



WHAT'S UP IN KIDS MINISTRY THIS MONTH

May 2018

Due to our "away" service at the marae at the end of the month, we will not follow one specific theme in our Kids Ministry classes for May but will explore different themes through stand alone lessons.

The Seedlings will focus on praising and thanking God for family, friends and things in their lives.

The Starters to Seniors Group will have lessons on David and Goliath, John 3:16 and meeting a superhero from the Bible: Arkman (a.k.a. Noah).

The preteens will look at Faith and trusting God's way. They will have a lesson on what it means to fear God and on Friendship.

WORKSHOP

Arkman

Children will be introduced to Arkman. He didn't have super powers but he did have super obedience.

WORKSHOP

David & Goliath

The children will watch a short movie about D & G and then measure themselves next to Goliath. They will learn that the battle is God's.

WORKSHOP

John 3:16

If the Bible had a slogan or theme it would most likely be this verse.



FAMILY DEVOTIONAL IDEAS

These are just ideas to help guide you. Adapt them to your own family.

Devotional Idea A:

God loves us

(adapted from:

<http://lizzylife.com/2017/02/14/a-devotion-to-help-kids-understand-gods-love/>)

This is short and simple family devotion to help your children understand God's love for them.

Start by reading Zephaniah 3:17 (If your child can read, let them find Zephaniah in the Bible and read it aloud).

“The Lord your God is with you,

He is mighty to save.

He will take great delight in you,

He will quiet you with his love,

He will rejoice over you with singing.”

Explain to your kids that God takes great delight in them.

Just as you their parents put them to bed each night with a song, so God, our Heavenly Father, sings over us. (If your child is older now and you no longer sing to them, remind them of when you used to do it and how special it was for you).

Then tell each child one thing in their character that brings God great delight—be as specific as you can be.

For example, with our four kids, we shared:

Kid 1: Your compassion, kindness, and concern for others’ feelings

Kid 2: Your soft heart towards God, the way you are always seeking Him

Kid 3: Your amazing patience and kindness to your younger sister, even when she drives you crazy

Kid 4: Your deeply loving spirit—you give affection so generously to others, and make us all feel loved

Talks like this are a wonderful way to encourage our kids and show them the height and depth and breadth of God’s astounding, mind-boggling, often undeserved but absolutely devoted love for all of us.

Devotional Idea B:

Measuring God’s Love

Supplies:

- Ruler
- measuring tape
- Scale
- Stopwatch

- Cup of rice or lentils
- Pen
- the following questions written or printed out on a paper:
 1. How thick is the Bible?
 2. How long is your shoe?
 3. How tall are you?
 4. How wide is your parent's hand?
 5. How long does it take to jump 20 times?
 6. How many grams of rice is there in the cup?

Let the children measure the things on the list. Explain that these are ways for the kids to measure distance, time, height etc.

Now read (or have a child read) Ephesians 3:18 (NIRV) May you have power together with all the Lord's holy people to understand Christ's love. May you know how wide and long and high and deep it is.

Ask the children if they can measure God's love for us?

We can measure lots of things, but we can't measure God's love; it is infinite! And it will NEVER run out!

Devotional C:

Teaching kids to go the extra mile

by Elizabeth Laing Thompson

from: <http://lizzylife.com/2016/02/04/teaching-kids-to-go-the-extra-mile/>

Me: "Hey, {insert child's name}, will you help me {set the table/carry the laundry/vacuum the floor}?"

Kid, with a dramatic groan: "But that's not my chore this week!"

Repeat variations of this conversation a dozen times, with all of my children, over several weeks.

Me to myself: Time for a family talk.

With this attitude problem in mind, last week the kids and I held a quick devotion time before school. We turned to Matthew 5:41–42: "If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you."

Kind of a strange passage, right? Not your usual "encourage the kids to help around the house with a good attitude" scripture.

But hang with me.

First I had to explain the context of the passage to the kids. During Jesus' day, the Romans occupied all Jewish territory. By law, Roman soldiers could force Jewish people to carry their equipment for them—they could just stop them on the side of the road and conscript them into service. No matter what the Jew was doing or where he was going, he had to stop and travel with the Roman as his temporary slave. (Remember Simon, the man who was forced to carry Jesus' cross when Jesus couldn't carry it himself (Mark 15:21)? That's an example of this law in action.)

The only redeeming aspect of this law was its built-in limitation: the Roman could only force the Jew into service for one mile. We can imagine how humiliated the Jews must have felt by this practice—how slowly and angrily they must have walked while shouldering their enemy's burden, how violently they must have dropped the baggage at the end of their mile of service.

To help the kids connect with the story, we acted this scene out using pillows from our couch. I played the part of the Roman soldier, and forced my son to carry my pillows across the room. I piled pillow after pillow into his arms, until he was giggling his head off, and his giggling head had completely disappeared behind a pile of pillows. Then he had to attempt to walk across the room.

When everybody stopped laughing, we used this story to talk about Jesus' expectations for his followers. Jesus called his disciples to have a completely different attitude than anyone else. Instead of giving in to anger and resentment, he called us to show the love and grace of God by going the extra mile. (And now you know where that phrase came from! Cool, right?) The disciple of Jesus shouldn't just count his steps till he reaches the end of his required service, then drop the burden and stomp off in a bitter huff—no, the disciple of Jesus says, "Hey, Roman soldier, I'm enjoying your company so much, why don't you let me carry this for you for another mile? And while I'm at it, let me tell you about a preacher named Jesus..." Jesus wants his people to exemplify kindness and grace, even in the face of injustice and cruelty. He wants us to do more than expected, and better than expected! And how does this lesson translate into our daily life today? It means that as people who love Jesus, we always seek to have a great attitude no matter what—even if we are being mistreated. It means that we show the love of God to people who don't "deserve" it. It means we do more than we have to, and we do it with a great attitude. In Colossians 3: 22–24, Paul has these words of admonition for slaves with their masters (I emphasized some phrases): "Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." What a challenging attitude to attain, under painful circumstances—but what a great reward in the end!

We talked about having a "second-mile" attitude in our family life—in everything we do at school, in sports, in friendship, and at home. We talked about always looking for ways to serve and give, above and beyond what we are required to do. I asked the kids to work on having a better attitude about helping around the house—not thinking in terms of what's on

the chore chart, and what they have to do to earn allowance, but always striving to serve as much as they can, and with a generous spirit.