



# Children's Events

## Children's Leaders

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### C.R.O.S.S. KIDS SUMMER EVENTS FOR JULY

**Sunday, July 12 and 19 from 4:30-6:30pm**

**July 12:** Family Kickball Game and Tailgate-bring your food

for a tailgate and a friendly (probably more like competitive) game of Kickball with our families!

**July 19:** Camp Night-We are going to have a fun night of doing camp activities-singing, nature walk, cookout and more! This will help us get ready for Camp this month!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Every Sunday from 9:45-10:45am in various classrooms on the lower level**



We invite you to join us for Sunday School each Sunday morning as children split up into more age specific small groups and dive deeper into our monthly verse and themes. They have loving Sunday School teachers with awesome plans ready to go for them to help each child learn more about what plans God has for each of their lives. Our Little Explorers (2 and 3 year olds) are learning from the Little Bible Heroes. This month they will hear about The Faithful Servant and The Prodigal Son.

Nothing brings a family together—or stirs up some friendly drama—like a family game night! Just like in games, family life can have its own ups and downs, whether it's with our given or chosen families. In this 4-week series, kids will explore how Abraham's family navigated challenges and blessings while learning how we can care for our families, serve them well, and remember that we're all part of God's family. As they do, kids will learn that **we can believe God's promises, we can pray for our families, we can trust God to provide, and we're all welcome in God's family.**

### BIG IDEAS & BIBLE STORIES

1. **We can believe God's promises.** (God Calls Abram: Genesis 12:1-5, 13:1-18; Psalm 145:8-14)
2. **We can pray for our families.** (God Spares Lot's Family: Genesis 18:20-33, 19:15-29; Psalm 65:1-8)
3. **We can trust God to provide.** (Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac: Genesis 21:1-6, 22:1-14; Psalm 139:1-12)
4. **We're all welcome in God's family.** (Jacob and Esau: Genesis 25:19-34, 27:1-33; Romans 8:31-39)

### CHILDREN'S WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**Sunday, July 5, 12, 19 and 26 during the 11:00am service**

There are two worship opportunities for children during our 11:00am service. If there is a Children's Chat, all children will leave after that. If not, there will be a specific time where children will leave. Children age 4-2nd grade will go to Children's Church and children grades 3-5 will go to Kid's Worship. There will not be Children's Church on June 1 as we will stay in the Sanctuary and enjoy the message from the Youth!



## **LAUREL RIDGE CAMP OPPORTUNITIES**

It is not too late to get your child(ren) signed up for Summer Camp! We have an amazing group of children and counselors already signed up. The different summer camp opportunities for your child(ren) are below! There is a separate code for Pre-Junior and Junior camp so make sure to pay close attention to that below! Register at [www.laurelridge.org](http://www.laurelridge.org)

### **Laurel Ridge Summer Camps-**

**Pre-Junior** for children who just finished 1st-2nd Grade-July 24-26-code for Friedberg is 2026friedbergpj

**Junior Camp** for children who just finished 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade-July 26-August 1-code for Friedberg is 2026friedberg



### **July's verse to focus on will be:**

**"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love."**

**— Ephesians 5:1-2a (NIV)**

### **"Walking in the Way of Love"**

#### **Bible Verse:**

**"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love."**

**— Ephesians 5:1-2a (NIV)**

### **Monthly Theme: Love Like Jesus**

Children learn so much by watching the people around them. In the same way, God invites us to look at Him and learn how to love. When we follow God's example, we show kindness, patience, forgiveness, and care for others—not just with our words, but through our actions.



Walking in the way of love means choosing love in everyday moments: sharing a toy, helping a sibling, including someone who feels left out, saying "I'm sorry," or showing gratitude. God does not ask us to be perfect; He invites our families to grow together as we learn to love like He loves us.

### **Family Reading Plan for the Month**

#### **Week 1: God Loves Us First**

 Read: 1 John 4:9-11

**Talk About:** How does knowing God loves us help us love others?

#### **Family Activity:**

Make a "Love List." Write or draw ways your family can show love this month (helping, encouraging, sharing, praying, serving).

#### **Week 2: Love Is Kind**

 Read: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

**Talk About:** What does kindness look like at home?

#### **Family Activity:**

Have a "Kindness Challenge." Each day, choose one kind thing to do for someone else and celebrate the ways your family shares love.

### Week 3: Love Forgives

📖 Read: Colossians 3:13

**Talk About:** Why is forgiveness sometimes hard? How does God help us forgive?

#### Family Activity:

Create "Forgiveness Flowers." Write examples of forgiving and encouraging words on paper flowers and display them as a reminder.

### Week 4: Love Serves Others

📖 Read: Mark 10:45

**Talk About:** How did Jesus show love by serving others?

#### Family Activity:

Choose a simple family service project:

- Make cards for neighbors or friends
- Donate gently used toys or books
- Help someone in your community
- Do an extra chore without being asked

#### Family Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for loving us so much. Help our family follow Your example and walk in the way of love. Teach us to be kind, patient, forgiving, and helpful. Help us show Your love to the people around us every day. Amen.

#### Family Challenge for the Month

##### "Look for Love!"

At the end of each day, ask:

- Where did we see love today?
- How did we show love today?

\*\*\*Mark your calendars for the events the rest of this Summer! We cannot wait to see you all at Friedberg!

**June**

14th	5:00-8:00 pm	Family Cookout @ Midway Park
28th	4:30-6:30 pm	Game Night

**July**

12th	4:30-6:30 pm	Family Kickball Game & Tailgate
19th	4:30-6:30 pm	Camp Night

**August**

2nd	4:30-6:30 pm	Movie Night
9th	2:00 pm	W-S Dash Game (Family and Friends Welcome! We have reserved the Dash Pad for our group!)

**Additional Dates**

Jesus' Surprise Party VBS	.....	June 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> 6-8pm nightly
<i>(Pre-Registration opens Monday June 1st)</i>		
Pre-junior Camp @ Laurel Ridge	.....	July 24 <sup>th</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup>
Junior Camp @ Laurel Ridge	.....	July 26 <sup>th</sup> - August 1 <sup>st</sup>
Children's Lovefeast Practice	.....	Saturday August 15 <sup>th</sup> 10am - 1pm
Children's Lovefeast	.....	Sunday August 16 <sup>th</sup> during worship
Fall Family Kickoff	.....	September 13 <sup>th</sup> 4:30pm - 6:30 pm

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE CHILDREN OF FRIEDBERG...



## Jesus' Surprise Party

In June we had an amazing time as children and adults gathered together for "Jesus' Surprise Party! Below is an outline of what we did as well as some pictures of our fun together! Enjoy!

### **Monday:**

Jesus has unexpected grace for unexpected people!

Luke 5:32

"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

The Pharisees criticized Jesus for the people with whom He chose to feast. They expected God's Messiah to keep company with those in the religious establishment—not to dine with sinners and tax collectors. However, Jesus told them that He didn't come for the righteous, but for sinners.



### **Tuesday:**

Jesus wants us to share His unexpected grace with everyone!



Luke 14:11

"For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Jesus teaches us not to leverage parties or other social gatherings to our own advantage by assuming the most favorable seating positions or inviting guests who can benefit us in some way. Instead, he tells us how to practice humility and extend

grace to everybody.

### **Wednesday:**

God has unexpected grace for those who are far from him!

"For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." Luke 14:11

Jesus teaches us not to leverage parties or other social gatherings to our own advantage by assuming the most favorable seating positions or inviting guests who can benefit us in some way. Instead, he tells us how to practice humility and extend grace to everybody.



### **Thursday:**

God's grace is so surprising that it can be hard to deal with!

2 Corinthians 5:21

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

The Prodigal Son's brother had a hard time dealing with the unexpected generosity of his father's grace. The undeserving rebel got the party that the "good kid" felt he deserved. God's grace is so great, that it can seem unfair, and leave us to decide if we are going to sulk or join the party.

### **Some extra things to think about afterwards:**

Everyone is invited to the unexpected grace of Jesus.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Everyone's Invited!

When the host is snubbed by every one of his invited guests, he throws the doors open to whomever will come. Will you accept the invitation to join God's party, or will you be too preoccupied with lesser concerns? Everyone's invited, and that means you!



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"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in truth." 3 John 1:4