

Kids' Church Report

Kids Church has been growing together in God's love this year!

Curriculum

We have been following a lectionary-based curriculum rooted in the overarching theme of "Growing together in God's love." This structure has been a great way to tie lessons together into longer-term ideas for the kids to think about. With the broader theme, we can connect what we learnt one week into the following week's session, even if the Bible stories aren't directly related.

I have also been working to integrate more te reo into our sessions since te wiki o te reo Māori, where the kids were excited by learning Bible vocab in te reo! It was great to see their enthusiasm, so now we learn a new te reo word each week that correlates to our lesson focus.

Not every session is the same, but generally, we follow this format:

1. *Opener*: This can be an object lesson, group discussion question, quick activity or game - anything to get the kids engaged from the get-go!
2. *Bible Story*: This is usually through a video, acting it out, or playing a game of fill-in-the-blanks, mad libs, hangman, etc.
3. *Game or Activity*: We play a wide array of games that link the main lesson or thinking point of the Bible story into the game
4. *Craft*: Once we have thought about the main lesson a bit while getting some energy out, we sit down and do a craft that further explores the lesson or theme

Intergenerational Focus

Even though we started the year very limited in how much we could get involved in Church due to Covid restrictions, the kids have still been able to do quite a lot with other parish members.

Youth and Kids Church have had many joint sessions this year, such as Easter, Pentecost, and St. Aidan's day. By doing so, we are creating a greater sense of community where the kids and youth are getting to know each other better. I also think this will make Youth a less intimidating transition as the children age out of the Kids Church programme. It is also a nice opportunity to do bigger group activities with everyone.

Louise and I have also been exploring ways to get the kids involved in the service more often. For some services, we have stayed in church longer than usual to be part of the Bible story; other times, we have shown the congregation what we worked on in our session at the end of the service. In the most recent youth service, the kids were much more involved by welcoming people at the doors, acting out the Gospel story, and even taking part in a small skit. I am very excited to continue to sprinkle in ways that the children can be more involved in the services, as I believe it is important for the intergenerational aspect of our community.

Professional Development

I completed the Boundaries Course (February) and a First Aid Training Course (April) this year.

Ngā mihi,
Izzi Hoskyn