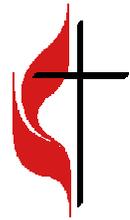


Lemont United Methodist Church
Sunday School



Notes to Parents

Dear Parents,

March 2007

I must be getting old! I used to think that TV and movies were great entertainment, but now I cringe as I view them from the perspective of a parent. Have you seen what's on TV lately? In the movies? Video games? Music lyrics? At every turn, it seems, our children are faced with messages that a Christian family might deem inappropriate. We spend an hour or two on Sunday mornings trying to give our children proper guidance, only to have them spend many more hours being pulled in the opposite direction. How is a parent to handle this? For young children, the answer is relatively simple. We are the parents. We choose what is appropriate for our children! But this will not work forever. At some point, we need to help our children learn to negotiate the world and make decisions for themselves. To build these skills we can start letting them make age-appropriate decisions as soon as possible, helping narrow their choices. For example, young children might be asked which of two Veggie-Tales movies they would like to watch. It is also extremely important to spend time with your children and talk with them. They will learn your values through every-day encounters. Then check out the media that older children have selected and ask them to evaluate why or why not it might be a good choice. The idea is not to criticize their choices but to make them think. Here are some questions to guide them in making decisions: 1) Will this hurt me or someone else?, 2) Is it wholesome?, 3) Is this right or wrong?, 4) Do I need or want this?, 5) What are the consequences? Finally, we can be good role models in our decision-making, being sure to include God in the process. (See box at the right with questions from life-coach Valoire Burton.) If we make God a part of our lives on more than just Sunday mornings, our children will make Him a part of their lives too!

Yours in Christ,
Karin Peraino & Mary Rohrer

Mark Your Calendar:



3/11/07 – St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale

3/11/07 – Marriage Class: "Looking for Love in Two Special Faces"

3/25/07 – Marriage Class: "Don't Rock the Jukebox"

Divine Decision Making



1. *Is now the time to make this decision?* Have the courage to wait for God's timing. Allow it to flow naturally, and then be willing to move when it's time.
2. *What's the purpose of this decision?* Be clear that you're making a decision based on pure motives.
3. *What information is needed to make this decision?* Take the time to learn and gather data so that you can make a wise, informed decision.
4. *What are my alternatives? Which is best?* Make sure you've considered all options; weigh the costs of each.
5. *What other factors are influencing my decision?* Be honest and recognize the factors influencing your decision.
6. *Who are the right people to assist me in my decision?* Reach out to those who have experience and background to help you when necessary.
7. *Does this decision move me closer to my vision or further from it?* Daily decisions should still lead you toward your overall goal.
8. *What would be the ideal scenario? What would it take to bring it to life?* Don't settle for less than what God has in store.
9. *Is this decision pleasing to God?* Ultimately, a wise decision is a godly decision.
10. *What is the Spirit telling me is the best decision?* Pray and listen for God's guidance. You aren't alone!

FaithWeaver

FaithWeaver Bible Curriculum – Weaving Faith Through Life!

Using FaithWeaver, teachers will teach as Jesus taught, with a variety of learning experiences and interactive discussions. All grade levels will cover the same lesson, which can make follow-up discussions easy and interesting. Take home pages will be provided to keep you informed and allow you to continue the learning at home. Lessons move chronologically through the bible—Old Testament in the Fall, New Testament in the Winter/Spring.

- † **Memorable Bible Lessons:** The experiential lessons connect from church to home, moving Bible lessons beyond church walls and into people’s lives!
- † **Relevant for Today—and Every Day:** Each learner, no matter the age, sees how God’s Word is relevant to their lives, then applies it every day.
- † **Reinforced Bible Learning All Week Long:** The HomeConnect™ section on each student page, everyone studying the same Bible story, and Driving Home the Point take-home pages help make this happen!
- † **Know How to Live Like Christ:** Participants take what they’ve learned in class and use it to shape decisions about how they live their daily lives.

Although we hope to see every student each week, we realize that schedules sometimes do not allow that. Below is a calendar of upcoming lessons so that you may review them at home with your child if he/she should have to miss.

Lesson & Date	Bible Story	<i>Scripture</i>	Key Verse	Bible Point Ages 3-5	Bible Point Grades 1-HS
SPRING 2007 (New Testament)					
2) 3/04	Moses and Elijah Appear with Jesus	Luke 6:43-44	Matthew 5:16	<i>Jesus is God’s Son</i>	<i>Our Christ-like actions show we’re Christians</i>
3) 3/11	Jesus Tells the Parable of the Lost Son	Luke 15:11-32	Nehemiah 9:17b	<i>God is Loving and forgiving</i>	<i>God will forgive us when we sin</i>
4) 3/18	Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet	John 13:1-17	Mark 9:35b	<i>God wants us to help others</i>	<i>Jesus wants us to follow his example of serving others</i>
5) 3/25	Jesus is Tried and Crucified	Luke 19:28-40; 23:1-49	Romans 5:8	<i>Jesus died for us</i>	<i>Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins</i>
6) 4/01	Jesus Appears to Mary	John 20:1-18	Romans 10:9	<i>Jesus is Alive!</i>	<i>The good news of Easter is that Jesus is alive</i>
7) 4/15	Apostles Defend Their Faith	Acts 5:12-42	James 1:2-3	<i>Tell others about Jesus</i>	<i>Keep following God, even when it’s hard</i>
8) 4/22	Saul Meets Jesus Near Damascus	Acts 9:1-20	2 Corinthians 5:17	<i>Jesus changes our lives</i>	<i>Jesus changes our lives</i>
9) 4/29	Peter Raises Tabitha from the Dead	Acts 9:36-42	James 5:16b	<i>God hears our prayers</i>	<i>God answers when we pray</i>