



September/October

NEWSLETTER

Sidewalk Sunday School



Hidden In My Heart

Jesus said in Matthew 4:4, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." According to Scripture, His Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. (Psalm 119:105) In Revelation we learn that His name is called The Word of God.

The longest chapter in the bible, Psalm 119, is all about God's Word. Psalm 119:11 tell us to store up God's word in our heart that we might not sin against Him. Jesus is the Word become flesh according to John. God reveres His Word as should we.

If we do not revere God's word, store it up in our hearts, and live by what Jesus says how can we possibly expect the same from our children? Throughout the fall everything we do has revolved around Psalm 23. Psalm 23 is incorporated into everything we sing, recite, teach, and learn.

Everyone has been encouraged and challenged to memorize, to hide in their heart, all of Psalm 23. By the grace of God, we've had four children so far come forward to recite by memory, without error, the entire Psalm. What a joy it has been to see the children work so hard to memorize the scripture.

Scripture memorization can be challenging but it's not impossible. If we applied ourselves to memorizing scripture the same way we apply ourselves at work, at school, at the gym, or doing other things we enjoy it wouldn't be as difficult as perceived.

This last week was particularly special watching my three-year-old daughter recite Psalm 23 perfectly before everyone. For several weeks now this has been our prayer before bedtime. Reciting the Psalm every night at bedtime has helped even myself remember parts that I would sometimes stumble.

She worked so hard. For a couple weeks she would mix up a couple of the verses. Finally, she persevered and everything came together. Watching her was encouraging and challenging for everyone present. Not only the children but also the parents and adults.

There's a tendency for us to think that scripture memorization is too difficult. We're too old, we're too busy, we're not gifted enough to do that – whatever it may be – the list of excuses runs endlessly. If a three-year-old child can hide the word in her heart, our excuses – all of them – are void.

One of our adult volunteers messaged me yesterday. They said, "Pastor Nick!! I memorized Psalm 23. I'm looking forward to Saturday." Her son, who also serves with us, a teenager, has since committed to memorizing the Psalm. All it takes is a spark to start a fire.

Fire if not contained will quickly spread and grow. A spark has been ignited and a fire set ablaze. God's word cannot be contained, and we see His word spreading like a wildfire. We're so proud of each of the children who have hidden Psalm 23 in their heart!

Pastor Nick

MEMORIZE IT

"Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." Psalm 119:11



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

- 11/1: The Valley of Death
- 11/8: You Are with Me
- 11/15: You Prepare a Table
- 11/22: You Anoint My Head with Oil
- 11/29: Goodness and Mercy
- 12/6: House of the Lord

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11/22: Sidewalk Thanksgiving
- 12/6: Fall Series Ends
- 12/13: Sidewalk Christmas Giveaway
- 12/13: Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- 12/14: (Tentative) Singing Christmas Tree Field Trip

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

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| 11/3: Liom | 11/24: Grethell |
| 11/6: Alessia | 11/27: Maria |
| 11/9: Amaya | 12/3: Emiliano |
| 11/10: Nelly | 12/7: Joseph |
| 11/10: Genesis | 12/9: Jimmy |
| 11/18: Kayla | 12/10: Jeremiah |
| 11/19: Makayla | 12/19: Alexa |
| 11/19: Esmeralda | 12/26: Liliana |
| 11/21: Angela | 12/26: Nathaly |
| 11/21: Makaila | 12/29: Carlos |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



PRAISE REPORT

1. Several children have memorized and recited (without error) Psalm 23! They worked so hard. We're so proud of them!
2. Sidewalk Thanksgiving has been completely funded! We're so excited to see what God allow us to be part of that day.
3. Parents are starting to serve with us regularly. What a blessing to see parents in the community commit to serving other children and families.
4. Sidewalk Christmas is underway! We already have 22 children signed up and we anticipate more to come.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Sidewalk Thanksgiving

Volunteer: We need people who are willing to help us serve on Saturday, November 22nd. We anticipate serving more than 150 people.

Prepare a Dish: We'll provide all the resources required. We simply need people to help us cook and/or to warm up pre-cooked food the day of the event. Items we need help preparing:

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| 1. Sweet Potato's | 4. Green Beans |
| 2. Stuffing | 5. Gravy |
| 3. Carrots | 6. Corn |

Sidewalk Christmas

Sponsor a Child: Families need help providing Christmas gifts for their children. Help us help them by sponsoring a child or family. On December 13th we'll deliver the gifts, pray for each family, and sing Christmas carols in the community.

HOW CAN YOU PRAY?

1. **Sidewalk Thanksgiving.** Pray for everyone who attends that many would commit their lives to Jesus as we share the Gospel.
2. **Sidewalk Christmas.** Pray that every family in need this year would be sponsored. Through the providing of gifts, we get to share with each family the greatest gift ever received – the gift of God's Son.
3. **Volunteers.** Pray for our volunteers. We're so grateful for the people who come and serve with us. They make our ministry possible. Pray for them, their families, and their children.

Scan me!

