

July 2022

A newsletter for the parents and families of the Living Faith Church Children's Ministry to serve as a connection between home and church.



Living Faith Church Exeland, WI

the Family connection



the mission >>>

Reaching today's children, training tomorrow's leaders.

Children are very capable of learning deep spiritual truth, just as readily as an adult.

Both children and adults receive the same Holy Spirit when they are born of God.

Our objective is to ground children in biblical truth, while at the same time cultivating an environment that encourages them to step out and exercise their spiritual gifts.

But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Luke 18:16 (ESV)



Teach Them Diligently

The high calling of discipling our children.

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up." Deuteronomy 6:6-7

LFC Parents and Families: we are so blessed to have you and your children in our church body. Being the primary teacher and caregiver for a child (whether parent, grandparent, or guardian) is an incredible calling from the Lord. And as you no doubt know, this calling comes with a tremendous amount

of responsibility. One of the goals of the Living Faith Church Children's Ministry is to walk alongside you in your parenting journey and help equip you in discipling your children in a world hostile to the commands of Jesus Christ. Our Children's Ministry is more than one short class on Sundays. We would love for you to think of it more as a family ministry that is here to serve your whole family unit.

Children are looking for someone to follow.

If it is not us leading them in Christ, it will be the world.

The passage above from Deuteronomy chapter 6 gives us a picture of how God desires for us to pass down His

words and commands to our children (the future generations). For the Israelites at the time, this referred the Law of Moses. For us as believers today, these commands include the whole counsel of Scripture. God's word should be an intrigral part of our daily life

as a family. While we're home, when we travel, when we wake up, when we go to bed, etc. God's word is leading our lives. The task of fighting for the hearts and minds of our children can be daunting, but God is looking for a generation of parents just like us to lead the leaders of tomorrow in righteousness and truth! We can be encouraged that God watches over His word to perform it!

What's new >>>

Dynamites classroom gets an updated look.

In May, the Dynamites classroom got some much needed t.l.c.! Fresh coats of paint, a new woodland theme, a new curtain backdrop and sound system for the puppet stage, and some storage organization has given the room a breath of fresh air. The kids have been very excited about the new look. Thank you to everyone who has given (financially and materially) to the children's ministry to made the update possible!



Dynamites, ages 2-5 >>>

More Than Stories

Our Dynamites preschool class has had some new and exciting class updates and additions! Aside from the make-over shown above, we've been adding some new elements to our weekly lessons.

The Time Machine is used to bring Biblical and historical figures to life in our class. Whenever the Time Machine is used, the kids are giddy with anticipation about who they will see come through the door! So far we've had a few of Jesus' disciples, a Roman soldier, and a shepherd come and tell the kids all about their lives. Our puppet stage has also received a little updating and we've added a sound system to help our puppets sing scripture songs for the kids.

The Dynamites classes uses the Gospel Light Preschool curriculum for the base of our learning. This curriculum includes thorough take-home sheets for you to use at home as a review of what they have learned in class and a great starting point for further family discussion. We encourage you to take a few minutes each week to go through these sheets with your child.

Even though there's a lot of great things about the preschool curriculum we use, it tends to do the same thing that a lot of children's church curriculums do: teach individual stories that focus mainly on good morals. Moms and dads, our children need so much more than stories and good morals. Children need to know the entire picture of scripture and how it all points to Jesus Christ. Children need more than a list of "goods" and "bads", they need to understand the character and nature of our Holy God and what is pleasing or not pleasing to Him. Children need to understand that there is a difference between other story books that you read to them and the Bible, the true and infallible word of God.

One Sunday our class was learning about the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew chapter 18. The curriculum's main point of the lesson was to "be kind to others". However, we took the lesson a step further and talked about how we are like the servant the owed an unpayable debt because of our sins. But we have a Savior that died on the cross for us to pay the debt of our sins! The opportunity to present the gospel to the kids would've been missed if we would've just stuck with the good morals.

Even our youngest group of kids can begin to learn, understand, and apply deep spiritual truths in their lives. Let's give them the chance!



Covenant Kids *Ages 6-12>>>>*



Faith Foundations—Bible Literacy

The Covenant Kids class has been diligently working on laying down the foundations upon which faith is built. Like stacking one small brick at a time, the teachers have been leading the kids into an understanding of what we believe as followers of Christ.

The first order of business has been to increase the level of Biblical literacy with every child in class. This includes knowing things like: all the books of the Bible in order, important people/places/events, the Ten Commandments, and scripture memory.

They started at the very beginning (a very good place to start) and have been reading and studying their way through the book of Genesis. While our teachers have been doing a great job with the Covenant Kids, it's important to remember that their Sunday lessons should be supplemental to Biblical instruction at home. Children that are only learning about the Bible for an hour a few times a month will have a very difficult time standing in their faith as they get older.

Bible Memory

Ephesians chapter 6 details for us the Armor of God which Christians (including children) are to put on in order to withstand and thwart the attacks of the enemy and the world system.

The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. The rest of the armor is for defense, but the Sword is to be used for offense! It is incredibly important that we as parents equip our children with the living and active Word of God. Psalms 119:9 says, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word."

The Covenant Kids class will be working on memorizing scripture and other important Biblical facts (Ten Commandments, Fruits of the Spirit, etc), but they need your help! Ask your children what they are working on for Bible memory this week and spend some time quizzing them on it. Every child has their name on the memory boards and when they memorize a scripture, they get to add a star to the board. But more importantly, they gain a sense of accomplishment and earn the priceless prize of having God's Word hidden in their heart (Psalms 119:11).



Barna Research (2013-2015)

- 48% of US adults read the Bible less than 2 times a year.
- 45% of US adults think the Bible says that God helps those who help themselves.
- 60% of Americans cannot name 5 of the 10 Commandments.

"America is increasingly Biblically illiterate..."

"No wonder people break the Ten Commandments all the time. They don't know what they are."
-George Barna

We're starving ourselves to death

Christians used to be known as "people of one book." Sure, they read, studied and shared other books. But the book they cared about more than all others combined was the Bible. They memorized it, meditated on it, talked about it and taught it to others. We don't do that anymore, and in a very real sense we're starving ourselves to death.

-Kenneth Berding, Biola Magazine

come together...

In April we had our Passover Sedar meals and it was a great time of fellowship, for the kids and the parents! We look forward to having more opportunities for our families to gather together to build stronger friendships, mentorships, and community.



Dads- The Critical Factor

**FIRST PERSON
IN THE
HOUSEHOLD
TO BE
SAVED...**

CHILD

3.5% probability everyone else in the household will follow

MOTHER

17% probability everyone else in the household will follow

FATHER

93% probability everyone else in the household will follow.

Dads,

You have a tremendous impact on the faith of your entire household. What a blessing! And also a big responsibility. Your wife and children are looking to you to be the spiritual leader of the home, and a reliable example of godliness to follow. We are excited to see so many men in our church mentoring each other and taking up their God-given calling and role in their families.



Upcoming events >>>

- *Monthly home fellowship meals*
- *Rice Lake Splash Pad Meet-up- Wednesday, July 13th 11 to 1*
- *Church Picnic- Sunday, August 7th*

Interested in volunteering? See Chris or Rachel Jerry

