
EMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH | MAY 2019

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS TO HELP EACH
CHILD DEVELOP THEIR GOD GIVEN POTENTIAL
TO SEEK HIM DILIGENTLY, SERVE HIM
FAITHFULLY, AND SHARE HIM BOLDLY.

THE EDGE



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I LOVE MY JOB!!!!!!

By: Mindy Myers, Director of Ministries to Children

Somebody asked me the other day "If you could have any job what would it be?" I know what I would have said about 7 or 8 years ago for sure. In fact, I had so many ideas that it would have been hard to choose. A professional artist, a world class mountain climber, a horse trainer... my fantasy list went on and on thinking about jobs that I wasn't really qualified for. But these days, when I am asked that question, the thing that comes first to my mind is exactly what I am doing - teaching God Word to kids!

I can't think of a more exciting assignment than teaching spiritual truth to kids in a truthful and creative way and seeing their spiritual light bulbs come on! I love seeing kids respond to the word with wonder, curiosity, and sometimes surprise!

I also love working with teams of people who have the same passion. We are so blessed at Emmanuel Bible Church to have many gifted people who are dedicated to our kids. I see it in creative lessons, joyful service, faithfulness to assignments, interaction with students beyond the Sunday morning experience, and a dedication to partner with parents to help each of these children develop their God-given potential!

In this edition of the EDGE, be encouraged as you read about the different experiences many of our volunteers are having with our kids. Some have been working with our kids for a long time, while others have just entered into this ministry and are finding a new love. But also let yourself be inspired to join us in serving in children's ministry. We have a steady flow of babies being born into our church family which means we have constant ministry to consider as the new ones come in and the others grow older. What a joy to serve God's little people, who are sponges for hearing and applying God's word through quality teaching and receiving the love through so many dedicated volunteers!

AFTER SCHOOL MINISTRY WINDS UP ITS 17TH YEAR!

It's hard to believe that Emmanuel Bible Church has been serving the kids from Pratum school for 17 years through our After School Ministry. Every week up to 55 kids get dropped off at the church for snacks, conversation, instruction from scripture, and a host of fun activities. The 7 volunteers who serve are busy from before kids get there right through the 2 hours when they leave. There is a lot of energy with 50 or so 1st – 8th graders. Keeping that age range interested in what we offer is a continual challenge!

This year Annamarie Holmgren did the bulk of our "lesson time". She has brought fresh enthusiasm, creative teaching, and a love for the kids that has been amazing to watch. (See her article about her experience).

The After School Kids did a special thank you art project for our church that is hanging in the hallway outside the foyer. Each heart represents an individual child who we seek to share God's love with every week! Please pray for the volunteers and the kids who are involved with this energetic ministry!!!



AFTER SCHOOL VOLUNTEER TEAM →

THE QUESTIONS IN SERVING

By: Annamarie Holmgren



"How about a rematch in ping-pong?" a confident third-grader asked.
"Can I show you what new verse I highlighted in my Bible?" inquired the bright-eyed sixth-grader.
"Will you teach me how to whistle like that?" a lively fifth-grader exclaimed.
"May I sing 'At the Cross' for you?" said the soft-spoken and shy first-grader.
"Will you *please* come to my graduation?" pleaded the eighth-grade girl with a big smile.

These are actual questions asked of me by five different Pratum School students on my last day of this year's after school program. And each inquiry fell upon my ears like a pure & precious song and upon my heart as a priceless & privileged gift.

Since September, for two hours each week in the After School Program, I've been serenaded and spoiled by a room full of young people — image-bearers full of life and potential — who attend school a mere half-mile from Emmanuel Bible Church. What do they think each day as they pass our church and see the cross upon this building? Do they know about God? Have they heard that Jesus loves them? Do they even know God uniquely made them for a purpose? That they have infinite value? Do they know this place they pass is full of love and hope, peace and support? Do they experience those things at home?

But I would never have been aware to ask these questions about our surrounding community kids without first answering a question asked of me.

On a Sunday morning this past August, shortly after moving to Oregon from Florida, I was made aware of the needs in the After School Program, when the congregation was asked "Will you consider serving?" Immediately following this request, my heart heard my Lord ask, "Will you serve Me?" Our silent conversation in the pew went something like this:

- "Lord, we just moved here and I'm exhausted and overwhelmed."
- *"I know... Will you serve Me?"*
- "Lord, everything is new and how do I know filling this need is where I'm called?"
- *"I know... Will you serve Me?"*
- "Lord, I'm not from a rural community - what if I can't relate?"
- *"I know... And you keep calling me 'Lord'... Will you serve Me?"*

Although surrounded by other worshipers in the pews, I was now sitting alone with Adonai, Who was awaiting my answer. My continued and acceptable worship of Him that Sunday now hinged on my reply.

The One Who came, not to be served, but to serve, was seeking a willing heart to serve.

Serving the Lord in the After School Program has been indescribably rewarding. And in my desire to obediently serve and ultimately bless the Lord by serving others, I am the one who has been showered with His blessings: new and precious friendships have been forged with others with whom I serve, opportunities to show His love to these kids so they can know they are valued and loved by God, stewarding faithfully the gifts He's given me, building relationships with the Pratum schoolchildren... and, of course, their questions — which have served to inspire me to serve all the more!



By: Erin Stucky

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

What a blessing to be able to share the gospel with over 150 kids this year in AWANA. Not only were they presented with the gospel on many occasions, but for those who have already committed their lives to Jesus, their faith was challenged and encouraged to grow. Through memorizing Scripture, studying the Bible in their handbooks, and listening to our enthusiastic and creative teachers, AWANA kids were given an opportunity to deepen their knowledge and love of Christ.

Camille W. was our AWANA missionary this past year. Kids gave out of the bucks they earned to support families in Nicaragua with baskets that included some necessities and some fun extras, children's books that talk about the love of Jesus and creation, and also provided help with medical transportation for those in a remote area. It's a blessing to see how generous these kids are and how willingly and cheerfully they give.

One of the highlights from our year was the Grand Prix, which is a pinewood derby car race. Kids did an amazing job of designing and painting their cars. This event encourages kids and parents to work together as they cut and design the cars. It is also one of the opportunities we provide for the kids, and others that they bring, to hear about Jesus.

Here are some other interesting pieces of information from this year. AWANA has over 50 volunteers, from high school age through grandparents, who serve with joy and enthusiasm. AWANA would not be as much fun, or as effective, without these faithful volunteers! There were eight 5th and 6th graders who participated on the T&T worship team. This was the first year we had more T&T clubbers, 3-6th graders, than Sparkies, K-2nd graders. And this past year saw over 80% of kids complete their handbooks, which includes studying and memorizing God's Word. We are praising God for this opportunity to teach kids truth and look forward to see how God uses His Word to accomplish His purposes in their lives.

WHO WANTS TO BE AS MIGHTY AS A CHILD?

By: Glenn & Debbie Izer

What do all kids at church have in common? They all need someone to teach them about the love of God and His Son, Jesus. Glenn and I have been teaching kids at church for over 20 years. During that time we have taught every elementary grade from kindergarten and on up through middle school. However, when Mindy asked us to teach the 3 & 4 year old Children's Church during the month of March, I have to admit, I was a little apprehensive about these little ones. Needless to say, it didn't last but a second and we were all in! Why? Because teaching a child about Jesus and God's love is one of the greatest callings we can answer. They are very important to Jesus. Yes, I will admit, nurturing these little souls for the Lord is a big responsibility, but surprisingly, it's not difficult and it's not rocket science. It is actually pretty easy and a lot of fun! We just talk about the Bible and what God says. We talk about how much Jesus loves us as we make worms with playdoh and we talk about how Jesus died and rose again while we eat Oreos. We watch fun, animated Bible lessons and sing along with the songs. We color pictures about what Jesus wants us to do, like when He said "Follow Me." We play silly games like "Simon Says," but then we talk about what God says to do: "Tell everyone about me and my son, Jesus." Do you want to know what the very best part of all of this is? It comes at the end of our time each week when we ask questions about what we've talked about and hear these little ones answer excitedly about Jesus! It is the most precious feeling ever! It feels better than anything money can buy! It is truly rewarding to the soul to teach children about our great God and Savior! Matthew 18 describes how Jesus feels about little ones, when He says, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Wow! Our Lord says we need to be humble like these little ones to be great in His kingdom. What a better way to start than to hang out with them and talk about Jesus!

GOD IS NOT AFRAID OF OUR DOUBTS

By: Claire Roth

In March, I taught a lesson called "Thomas the Doubter" during storytelling time for our kindergarten through fifth grade kids. We talked about Jesus kindly explaining to Thomas that those who believe He is the Messiah without seeing Him are blessed (John 20:29). At that moment, a brave young lady spoke up and said, "Sometimes I have a hard time believing that Jesus is real." I had to smile because I know how she feels.

Mindy first approached me about being a storyteller in our Sunday School program years ago shortly after I graduated college. I read her description of what storytellers do and shrugged, thinking, "I can do that, no problem." But as soon as that prideful thought formed, a verse entered my head that I could not ignore: "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6). I've never felt more convicted in my life. I realized I wasn't living like I believed Jesus was real. I knew the stories and the things other believers told me, but it wasn't enough. Like Thomas, I wanted more proof that Jesus was worth my whole life. Telling Mindy I could not be a storyteller at that time was the moment my doubts, which had become deadly comfortable, came sharply into focus.

After a few years of varied crises and painful spiritual growth spurts, Mindy asked me again about being a storyteller. She could not have picked a time when I felt less qualified. I no longer felt prideful in my teaching skills. Instead, I was petrified by a fear of hypocrisy. Who am I to teach these "little ones" spiritual truth? How can I teach anyone when I myself struggle with the things I am trying to explain? But God says, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). God taught me to lean on His power and nothing else; then He gave me the chance to share His truth with others. The best story time lessons I've ever experienced contained moments when I heard myself saying something I knew was not my own thought. I heard myself reassuring a little girl that God is not afraid of our doubt and He is excited to help us grow in belief, for "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion" (Philippians 1:6). I needed to hear that more than she did, I'm sure. Praise God, for He does not abandon us in our sinful pride or our fearful trembling. He continues to work and makes us vessels for His truth. In our imperfections, God's strength is made known and He is glorified.

God does not take the instruction of His children lightly, and neither should we. But God does not exclude us from His plans because we are not qualified. He equips us as we go so long as we rely on Him; He grants us what we need when we need it. The last eight months of story telling in our Children's Ministries have taught me that. I believe Jesus is real, and sharing that belief with the kids here at Emmanuel Bible Church is the most important thing I have ever done. I am so grateful teaching here is a part of God's plan for me.



ERIN STUCKY | GLENN & DEBBIE | CLAIRE ROTH

GOING TO OTHERS

By: Franklin Kuenzi

EVENT PAGE

THE HAPPENINGS AT EBC

MAY EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

11 - Church Workday

Time: 8:00 AM

Contact: Dave Steffen @ 503.931.1121

Join us for a day of cleaning up the church grounds!

12 - Child Dedication

Time: 8:00 AM and 10:45 AM

Location: Sanctuary

Contact: Church Office @ 503.364.6179

If you would like to dedicate your child(ren) to the Lord on Mother's Day, please contact the office.

18 - Caitlyn Connor Bridal Shower

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: South Building

Contact: Mary Kuenzi @ 503.634.2197

All ladies are welcome to come celebrate with Caitlyn (Anthony Kuenzi's fiancée) as she prepares for her wedding! She is registered at Target.

19 - Baptism

Time: 10:45 AM

Location: Sanctuary

Contact: Church Office @ 503.364.6179

Emmanuel Bible Church is having a baptism service on Sunday, May 19th, during the first part of the 10:45 AM service. If you would like to be baptized at that time, please contact the church office.

27 - Memorial Day / Church Office Closed

In observance of Memorial Day, the church office will be closed. Please contact the elder on call for any urgent pastoral care needs.

Emmanuel Bible Church

8512 Sunnyview Rd | Salem, OR | 97305

www.ebcsalem.com

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 AM

Sunday Morning Worship Services 8:00 & 10:45 AM

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S.O.S. SEEKING OUR SAVIOR

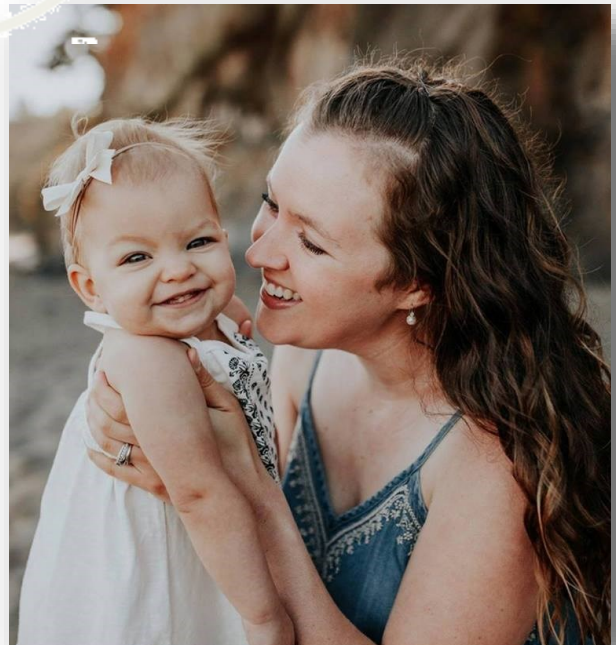
May 14th, 2019, 7:00 PM

*Keely Kohl
will be speaking about
God's Omniscience and Wisdom.*

*All women (high school and older) are invited to join us in the
South Building! Doors open at 6:45 PM, and the event begins
at 7:00 PM.*

*Questions? Contact: Jenny Shetler
(503.779.6623)*

FAITHFULNESS
Sovereignty OMNISCIENCE
Compassion SELF-
WISDOM SUFFICIENCY



Keely Kohl