

Sharing Your Faith with Children and Youth

During the Children's Moment one Sunday morning, the question "how big is Jesus?" was asked. One child said, "Jesus is so big that we can't possibly understand his magnitude," and another one responded with, "that is why Jesus came in human form to be relatable to each of us." Another child later told me, "Jesus is small enough to fit into my heart yet big enough to fit into everyone else's heart as well." A three year old girl recently explained during a project that, "People are the most important part of the church because they help Jesus. Without the people, the church is just a building." When a child asked not to be judged while getting completely creative during a project, another one quickly responded with, "This is church, we don't judge here, we love like Jesus loves." And when we were discussing the Syrian refugees and our service project, all of the children whole-heartedly agreed we should help. We should simply be a friend to all. To people who are different than us and those who are the same.

Each of these stories is sweet. Each of them can warm your heart and make you feel proud. But what is the bigger picture? What is the story that all of these stories together tell? They say that our kids are thinking, asking questions, trying to figure things out, and even wanting to put their faith into action. It says very clearly that their journeys of faith have started.

We are the church and our mission is to grow in Faith, Love, Health and Service. Our charge as Christians is to spread the Good News and help make disciples of others. So, we have little minds and bodies in our very own church family who are looking, searching, and wanting to know God. How are you personally assisting them to grow in their faith, with love, in health and through service? Pastor Brad has said each one, reach one. I would like to make the suggestion that we consider our children and youth as ones we reach.

There are a million ways each of us can do this. Our Sunday school program is not what it needs to be. I believe to really challenge all of our kids, we need classes for different age groups. This means we need people to teach the classes. We need to offer support to the ones who teach with prepping projects and possibly providing healthy snacks. We need hosts for Kids Club where you are sharing part of your stories with our children, or playing games with them, or bringing music or whatever your passion may be into this hour of fellowship. Time spent with a child will never be wasted time. Our kids are involved and talented and are working hard in school. Ask one of them what their favorite subject is, or how band, sports, drama, etc. are going. I am hoping we will be able to easily share when the kids are involved in something, so we, their Aldersgate family, can physically show up and support them. Confirmation is coming up in a couple months, prayerfully consider being a mentor. Three different Easter Egg events are being planned for this year, consider volunteering in some way, whether it's to fill eggs or work at one of the activity stations. Join us on the MLK Day of Caring or the mini mission trip to Camp Lazy F and work alongside kids in service. Vacation Bible School is already starting to be planned – get involved. Mostly, purposely put yourself next to a youth or child and say "Hi!"

I love working with kids, as they remind us so clearly, so innocently, so purely, and so very truthfully of the things as adults we tend to make more complicated. The church is just a building unless it is filled with people helping Jesus. Each one, reach one – Aldersgate child.