

The Christian Education Connection

Purpose: To Encourage, Educate and Excite

from IAYM CE Board March 2015

COMMENTS:

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Did You Know...

- there is an IAYM CE Facebook page? [facebook.com/groups/iaymce/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/iaymce/)
- Quaker Kids University is held during Annual Sessions?
- a free curriculum exchange will be available at Annual Sessions?
- the CE Report forms help us to better help you and should be completed by June 30?

Easter: Forgiveness/New life

Have kids combine ¼ cup of vinegar and 1 tsp. of salt in the cup (or pour a cola drink into the cup). Drop a dirty penny into the cup and let it sit for 3-4 minutes. You should find a clean, shiny penny at the bottom of the cup.

Share with children how the penny illustrates sin in our lives. The dirty penny stands for our sin-filled lives. When we ask Jesus into our hearts and receive forgiveness, He washes away our sin and we're made "new" – just like the penny!



Toothpick Crosses

Give each child 2 toothpicks. Show them how to arrange them like the cross of Jesus. Apply a dot of glue where the 2 toothpicks join. Allow them to dry while you tell the kids the story of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Open the plastic Easter eggs. Give each child ½ of an egg to use as a base for the cross. The egg half will remind children of the hill on which the cross stood. Next, children should place a lump of play dough on top of the egg. The lump should be thick enough to hold the toothpick cross in place. Position the cross in the center of the dough. Squeeze the dough around the base to secure it in place. This Easter craft will harden and kids will have a neat keepsake to help them remember the Easter story.

Unique Names for Classes

An overall program might be called the L.I.F.E Hour (Learning is For Everyone). Adult or Youth ideas: Pillars of Faith, Prime Timers, Challenge, R.I.O.T (Revival In Our Times), Focus. Acorns, Seedlings, Saplings, Oaks, Mighty Oaks or Willing Workers, Faithful Followers, Joyful Seekers



Your Summer Sunday School

While SS often declines in the summer it doesn't mean you should treat the program with any less enthusiasm. Make summer special by inviting guests to speak or present the lesson in a unique form such as drama, magic, puppets or music. Use videos. Invite a mission worker. Plan a social activity once a month: a picnic, game day, service project or video night. Promote it in house and to the community. Use summer to create a strong sense of family, an awareness of building together in the Lord's Kingdom. PRAY, PLAN and PROMOTE! It's worth all the effort. Add spark to summer Sunday School and prepare for success!

"Should we have a VBS this summer?"

Vacation Bible School should be the core of every church's ministry to children because it...

- provides concentrated Bible learning.
- strengthens the spiritual life of teachers.
- is a passport into non-church homes.
- demonstrates to your community that your church cares for their children.

Are you willing to be flexible and step out of your comfort zone? Are you willing to do all that God asks to make VBS life-changing for each child attending? Will you let God be in control?

Invigorating the Adult Sunday School Program at Your Church

Are your adult Sunday school spaces welcoming and accommodating? Are the classes invigorating and challenging? (Coffee/tea help) Take a good look at your SS spaces. Are they inviting? Are they spaces in which people want to spend time?

Bring your lessons to life and make them more relevant. An easy, automatic way to weave current events into your weekly Bible studies. The Wired Word delivers a ready-to-use, weekly lesson right to your email inbox every Thursday. <http://www.thewiredword.com/samples.aspx>

Need VBS help? Try Pinterest!

by Mindy Hadley

Pinterest boards are a place to find crafts, games and even snack ideas for free! Just sign up and type in the curriculum you will be using in the Pinterest search engine and wait. Soon tons of ideas will come your way.

Last year at Honey Creek New Providence Friends we used Kingdom Rock as our VBS study and found Pinterest very helpful. Many of the ideas were things that other churches had tried. They included helpful hints as well as items you may need to purchase. We were able to expand our program, and spent less time on planning than prior years. If you aren't familiar with Pinterest ask someone, it may save you some time and energy!



Make VBS Count by Jerry Wooley, LifeWay

Vacation Bible School continues to be one of the most effective ways to connect kids and their families to God's Word and your church. Evaluate your VBS. What part of last year's VBS did the kids talk about most? What should you have done differently? What would we do if money or staffing was not a problem? What could we do each day to add an element of the unexpected to keep kids coming back? Are we forming real relationships? It is relationship building that begins in VBS that will ultimately connect kids and their parents to your church.



Net Support

'You Can Be an Effective Sunday School Teacher' by Dr. M. Rasmussen
<http://ministry127.com/adult-classes/you-can-be-an-effective-sunday-school-teacher>

Free adult Sunday School lessons:

<http://www.bible-study-lesson-plans.com/free-sunday-school-lessons.html>

This site has a list of ideas to help your kids reach out to their unchurched friends & families.

<http://childrensministry.com/articles/21-outreach-ideas-for-kids/>

Easter Object Lesson: Jesus disappears from the tomb using plastic eggs:

<http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=KDD76GNX>

Learn to Delegate

No single person has the time, energy or talent to make great ministry happen alone. Breaking the work down into parts and then asking others to help makes the work much easier to accomplish. It also gives others an opportunity to be a part of something grand. When you delegate parts to create a win, it causes others to feel like they are needed and appreciated. This in turn will cause your team to want to do something great.



Quaker Kid University will be held during Iowa Yearly Meeting July 29–Aug. 1. Children age 4 through those in 6th grade may join us at

College Avenue Friends church in Oskaloosa.

Bible learning, crafts, music, games, snacks and a water game day will keep us busy. (Bring Bibles & sunscreen) \$30 per child or \$60 for family. Includes snack & lunch on Thurs., Fri., & Sat. One day fees available. Register with the IAYM Office.

"Recycling for the Lord"

by Dawn Allbee, Lynnville Friends Church



For years used Sunday School papers, books and a variety of other Christian material had been kept in storage. It seemed wrong to destroy these materials. The suggestion of searching the internet resulted in the discovery of Love Packages, in Butler, Illinois which sends used Christian materials to missionaries. For the past few years churches in our area have helped fill a pickup with used material for fall delivery to Butler. (See video at www.lovepackages.org)

Last year 883 tons were sent to 15 different countries. Volunteers do the sorting. Last year over 1600 people gave their time.

A Bible that is used and worn out is of much more value to a person overseas who has never read one than it is left on the shelf collecting dust. Accepted materials include Bibles, Sunday School & VBS curriculum and devotionals like Upper Room. They do not accept Guideposts, DVDs or VCR tapes, or novels.

This mission project will continue as an annual event. Donations can be dropped off at the Lynnville Friends Church at any time.

Blessings of a Small Church

by Jennifer Talbot

Just this morning, our pastor sat at the front of the sanctuary, giving his children's sermon to the youngest members of our meeting, three little girls, three young boys. He spoke about the need for these children to listen to their parents, because God speaks through them. Then, at the conclusion, he asked his usual question: "What or who can we pray for today?" One said his mother; one mentioned a man from our meeting (the husband of his Sunday School teacher). Then Pastor turned to a three year old cutie. She said, as she so often does, "I want to pray for Tinkerbelle." And they did! This pastor, these children, held hands and lifted their prayers to God, including a prayer for Tinkerbelle! And I thought, how blessed these little ones are to be part of this small meeting.

Often people think that children and families want to be part of a large church family. They look at the size of the classes, at the number of special programs for children, at the production around VBS, and think bigger is better! I'm a mom of six, and I don't feel that way. Here are three reasons I think small churches are a good choice for families with children.

1. Children are known by name by everyone in a small meeting! A name is an important thing, don't you think? My children glow when an adult they admire calls them by name, touches their head, and asks how they are. I especially like it when those same adults see them in the community, and make the effort to interact with them.

2. Children are taught to worship by being in worship with people of all ages! Let's face it, we small meetings have trouble finding volunteers, and finding volunteers for a children's church program? That's tough! In our meeting, children may sit with their parents, their Sunday school teachers or that high school student they like. They sit with the folks running the sound, and the one running the AV screen. They sing with the worship team. They serve as ushers. They are a vital, contributing part of our worship, and in the process, they are learning what it means to hear the voice of God in the midst of his people.



3. Children learn to serve, to be the hands and feet and voice of Christ in a small meeting! What a gift, to be able to give. In a small fellowship, everyone pitches in. They help set up tables and chairs, they pick up dirty dishes and they clean up. They don't just "go" to church, they ARE church!

Just like Paul instructed Timothy not to let others look down on him because of his young age, I don't think small meetings should be looked down upon because of their size. Instead, they should be ready, willing, and excited to serve the families with children that walk in their doors!

God Loves Small by Jonny Craig

In 2 Samuel 16, we find the story of Samuel being sent by God to find and anoint a new King over Israel. Saul (who is very large) has been rejected by God. Samuel happens upon Jesse and family and is certain he's found the king in Jesse's oldest son. Why? Because he was big! God even has to tell Samuel to stop looking at "appearance" because that's not a good indication of someone's spiritual health. God chooses David, the youngest and smallest.

We know the rest of the story. This runt ends up killing a giant, ruling Israel, and is described as a "man after God's own heart."



That's just one example of where God chooses to use the small to accomplish the big. It is no different in our churches.

Small church pastors can sometimes look at bigger ministries and assume they're doing it better. Meanwhile, God is trying to tell us to see our church how He sees it. God has BIG plans for your small church. That's the way He works. Small churches are used by God to do amazing Kingdom work all over the world.

My encouragement is that we would be proud of the ministry God has given us. And lead our churches with all the passion and energy that they deserve.

NOTICE! If you have Sunday School or VBS curriculum or other Christian materials you're not using and would like to pass it along to someone else, bring them to IAYM. We will have a table available for materials to be displayed & shared at no cost. Be sure to check it out!