



Lemont United Methodist Church Sunday School



Notes to Parents

Dear Parents,

November 2007

Happy Thanksgiving! This is a wonderful time to gather together with family, give thanks, and enjoy great food. Sometimes though, our focus is more on the food than on the thanks, which makes for just another hectic but enjoyable day. A few years ago I realized that this was happening at our family gatherings, so I looked for ways to bring the Thanks back into Thanksgiving. Since then, I've found Thanksgiving to be a much more meaningful celebration. If you too are looking for ways to bring the Thanks back, here are some ideas...

- **Make a Thanks Ship:** This works great for a small group. My daughter and I created a crude "Mayflower" out of a milk jug, straws, and construction paper. Each guest was given a stack of notes with the names of everyone at the gathering. They wrote a short reason they were thankful for that person and put the note in the ship. During dinner we read the slips. Everyone felt special; my daughter even kept her notes.
- **Make a Thanks Turkey:** For a large gathering, we created a big poster of a turkey without feathers. The feathers were cut from construction paper and placed nearby in a basket with a pen and tape. Each guest was encouraged to write down what they were thankful for and to tape the feather on the turkey. Guests browsed the feathers throughout the day.
- **Share a Prayer:** Instead of having one person lead the prayer before dinner, we've gone around the table and let each guest give their own personal thanks. To hear other's personal thoughts really brought me closer to that person, like when my Grandfather gave thanks for just being alive after a heart scare.
- **Direct the Conversation:** During dinner, help the conversation focus on things for which we are thankful by asking pointed questions, for example, "Name one good thing that happened this year that surprised you." "What happened this year that seemed bad at the time but turned out to be a good thing?" If it's a larger group, you can place baskets of questions around the table for conversation starters.
- **Invite Others:** My in-laws table is always open. Many gatherings have included a visitor who did not have a place to go on the holiday. It's been fun learning about other people and places.

Yours in Christ,

Karin Peraino & Mary Rohrer

Reminders



- ✓ **11/04-11/11: Return Trick or Treat for UNICEF boxes**
- ✓ **11/04-11/11: Candy Collection** – Bring in leftover Halloween candy? Non-chocolate candy will be sent to soldiers.
- ✓ **11/22: Thanksgiving**
- ✓ **Prayer Partners** – The program is underway. Children's names have been given to church volunteers to be included in their daily prayers. Let us know if your child has not yet been contacted.

Prayer Connect



This month's theme is God's Presence; Deuteronomy 33:12b

Dear Lord,
May my children
rest secure in you
as you shield them
all day long.

Thank You!

The Halloween Bake Sale raised
\$200 for our Sunday School!

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 1-9
FALL 2007 (Old Testament)					
10) 11/04	Elijah Challenges the Prophets of Baal	1 Kings 18:16-40	Exodus 20:2-3	<i>God Wants Us to Choose Him</i>	<i>Choose to serve God</i>
11) 11/11	God Speaks to Elijah in a Whisper	1 Kings 19:9-18	Isaiah 41:10	<i>God is Always with Us</i>	<i>When we feel alone, God is with us</i>
12) 11/18	God Takes Elijah to Heaven	2 Kings 2:1-15	1 Corinthians 10:31	<i>God is Always with Us</i>	<i>God wants us to be faithful</i>
13) 11/25	Jehoshaphat Trusts God for Victory	2 Chron. 20:1-30	1 Peter 5:7	<i>God is Always with Us</i>	<i>God wants to help us with our problems</i>
1) 12/02	Get Ready for Jesus	Isaiah 2:1-5	John 3:17	<i>Jesus is Born</i>	<i>We can look forward to Jesus’ coming</i>
3) 12/09	An Angel Appears to Joseph	Isaiah 7:13-14	Jeremiah 29:11	<i>Jesus is Born</i>	<i>Trust God’s plans</i>
4) 12/16	Jesus is Born	Luke 2:1-20; Hebrews 1:1-4	John 14:6	<i>Jesus is Born</i>	<i>Jesus was born for us</i>

Notes: 12/16 Pancake Breakfast is at 9:00am; 12/23/07 - 12/30/07 is Christmas Break, No Sunday School