

KIA ORA

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## **Kia ora, and welcome to the resource hub for Baptist Children & Family Ministries!**

This booklet is designed to give you information about the resourcing and assistance that is available to you as you minister both with children and with families. We encourage you to visit the website—[www.baptistcfm.org.nz](http://www.baptistcfm.org.nz)—where there are a lot of resourcing ideas as well as inspiring articles to read, and videos to watch.

Please don't hesitate to contact your regional representative—see left page.

whānau tamariki



OUR  
STORY

**Recognising the importance of family within community life, many Baptist churches have ministries aimed at encouraging and supporting children and their families.**

**BCFM equips and supports churches so these ministries can be effective in bringing positive change to the church and their local communities.**

We can help in the following ways:

- We provide consultancy and advisory services on ministry and mission with children and families, encouraging it to be at the heart of a church's vision and values.
- We connect leaders and pastors with best practice examples and techniques.
- We offer training in all aspects

of ministry and mission, for both paid and voluntary leaders, along with networking and support.

- We provide cluster groups for learning, support and encouragement.
- We ensure that churches know how to engage in, and with their local community.
- We partner with parachurch organisations like Launchpad, Scripture Union and Messy Church to inspire current and fresh missional opportunities
- We provide inspiration, up to date information and ministry tips through our quarterly magazine, monthly emails, Facebook groups and websites.
- We have a range of print and digital resources available for loan, download or purchase, including everything you need to develop a Safety Management System.

# THE FOUNDATIONS

We have identified four foundational areas that we believe churches need to incorporate into their ministry practices in order for effective faith nurture to occur.

These four foundations can help churches to identify and develop a strong vision for children and families and are based on how we believe God calls us to see and value children in the faith community.



## Excellence in Children's Ministry & Mission

Children are precious to God  
and need the best we can  
give them.



## Church & Home Partnership

The church acknowledges the  
home as the primary place of  
spiritual nurture.



Basing ministry on these foundations, and incorporating them into the ongoing life of the church will help your congregation to build life long relationships with children and their families.

For copies of *'The Foundations of Ministry and Mission with Children and Families'* handbook and a wall poster that can be used as a visual reminder and prompt, contact the National Centre: [childrensministry@baptist.org.nz](mailto:childrensministry@baptist.org.nz).



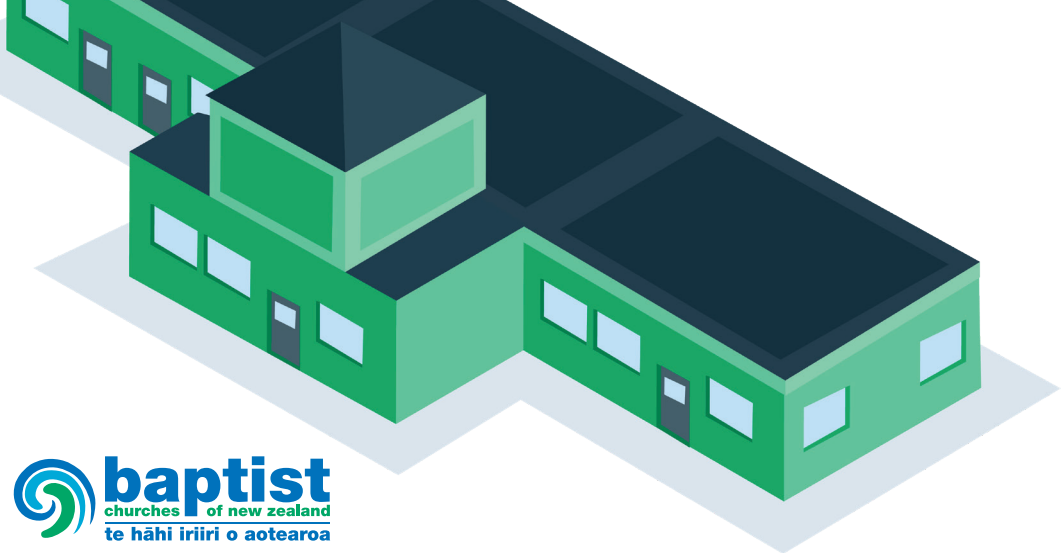
## **Intergenerational Community**

The church intentionally facilitates ways for intergenerational spiritual formation and relationships to occur.



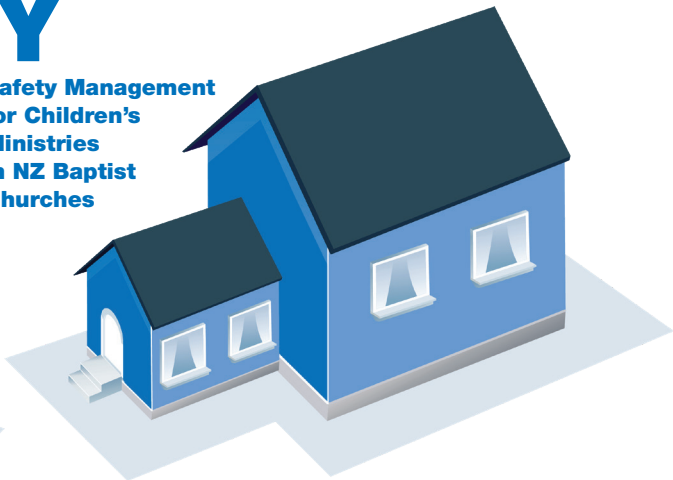
## **Integrated Strategy for Faith Formation**

The church is a place where all ministries work with the same end in mind.



# SAFETY FIRST

**Safety Management  
for Children's  
Ministries  
in NZ Baptist  
Churches**





**The Baptist Churches of New Zealand recognise the value of children in our local churches as well as in the wider community. Recognising the impact of harm towards children, we make a commitment to do all we can to provide safe, positive environments for the development of children, free from the risk of harm.**

We do this by encouraging all churches to:

- Establish appropriate behavioural guidelines and boundaries and procedures.
- Screen those who work with children.
- Clarify the duty of care responsibilities for such people.
- Ensure that if harm occurs it is dealt with appropriately.

To this end we have produced the Safety First manual. The purpose of this manual is to assist local churches to develop policies and procedures that can be used to create and control a safe environment for children and the people who work with them.

This publication is designed to accompany a training seminar to assist with implementation. Training is offered in each region once per year for a small cost. This includes the manual and website access to all the forms needed to develop a Safety Management System. Churches are then able to edit and personalise for their context.

Contact your Regional Coach for details on training events in your area.

**Then he said to them,  
“Whoever welcomes this little  
child in my name welcomes  
me; and whoever welcomes me  
welcomes the one who sent me.”**

**- Luke 9:48**

# OUR RESOURCES

## BCFM Website

### **[www.baptistcfm.org.nz](http://www.baptistcfm.org.nz)**

Our website is designed to give inspiration alongside practical ideas for ways to do ministry and mission with excellence. It gives churches ideas for ministry and lets you know about training opportunities in your region.

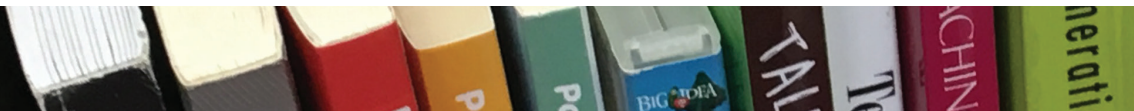
## Resourcing Newsletter

This monthly email newsletter is designed to let you know about new resources, upcoming training and ways that you can network with others in ministry.

## Cluster Groups

Four of our national regions have regular cluster groups that you are encouraged to attend. The purpose is to network with like-minded others, share ideas and encouragement, hear about excellent resourcing materials and be supported on the ministry journey. These are facilitated by Regional Coaches who provide support both at cluster groups and other times.

Cluster group details can be found on the website under News and Events, or you can contact the Regional Coach or Regional Leader for your area—see inside front cover.



## Resource Library

There are a large range of resources available for loan free of charge. This includes books, DVDs and curricula for both children's and family ministry. To view the library online:

- Go to the website and browse through the resources.
- Choose what you want and add your postal details. They will be posted—please return when finished.
- Alternatively, come into the National Centre and take a look in the resource cupboard.

[childrensministry@baptist.org.nz](mailto:childrensministry@baptist.org.nz)

## @Home+Church Resources

The @Home resources are designed to encourage faith conversations in the home. Churches can purchase the @Home products and either sell or gift them to families.

Visit the @Home+Church website:  
**[www.athomeandchurch.org.nz](http://www.athomeandchurch.org.nz)**

Make sure you also check out our Facebook groups:

- 1. NZ Baptist Children & Family Ministries**
- 2. Children & Family Ministries NZ**





# CHOOSING A CURRICULUM

**With so many curricula available, it can be hard to decide which is best for your church. The following list of areas may be helpful to consider when selecting a curriculum for your group.**

## **Vision & Values**

- Does the curriculum fit with the vision of your church?
- Does the curriculum enable leaders to operate within the values of the church?

## **Theology**

- Does it teach content which is in alignment with your church's theological beliefs?
- Does it deliver lessons which are in alignment with your church's theology of childhood?
- Has the content been made age-appropriate, while still maintaining theological accuracy?
- Does it point to God's grace, Jesus' salvation and the Holy Spirit's power, or is it works based?

## **Learning and Growth**

- Does it match your children's learning styles—listening, discussion, or hands on activities?
- Is there opportunity for kids to open the Bible for themselves, and apply it to their lives?
- Is the learning purely intellectual, or do the lessons aim for heart transformation?

## **Scope & Sequence**

- Do the lessons progress chronologically through the Bible or are they topic-based?
- How long will the curriculum last? Is the material for a term only, or can you use it from birth through high school?
- Are the lessons repetitive, or are kids engaging with new stories and content?

## **Age-appropriate**

- Is it appropriate for the developmental stages of your group/s?

- Is it appropriate for the various faith development stages?
- Does it provide good transition between age groups?

## **Family Engagement**

- Does it help parents engage with and take interest in their children's learning?
- Does it support parents in taking responsibility for their child's spiritual development?

## **Practicalities**

- Does it work for your size?
- Is it designed for large, small or combination groups?
- Does it fit within your budget?
- Do you have the supplies and equipment needed?
- Does the programme require additional leaders, and do you have sufficient volunteers?
- Is the amount of preparation required practical for your volunteers?
- Can it be adapted to meet the opportunities or limitations of your context?

# CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS

## TruWonder

Published by David C Cook as part of the Tru curriculum, TruWonder encourages young children to experience the wonder of God. This curriculum includes:

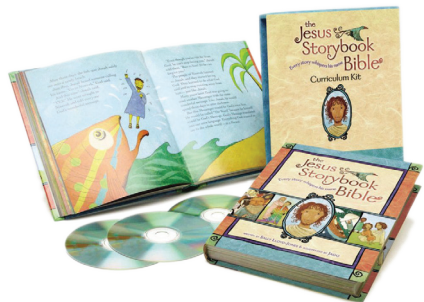
- Each week “Chole” and her friends help children explore the Bible.
- Developmental activities encourage participation and build traditions.
- Opportunities for creative worship response in every lesson.
- Three-year chronological scope and sequence.
- Available in both large group/ small group classroom editions.

Available at [www.disciplr.com](http://www.disciplr.com)  
or [www.truministry.com](http://www.truministry.com).

## Stepping Stones

This is a two-year curriculum designed for preschoolers and written by New Zealanders with experience in education and ministry. It is available for use in the local church in a digital format for free.

To access this curriculum please email [childrensministry@baptist.org.nz](mailto:childrensministry@baptist.org.nz) and we will provide you with the login details.



## The Jesus Storybook Bible Curriculum

Based on the award-winning *The Jesus Storybook Bible* (which we highly recommend), this curriculum kit is great for both church and home use. It features everything you need for a year's worth of lessons (or more). The lessons go chronologically through the Bible and help children to see the meta-narrative of Scripture.

The kit includes: 44 lesson plans plus ideas for engaging activities, easy-to-use instructions and notes for teachers, memory verses, colour handouts, videos of each story and more.

This curriculum is available from a variety of retailers online. The Bible Society also sell *The Jesus Storybook Bible* for an excellent price to Baptist Churches.

## Tru Story

Tru Story, part of the Tru curriculum, invites children to find their place in The Big God Story. Tru curriculum:

- Is based on chronological Bible teaching.
- Builds community and traditions.
- Creates intentional space for listening to God and responding in worship.
- Has a three year scope and sequence.
- Is available in both large/small group and classroom editions.

Available at both:  
[www.disciplr.com](http://www.disciplr.com)  
[www.truministry.com](http://www.truministry.com)





# SUGGESTED READING





## Recommended Reading for Children's Ministry

Starting Out in Children's Ministry—*Alison Mitchell*

Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus—*David Csinos and Ivy Beckwith*

Changing Lives—*Dr Mark Griffiths*

Dreaming of More for the Next Generation—*Michelle Anthony*

Lead Small—*Reggie Joiner*—(how to lead effective small groups)

Shaped by God—*Ed. Robert Keeley*

Bridging Theory and Practice in Children's Spirituality—*Eds Mimi Lawson and Robert Keeley*

**Great discipleship book for children:** Notes From Jesus—*Mical Keefer*

## Recommended Reading for Family Ministry

It Takes a Church to Raise a Parent—*Rachel Turner*

Church and Home—*Mark Holmen*

Spiritual Parenting—*Michelle Anthony*

Think Orange—*Reggie Joiner*

## Recommended Reading for Intergenerational Community

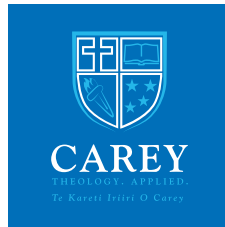
Intergenerational Christian Formation—*Holly Allen and Christine Lawton*

Faithful Generation—*Children Matter UK*

InterGenerate—*Editor Holly Allen*

*All of these books are available for loan from the BCFM resource library.*

*Contact: [childrensministry@baptist.org.nz](mailto:childrensministry@baptist.org.nz) for more information about how to access books and resources from the library.*



# THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

## **New Zealand Certificate in Christian Studies**

Carey Baptist College offers the New Zealand Certificate in Christian Studies. This certificate is 60 credits (four 15 credit courses) from Carey's Applied Theology programme. This can be studied part time over one or two years and leads to the award of both the Carey Certificate and a Baptist Union Certificate in Children and Family Leadership.

Study specific courses designed to equip you for the opportunities and challenges of serving Jesus in children and family ministry.

### **Courses:**

- Either:  
MF510 Reflective Field Education (15 credit practical fieldwork course)  
Or  
MF505 Contextual Theological Praxis (30 credit practical fieldwork course)
- MM565 Children's Ministry
- MM677 Family and New Zealand Society
- + one other 15 credit course if opting for Reflective Field Education above

## **Graduate Diploma of Applied Theology**

Carey's Graduate Diploma of Applied Theology is primarily designed for people who already have an existing

undergraduate qualification or equivalent and who have not studied theology before. It is for graduates who are studying for personal interest, or to explore further how their faith might impact their professional vocation. A student enrolled in the Graduate Diploma will study a total of 120 credits (8 x 15 credit courses) and this can be done full-time over one year or part-time over a longer period.

**Both** MM565 Children's Ministry and MM777 Family and New Zealand Society can be taken as part of this qualification.

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**manatū iriiri whānau tamariki**