

The Christian Education Connection

Purpose: To Encourage, Educate and Excite

from IAYM CE Board July 2017

SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO:

goodhome@heartofiowa.net or 641-939-7795

Christian Education Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/iaymce/>

This is a resource for those passionate about Christian Education in Iowa Yearly Meeting. Our goal is to provide a means for Sunday School teachers, Christian Education committee members and anyone interested in CE to swap ideas, share resources and encourage each other.

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Quaker Kid University

QKU will be held during our Ministry Conference in Oskaloosa July 26–29. Children age 4 through those in 6th grade may join us at College Avenue Friends Church.



There will be Bible lessons, crafts, music, games and a water game day to keep all busy.

Quakerdale Mobile Camp will be providing activities Thurs. & Fri. (Bring swimsuit or clothes you don't mind getting wet & sunscreen.) \$30 per child or \$60 for family. Includes snack & lunch on Thurs., Fri., & Sat. One day fees are available. Register with the IAYM Office 641-673-9717.



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 the Ministry Conference in Oskaloosa. We will have a table available for materials to be displayed & shared at no cost. Be sure to check it out! Likely you'll find something to take home and use as well.



Children's Ministry Matters To God

Maybe you are a SS teacher who is feeling burnt out. Maybe you serve in the church nursery or preschool ministry and constantly miss the sermon. Maybe you are discouraged because kids are not interested in your stories or activities. Maybe you teach children's church and wonder if your lessons make a difference.

The most strategic way to influence God's kingdom is to shape its future leaders. Don't be discouraged if your church is small and there are not many kids. Consider every child as a sacred trust and do your best with what God has given you. When resources get stretched take comfort in knowing you are giving 100%. **Ministry is not a game or a job, it's a calling.**



Reasons To Still Do Vacation Bible School

by Wayne Stocks

There are many people who think that VBS is an outdated program whose time has come and gone. Here is my list of reasons to still do VBS at your church:

Kids love it! If you're doing it right, VBS is just plain fun. When kids are having fun, they are more apt to be paying attention and learning, and they are more likely to invite their friends.

It's an outreach event & opportunity to share the gospel of Christ. I talked to a little boy who comes to VBS every year. It is his only exposure to church.

It gives the kids in your church a chance to spend some time together. Building healthy relationships is important.

Parents get a chance to hear the gospel. If you plan your VBS so that at least one night involves parents, you have an opportunity to share the gospel with them.

You get to build relationships w/kids. When else during the year do you get to spend every night of the week with the same kids? That kind of proximity and consistency is hard to come by, and isn't something you should give up.

You get to build relationships with adults. You get to serve with other people from your church that you might not have a chance to meet otherwise.

It's just plain fun for kids and adults. There is no other week during the year that I find so exhausting and so fun all at the same time, and I wouldn't skip it for the world. ☺

Taken from the 2013 "Live Love" newsletter

Celebrate **National ice cream month** in July by visiting a Dairy Queen (or similar restaurant) and offering to pay for the order of the guests behind you. Or purchase a \$10 gift card and hand it to someone as you leave. Tell them you are sharing God's love with them in a practical way.

"Kindness begins like a ripple of water"

Cheer Up the Lonely Day is July 11th. Lonely people usually live alone and have few friends. They may be elderly. Cheering up lonely people is easy to do. When you visit, bring happy things to talk about, a child's drawing or cookies to share. Keep the conversation upbeat. Play a game together. When you leave, give a hug. Cards and calls are okay but what a lonely person really needs is time with other people.

Sept. 26 is Johnny (Appleseed) Chapman's birthday: Celebrate his sharing of apples by giving an apple to everyone at church on September 24. They can pass it along to someone else in their life with a note of appreciation or add others to it to make an apple dessert to share.

*"If there is any kindness I can show,
or any good thing I can do to any fellow being,
let me do it now, and not deter or neglect it,
as I shall not pass this way again."
~ William Penn*

Net Support



Just Us Little Guys says it is for ages 4-7, but we have used it for children through 4th grade. There are lots of lessons and activities ideas.

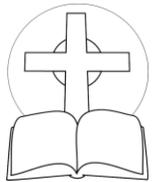
<http://www.sunday-school-center.com/support-files/lq1-all-lessons-1-8.pdf>

The Source Youth Ministry object lessons
<http://www.thesource4ym.com/outreach/topics.aspx?Type=Lessons>

Great Bible Studies & many discussion questions
<http://www.gobible.org/bible/>

10 Tips for Telling a Bible Story

by Bethany Tapp, Ministry to Children



#1- **PRAY** – Before teaching, spend time in prayer acknowledging that you are merely a vessel for His use. Pray for God to open ears and soften hearts.

#2- **Before class, immerse yourself** in the story – Read and reread. Ask questions of the text. Be a student of the Word before you teach it to others.

#3- **Be Prepared** – If you're provided with a script, spend time studying it before Sunday. Familiarize yourself with unknown words. Gather supplies you'll need.

#4 – **Make sure kids are ready to sit & listen** – With most kids, this means visiting the toilet & water fountain right before the lesson.

#5- **Remove distractions** – Put away toys, arranging students so they're not distracting one another, etc.

#6- **Make sure kids know what's expected of them** – Remind kids that this is a time to sit & listen, keep their hands to themselves, and raise their hand to ask a question.

#7- **Don't read your notes** – Do not break eye contact... especially with 4 year olds. The more distracted you are, the more distracted the kids will be.

#8- **Use voices and big gestures** – Make the Scripture come to life. When you read from the Bible avoid monotone, speak clearly with inflection. Change the tone of your voice for different people in the story.

#9- **Show pictures or have someone act it out** – It is helpful to use pictures, especially for things kids have no concept of – altars, the temple, sheep & shepherds, etc. It can also be helpful to have someone act out a passage. An example of acting it out myself might be to kneel and wash a child's foot while teaching about Jesus washing the disciple's feet.

#10- **Change it up** – Try not to get stuck in a rut. Act, or tell the story in your own words, or show lots of pictures, or draw while you teach. Be sure the Bible is central; enjoy teaching the Word!

Lesson Sharing

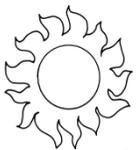
Margaret Good, Bangor Liberty Friends

Our church has been doing a Rotation Sunday School with children age 4 through grade 4 for over two years. Because it has worked well for us, I would be happy to share a few of the lessons we have used for those who would like to try it out. These are either 4 or 6 weeks.

Each week the children are in two groups unless we have 6 or less then they stay together. One group may watch a video and the other do a drama of the Bible story. Next week they switch.

The different sessions may include: music, cooking, arts/crafts, video, games, drama and science...all teaching the same lesson or Bible story. These various ways of getting the material into kids helps them remember and learn better. We ask different people for each 2 week session and try to match those who have interest in certain areas with the session. Those who enjoy skits and plays are happy to do the drama. Those who are comfortable in the kitchen are happy to lead the cooking, etc. The lessons I am willing to share are:

- Philippians 4:8-9 "You are what you think"
- Celebrating Easter
- Queen Esther "Created for a Purpose"
- Celebrating Christmas
- Jesus heals 10 lepers – Gratitude & Grace



Summer Outreach

Host a worship service in your local park. Have members bring blankets and lawn chairs, and set up for music and preaching. You may want to add an outdoor fellowship time afterwards.

Announce a "Homemade Ice Cream Contest" and invite the community. Everyone judges! Give a special ice cream scoop as 1st prize.

Sponsor a booth at any local festival. Give away food, drinks, frozen treats for kids, items with your church name imprinted, church brochures, or other attention-getting "stuff."

Sponsor a "Drive-In Movie Night." Find a parking lot (or use your church's), sew sheets together, hang them off the side of a building, get a video projector and sound system, offer popcorn and invite the town! Do it free!



Ideas to Encourage SS Teachers

Appreciation Sunday: Prepare an easy breakfast with crockpot egg casseroles, rolls, fruit and juice.

Phone teachers just to say thanks: What a special treat to receive a phone call that says "You do such a great job teaching!" Or leave a message on an answering machine to remind them that somebody notices their efforts.

"I Love My Teacher" Day: Ask students (kids & adults) to write & deliver notes of thanks.

Inexpensive goodies with notes of thanks:
"We appreciate you...take a coffee/tea break on us" with a bag of coffee/tea
"You are a 'treasure' tag with Treasures candy
"Thanks for planting seeds of truth in the lives of children" with a packet of garden seeds
"You are a joy!" with Almond Joy candy bar
"You are extra special" with a pack of Extra Gum
"We appreciate the 'mounds' of work you do!" with a Mounds candy bar
"You are 'souper'! – soup mix, special soup bowls or homemade soup
"Thanks for lighting the way" with a small candle

Importance of Serving in the Nursery



Too often serving in the church nursery can seem like a thankless job. But...God is there. The Bible has specific promises about God's presence when children are welcomed and loved in Jesus' name.

It helps others. Your service in the church nursery allows church goers to focus on worship, rather than worrying about their children.

Baby's first impressions. The first feelings a child will have toward church is formed in the nursery department. A positive experience is essential.

The most special assignment. You are being entrusted with the most vulnerable members of the church family. There is no greater treasure on this side of heaven than the little ones God has given us.

Front-line prayers. If every worker would spend several minutes praying over the children in their care, imagine how God might begin to change the coming generation.

God blesses those who serve His children.



How To Teach Multi-Age Sunday School

by Amy Brown & Kristin Charles

What can a small children's ministry do when they have children from kindergarten through sixth grade in the same group?

Establish Buddies: Pair one older child with one younger child as a "big buddy" and "little buddy." Pair them up for working on scripture memorization, craft projects, reading, etc.

Special Privileges for Older Children: Lead younger children in singing, act out a Bible story; make copies for the teacher before the start of class, etc.

Ensure that the lesson plan is interactive: lots of visuals, movement, hands-on activities, videos, role playing, listening cues for Bible passages, picture books, music, etc.

Provide structure: Younger children especially thrive on routines. Be consistent, but allow for creativity within the structure.

Promote cooperation and teamwork: Group students differently, depending on each activity. Mix age groupings to coincide with your desired outcome. Be flexible, creative!

HIDDEN GEMS InterGenerational Ministry

by Jim Thomas



As my sons moved out and got married, I encouraged them to find a good church and get involved. After searching, they came back to the church where their "dad" was their pastor. When I asked them about this, they said this was where they had friends and relationships. I later realized the relationships they were talking about were with people from 30 to 60 years old. As they explained, this is a place where they have actually helped build the building. They worked side by side with people. These are the people that showed them how to do "life".

I have watched as many of these people have invested in my boys and their families. Many invite them over to have supper and spend time with them. I was concerned when they were teenagers because they did not get a chance to be involved in a large "peer" ministry like I got to experience. I have come to realize that I was the one who missed out.

While many of us complain that we cannot have the programs of a larger church, we must not miss the opportunity to develop something the larger churches are not offering. We have the opportunity to link generations together every Sunday.

We recently combined our youth with our adults during Sunday School. I watch kids talking with adults and adults asking kids about their week. One family who has a teenager, invites couples of all ages to their home once every 2 weeks. The teen gets a say in who they invite. Older couples invite teens over after church for lunch. We encourage adults to sit with the teens and kids at potluck fellowship once a month. These are the kinds of things that cannot happen in a large ministry, but because of the smaller church, people are in close contact. We have more opportunity.



Be an Effective Adult SS Teacher

by Dr. Mark Rasmussen



Sunday school is an hour that we are given to impact the lives of those whom God has entrusted to our watchful care. At times it can seem burdensome. There is preparation, calling, visitation and other things that make up being an effective Sunday school teacher. Still, above all, it is an honor.

Our first preparation is our hearts. The Bible states that out of the heart are the issues of life. When the heart is pure, the vision is clear.

The second preparation is our lessons. When the teacher has learned new things and is excited about what he has learned, that excitement is always transferred to the listener, who then becomes a learner.

It has been said that we must reach people before we can teach people. To add great excitement to SS one needs only to have visitors present. This changes the dynamics of the class. When was the last time we took someone from our Sunday school class out to lunch or for coffee? People are hurting. Will we care for them?

Sunday school is not about showing how much we know, but helping others to know more. Jesus gave us the perfect illustration when He was willing to wash the feet of His disciples. A good Sunday school teacher should ask himself on a weekly basis, "How have I ministered to or served my students this week?"