



FAMILIES & KIDS NEWSLETTER

Offering practical, spiritual, and fun resources for families following Jesus together.

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January 2016

TELLING JESUS' STORIES

At the heart of everything we do in this community is Jesus. Over the next couple months that will be especially clear as we focus in Big Church and Kids Church alike on stories that Jesus told and stories about Jesus himself. Read on for details of our January plans, the month's calendar, and some pageant photos.

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

In Big Church we're starting the New Year with a preaching series on parables, or stories Jesus told. The preschoolers and kindergartners are looking at some parables too. We begin with four parables about what the Kingdom of Heaven is like: the Parables of the Great Pearl, the Sower, the Leaven, and the Mustard Seed. Then we'll hear three parables from Luke 15 that all have to do with the experience of being lost and being found. Of course, this is not all that these parables mean. We'll end the series with the Parable of the Great Banquet, another parable of the Kingdom, in which God invites us and all people to come to his banquet.

ELEMENTARY

After three Sundays of work on the Christmas performance and a couple of weeks with no Kids Church we were happy to get back to our regular schedule. In January and February we'll be sharing stories about Jesus' life—trying to make connection to the person of Jesus and the choices he had to make, even as God's son, to follow God as completely as he did. We're starting with the stories of Jesus as a baby and a young person, with the hope that our own young people will be able to identify with aspects of what they hear. Not to say that we don't always work hard to find points of connection, even in all the stories that are just about grown-ups!

If you're interested in following along with our stories this year, they will be available every Sunday by the entrance to the our meeting room, right at the bottom of the stairs.

YOUTH GROUP

We have good news to share! Michaiah's baby girl, Aoife Ceilin Healy (pronounced ee-fa kay-leen), was born December 21, 2016 around 11:30 pm. During Michaiah's maternity leave, you can contact Kim Messenger or one of the wonderful youth leaders with any questions or concerns.

The **Middle School Group** continues to meet as usual at 9:30 during first service in the Ministry Center youth rooms. After a Three Kings Day celebration on January 8 and a visit by the Living Stories acting troupe on January 15, the group will be exploring themes from the Hero's Journey. They'll look at heroes from books, movies, and the Bible and consider their own hero's journey. **Middle School leaders** are Andy O'Donnell, Jacob Bourgeois, Fred Edmund, Brian Kang and Leah Archibald.

The **High School Group** now meets at 11:30 during second service in the Ministry Center living room on every Sunday, except the 4th Sundays of the month. **Fourth at Four for Fun:** Every 4th Sunday, beginning with January 22, the group will gather at 4 pm off campus at different families' homes. If you'd like to take a turn hosting, please contact Kim Messenger or one of the youth leaders. After a chance to review the year and share hopes for 2017, the group will continue their discussions of tough questions guided by volume 2 of the curriculum we used in the fall called *Can I Ask That*. **High School leaders** are Julia O'Donnell, Rebecca Mio, and Justina and Lucas Oliveira.

JOIN THE PARENTS NETWORK

The Parents Network email group is a way to connect with other families for events and to share kids' toys, clothes, or other items. Email lindainkang@gmail.com for more information or to sign up.

CONTACT US

Kim Messenger, Babies/Toddlers & Preschool Kids Church kim@reservoirchurch.org

Dan Archibald, Elementary Kids Church dan@reservoirchurch.org

Michaiah Healy, Youth Group michaiah@reservoirchurch.org

OUR CHRISTMAS STORY

KIDS CHURCH PAGEANT MEMORIES

Way back on December 18, the kids of Elementary Kids Church told some of Jesus's story themselves with a pair of Christmas Shows. The preschoolers and kindergarteners got costumed up during their Kids Church time to present their pageant, and the elementary school kids worked for three Sundays in December to prepare a performance with costumes, sets, and music, which they put on between services. If you missed it we'll probably do it again next year, but for now, here are some photos from the day!



Pre/K actors hitting their marks at the climax of the pageant.



Elementary candlelight singers, and the "star" of the Pre/K show.



Actors and stage crew pose following the elementary performance.

STORY TREASURES

In our preschool and kindergarten Godly Play classrooms, the parables are kept in gold boxes. We remind each other that "gold is valuable, and parables are even more valuable than gold. The boxes look like presents. Parables are presents, given to you even before you were born. They are yours, even if you don't know what a parable is. Each parable box has a lid, a bit like a door. Sometimes, even if you're ready, it is hard to go inside a parable. Don't be discouraged. You can keep coming back, and one day the parable will open up for you."

Jesus used parables to provoke people's imagination, ours included. In Kids Church, we practice asking open-ended questions that can have a variety of answers. Our wondering questions open up the many meanings of the parable and the particular ways the Holy Spirit may be using it to speak to each of us that day. Our questions always begin, "I wonder..."

Try reading the parables together at home—some are only 1 or 2 sentences—and wondering together. Ask questions like, "I wonder what the pearl, or the leaven ... could really be?" "I wonder who this person in the parable could really be?" You can check out the signs posted outside the classrooms for more ideas.



Holding something more valuable than gold...

FAMILIES CALENDAR

Sunday,
January 8 and
following

Kids Church & regular service times resume.

Kids Church meets at 9:30. Middle School youth group meets at 9:30 am in the basement youth rooms.

Sunday,
January 8 and
following

New Meeting Time for High School Group

High School meet Sunday mornings at 11:30 in the Ministry Center living room—except on the 4th Sundays of the month (see below).

Thursday,
January 19

Moms Night Out, 6:30 - 9 pm in the chapel.

Children's clothing swap at 6:30 followed by guest speaker, Becca Persson, at 7 pm with time afterwards to share and pray over sweet & savory nibbles. Contact: marianne@reservoirchurch.org.

Sunday,
January 22

4th at 4 Gathering for High School Group

Every 4th Sunday of the month the high schoolers will gather at 4 pm off campus. Families are taking turns hosting the group in their homes. January's location will be announced soon.