

Our mission is to: Know, Love, and Follow Jesus**“Deep and Wide” Thoughts from Doug**

Someday your children will be teenagers. They will begin thinking differently, they will look differently, they will look at you differently. It will happen.

During the child-rearing years, for better and worse, we impact the lives of our kids. We are human, and we too have been impacted by our own upbringing.

After walking with hundreds of parents of children and teenagers (and parenting my own) I have found there to be a keyword worth employing in your everyday practice toward helping the teenager-to-come, in your life walk, with God through the ups and downs that will inevitably come.

The key word is “**consistency**.”

Below is a little game plan for how this might look:

Consistency of character – It is easy to look for practical steps on how to parent kids while not doing the very most important thing: making sure our relationship with God and others is being nurtured and strengthened. Children are looking at our character now. It will shape them for years to come.

Consistency in worship – When we are consistent in worship with the church family our children will “catch” this as a core value, and when they get to those critical early, mid and late adolescent years they will be far more likely to adopt this value as well. Waiting until the teenage years or when times get hard to get youth back to church is very difficult. Start and keep the habit now. It begins with you.

Consistency in loving boundaries – Study after study has shown that kids actually want their parents to have boundaries. Do they complain about it? Yes! Do they attempt to bust down the boundaries? Yes! Yet they still want to know the loving and consistent discipline by parents who care. Your unconditional and healthy love for them helps build a more positive foundation.

As always, if these ideas stir up further questions or thoughts, don’t hesitate to reach out to me.

I’m grateful to be walking with you.

Going wider and deeper,

Doug

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FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL!

This coming **Saturday, October 27** is the date for the **Fall Family Festival 2018**. Our two lower church parking lots will be transformed into a “fun zone” for kids and families of Free Methodist Church, Cliff Drive Care Center and the whole community. Games, prizes, photos, cake walks, bounce house, and a yummy barbequed lunch, will all be a part of the day. Don't forget “Trunk or Treat” where people take the trunk of their cars, decorate it and add some sweets!

The festival begins at 11:30 am and ends around 2:30 pm.

Come and join us! Invite your friends.



PARENTS NIGHT OUT

We are happy to offer a “Parents Night Out” on Friday, November 2 from 5:30-7:30 pm. The formula is simple: You drop your kids off at the church, we feed them (bring \$5 per kid), care for them, and you have a good time for two hours. Even better, there is no cost (other than the food)! RSVP to Kelsey Hardeman, our childcare coordinator at childcare@fmcsb.org by Sunday, October 28.



MASTER CALENDAR

Master Calendars for the 2018-2019 school year are available at the “Welcome Station,” or you may find a copy on our fmcsb.org/children webpage. This will give you a good “snap-shot” of the entire year to come.

COMING EVENTS

November 2 – Parents Night Out

November 19 – All Church Thanksgiving Dinner

December 1 – Parent Shopping Time

ALL CHURCH THANKSGIVING DINNER

Don't forget about our all church family event to come on Sunday, November 18th at 2 pm under the big tent!! This event is perfect for children and families as we share a big meal together. Look for more details to come and invite parents and children you know!



WHAT WE ARE LEARNING ON SUNDAYS

Pre-School

November 4 “God cares for our needs” Exodus 15:22-17:7

November 11 “God takes care of us” Numbers 13-14

November 18 “We can worship God” Exodus 25:1-9; 36

November 25 “God gives us people who lead and love us”
Joshua 1:1-9

Kindergarten through 5th grade

November 4 “God forgives us”
Exodus 24:12-18; 32:1-34:10

November 11 “Trust God”
Numbers 13-14

November 18 “Walk in God’s Ways”
Deuteronomy 30, 34

November 25 “God shows us the path of life” Joshua 1:1-17

RESOURCE

BOOK: [I Wonder: Engaging A Child’s Curiosity About the Bible](#)

By Elizabeth Caldwell



Here is the description from Amazon: “How can anyone completely answer the difficult questions that children ask: Who created God? Will there be another flood? Is the Bible true? But then, we adults have questions too: With so many options and Bible translations, where can I go for help? What is the best Bible for my child? How do we talk about miracle stories, healing stories, and the creation stories? What about violence? When kids ask about the relevancy of the Bible for today, what do we say?”

How we read and interpret the Bible with children may mean the difference between whether or not it will continue to be an important source for their faith development as they become young adults.

Written by an expert in children’s ministry, *I Wonder* is a resource for adults who want to explore ways to help children read, engage, wrestle, and grow into deeper understanding of the Bible. It is for those who come to the Bible with souls open to be fed and who want their children to seek faith and wisdom. It will also help readers address timeless questions and issues including recent biblical scholarship, literary analysis, reading the Bible from their social location and reading the Bible in a multi-faith world.”

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

A good quote for us to remember as we live life in front of our kids:

“So human life is theology. Virtually everything we do is inherently theological. Almost every choice we make reflects what we think about God. There is no escaping it.”

Tony Jones, [The New Christians](#).

FM KIDS TEACHER/LEADER PROFILE

We have a stellar team of people who love God, love kids and want them to love, serve and follow Jesus. We think it would be fun for you to know more about them.

This month we highlight **Elizabeth Stephens** who is one of our faithful toddler helpers. Here are some questions we put to Elizabeth and her answers.

How long have you been serving on the FM KIDS team?

I have been serving on the FM KIDS team for three years, working with the nursery, toddlers and preschool kids.



What is one reason you love being on the team?

There are so many reasons! I really do look forward to seeing the kids every week as they brighten my day and remind me how wonderful the little things are. Also, being surrounded by so many caring and loving teammates and families is such a blessing!

Where did you go to Kindergarten? (Name of school, location)

Sylvan Elementary School in Modesto CA

What is one of your favorite memories as a kid?

Favorite memories include spending endless hours with friends and family at my neighborhood community pool as well as spending time in the Sierra Nevada mountains from the age of 7 - 18 at a backpacking camp learning to love nature and becoming close to God through the wonders of the outdoor world.

Where do you work or what do you with most of your hours during the week?

I work at Inogen in Goleta to help increase the freedom and independence of oxygen therapy patients through innovative products and services. I am passionate about Cultural Arts and serve on the board of a non-profit as well, The Brazilian Cultural Arts Center. When I am not at work, I am usually teaching youth and adult Music & Movement programs, performing in a folkloric dance company and collaborating with a Brazilian band in an effort to spread creative and cultural arts education in our community.

Words of wisdom you would give our kids and families . . .

I just want to emphasize that you are all doing great things! Sometimes it can be overwhelming growing as a child into an adolescent or raising and growing a family but remember that God has a plan for each of us and our unique abilities. And of course, remember to HAVE FUN!

PLEASE CALL ME (Doug) if you want to talk about how your child is doing, if you have any questions about helping you and your child grow deeper in your faith, or if you just want to talk. I am here for you! My cell phone is 805- 252-3216.