

BBC FAMILY EXPERIENCE UPDATE with FAQ's

At Bethel our mission is to Glorify God by making disciples who make disciples. This has not changed even though the context of our circumstances have. This is the exact same mission we have in our Children's ministry! This fall we will be launching a new in-person Family Experience here at Bethel to do just this. We have prayerfully sought the Lord in this and feel that the Lord is leading us in this direction during this season at Bethel.

Our new in-person Family Experience, **starting on October 4th at 10:00 am**, will consist of families meeting Sunday morning at the same time as our Sunday Service. Rather than our kids ministry operating with a "drop off" approach, the Family Experience will create an environment for at least one parent/grandparent/guardian to worship alongside their child(ren).

This new in-person Family Experience is an exciting time for us here at Bethel to have a new look on what it means to worship as a family and make disciples in our homes. We will meet in the Large Fellowship Hall downstairs. Our volunteer team will be leading and guiding the time from the front. The Family Experience will include a time to praise alongside your children, a time to pray alongside your children and dig into God's word alongside your children within the body of Christ! Also, we hope and pray this will allow your family to continue to dialogue, to praise and to pray throughout the week.

Know that here at Bethel we are intentional on seeking the Lord and calling out to Him and continue moving forward by faith in what He calls us to!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will there be a live service for Children Sunday Mornings?

- Yes, we realize here at Bethel that children and families are an integral part of our church family. Although this may look different than we are used to in the past, it will be a service that is honouring to the Lord and will give families the ability to disciple their kids and raise them up as followers of Jesus.

Will I be dropping my child(ren) off to a Sunday morning program?

- No. Families will participate together in the Large Fellowship hall. At least one parent/grandparent/guardian must be with the child(ren) for the entire time. Each family will have a separate table that they will be assigned to. All guidelines for Covid-19 prevention will be in place.

How long will the Live Family Experience be?

- We have taken into account that you will have children with you, in the spirit of serving families and ensuring that they have a positive experience we are limiting the service to under 1 hour.

Will everything we use be cleaned prior?

- Yes. We have put in place a thorough safety process at the church. All tables, chairs, pencils, papers will be handled by screened individuals. High touch surfaces (eg. doors handles, railings, etc.) throughout the building are being regularly cleaned. All tables will be wiped down and cleaned with cleaners that have 90% alcohol base.

What steps will be taken to ensure my families safety if we attend the Family Experience?

- We will have pre-registration and attendance (to assist with contact tracing, if necessary)
- All attendees (including children) will be screened prior to entering to ensure they:
 - have not travelled outside the country within the last 14 days
 - are not experiencing COVID-related symptoms
 - have not been in contact with someone with COVID
- Social distancing and masks are required
- Chairs and seating assignments will be arranged to comply with social distancing between family units
- Bathroom monitors will assist in ensuring one family unit uses the washroom at a time
- We will re-clean the washrooms at least once during the Family Experience
- We will eliminate as many touch points as possible - doors will be opened for you; water fountains are closed; some areas of the church will be closed - ie gym; hand sanitizer is provided;
- All attenders will enter through the front doors and then exit from the back entrance under the overhang
- Greeters will help provide instructions for entering and exiting safely. We ask everyone again to lovingly defer to those who are helping keep us safe.
- After the service, we will ask people to exit the foyer in prescribed fashion to allow for the orderly exit of people while still social distancing. We will request everyone in the parking lot to continue to wear their masks and to practice social distancing.

Can I bring my child that is supposed to be in nursery?

- We will be accommodating parents that have children from age 0 – 24 months. There will be excersaucers available for children. We understand it is not easy to hold a child for extended periods of time and want to be able to serve young families that have small children.

What will the Family Experience involve?

- To start off we will offer a time of worship with actions. We will then move into viewing a short video about the Bible story. This will be followed by a video based or live teaching that will hit on one point from the Bible story. We will then move into a memory verse. Lastly we will have an activity that will be linked to the Bible story and memory verse to revisit what the lesson is about. Our time will involve prayer and families looking to answer a key point for the day.

How will we contain our children?

- Each family will be situated at a table that will have activity sheets and crayons. Parents are responsible for their child(ren) to ensure they maintain appropriate social distancing. Although we anticipate that this Family Experience will be so engaging that children will want to participate and will stay close to their family.

Do we need to wear masks?

- Masks must be worn by everyone age 12 and over, except if someone can't wear one for medical reasons. We encourage parents to consider having their children 2 and over wear a mask as well.

Where do we enter and exit the building?

- The family experience entrance will be at the front of the building. Families will enter from Caradoc street where they will be screened and checked in for the service. They will then make their way down stairs through the door immediately to the right of the nursery. Families will exit through the back of the building. They will exit the Large fellowship hall after the service and exit through the doors closest to the elevator.

How will Bethel know our family is attending the Family Experience?

- Great question! Families will need to pre-register before attending the service at bethelstrathroy.com or by calling the church office 519.245.2320.
- We do have capacity limits, with a maximum of 75 people or 15 family units (whichever comes first). Registration is first come, first serve.

What curriculum will we be using, and will it be age appropriate?

- We will be using the Gospel Project from Lifeway for our Bible story and layout and songs. Our curriculum covers from pre-school to pre-teen. We will also supplement the songs with Doorpost songs which is biblical based music as well. These songs are catchy and easy to remember and provide the benefit of giving us a starting point for memorizing scripture.

Will children's ministry stay with this format?

- We will revisit our approach to children's ministry in January of 2021, until then this will be the new approach, we will be taking to children's ministry here at Bethel.

Why are we doing this format? Why not return to the way we previously ran Bethel Kids?

- At this time, we do not feel we can meet the safety requirements laid out by the government and health unit in our previous format. However, our young families are very important to us and we want to ensure we provide a meaningful and impactful way for them to come to church together.

Can I sit with other families?

- In an effort to adhere to guidelines set out by our local governing authorities we will ask that families keep a 6ft distance. If you have other families within the congregation that are in your “bubble” please indicate this on your registration and we will attempt to seat you together.

Will restrooms be available?

- Yes, restrooms will be available for families. Those attending the Family Experience will use the restrooms located directly outside the large fellowship hall.

Can I volunteer to help?

- Absolutely! There is no shortage of areas that you and your family can serve the Lord! Contact Nathan, Director of Serve and NextGen to see where you can serve.

Nathan@bethelstrathroy.com

If we have children in our family do we have to attend the Family Experience?

- The Family Experience is here to serve your family, not be something that is forced. If your family chooses to go into the Sunday Service in the auditorium, then here at Bethel we will support you in that decision. Ultimately we are here to honor the Lord and worship Him and if you find the Sunday Service is the best context for your family to do that, amazing!

When will the Family Experience launch?

- Our Family Experience will be launching the weekend of October 4th at 10:00 am. We can't wait to see you there.