

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In the fall, all POP kids, preschool to high school-age, were presented with Bibles, selected by Julie Latvakoski, with the help of Pastor Scott, according to their ages. Some kids had never received a Bible from Prince of Peace, and others had outgrown the elementary level Bibles that they had been given.

For POP children and youth, there are three Sunday School options:

1. Once a month program for young children run by Regina Dickenson
2. Weekly school-year lessons for elementary and early middle school kids, coordinated by Julie Latvakoski, and taught by her and numerous church members
3. Weekly lessons during the school-year for late middle school/early high school, run by Dave Wilson and Brad Kropp.

From Regina: "A preschool bible class was added in November 2017. The class is geared toward children ages 1-4. A short bible lesson is read (from the preschool children's bible that each child brings to class), there is an activity, and a craft. The lessons are short and usually last 15-30 minutes depending on the children's attention level. Attendance usually ranges from 1-3 children. This has been well received by the parents and the children that attend are very engaged."

The Elementary Sunday School lessons this year started by using the remaining Holy Moly subscription, followed by two quarters of a new purchased curriculum, Deep Blue Kids, One Room Sunday School, Fall and Winter. Some volunteer teachers have chosen to teach their own lesson, rather than using the packaged curriculum, so the two quarters will provide enough lessons to complete the year.

Hypothetically, the range of ages that this class covers could be problematic. Activities appropriate and appealing to the older students might not be for the younger students. The Deep Blue Kids offers some options for older and younger kids (so teachers can be prepared for both), and this has occasionally helped, but our core attendees this year are 3rd - 5th grades, so that hasn't been a big problem so far.

For the late middle school/high school Sunday School, we bought an Augberg Press curriculum called "Re: Form" with DVDs and leader guide. It has 40 lessons that according to the publisher "tackle questions about the Bible, creed, disciples, Jesus, other beliefs, and hot topics." Because Brad and Dave also create their own lessons, this curriculum should last for at least a couple of years.

During advent, we had a series of fun advent activities before the evening service: a craft run by Regina Dickinson, singing with Sarah Los, and a readers' theater of a Christmas play with Julie Latvakoski. These fun activities were open to the whole church, but most of the participants were children for the first two activities, and about half and half for the last one.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Latvakoski