ministry
- Workshop
- Reflection and Evaluation



Reflecting the Characteristics of the Covenant



Sample Full Day Schedule

First Session:

- Reading Reflection and Prayer
- Workshop
- Classroom Engagement Idea
- Keynote
- Reflection and Evaluation

Session Session:

- Brainstorm
- Workshop
- Discussion
- Workshop
- Prayer





**Teach Us
to Worship**



The Children's Ministry at CDM comes alongside churches by helping them pave the way for intergenerational connections in congregations that will strengthen the entire church. We equip churches through training, leadership development, online resources, and curriculum. Our hope is that church leadership, volunteers, and parents will be equipped and encouraged to disciple children, telling them the glorious deeds of the Lord (Psalm 78:4).