

From the Preacher's Desk

A Parable Jesus Never Told (Part One)

By David Olmos and Allen Webster

Over the past few months, I've thought a lot about our young kids and their impact on the Lord's Church here at Angleton. People will sometimes say, "the youth are the church of tomorrow" or "these young kids are our future" and it may shock you, but I don't agree with these statements. Our youth are the church of today! They come to Bible study, they come to worship, and we even call some brothers and sisters in Christ. We shouldn't treat them like the future, but instead, make them a more critical part of our present! What does that mean?

When a new family, especially one who has no religious affiliation, is looking for a "church home," the first thing they look at is the youth group. Sadly, some couldn't care less about the singing or preaching, all they care about is the impact the congregation is going to have on their children. What this has caused some denominations to do is put a lot of effort into "entertaining" young people in hopes that their parents, and their money, will stay and worship. I do not agree with this attitude. Worship is not about entertainment. It's about praising God! (2 Timothy 4:4).

So, "how do we make being a Christian exciting, without sacrificing God's truth and our morals?" This is a question that has caused many a preacher to lose sleep, myself included, until I found Brother Allen Webster's pamphlet, "What Teens Want." I'd like to take this article, and the next few, to share with you bits and pieces of his thoughts, along with my own.

From Allen Webster's "A Parable Jesus Never Told"

Once upon a time, there was a church looking toward the future. Some were concerned for the spiritual welfare of the youth growing up in an immoral, decadent age. They began to plan how to create a thirst for righteousness among their young (Matthew 5:6) and fortify their faith to be able to withstand the devil's onslaught (Ephesians 6:13-18; 1 Peter 5:8).

First, they determined that they needed a strong Bible teaching program. The Scriptures produce faith (Romans 10:17), cleanse a young man's way (Psalm 119:9, 11), defeat the devil's temptations (Matthew 4:1-11), and provide answers to life's big questions (2 Peter 1:3). The church would need knowledgeable, capable, caring teachers for youth classes (Romans 10:14; 2 Timothy 2:2). So they began to look around for some good teachers.

One said, "I don't want to leave the fellowship of my adult class to teach children."

But the drug pusher said, "Not even the threat of jail will keep me from working with your children." (cf. Romans 6:13).

Another responded, "I don't know enough to teach children about God."

But the evolutionists went to college to learn how to teach children that there is no God (Psalm 14:1).

Another replied, "Young people today are so different. I could never keep their attention." But movie producers said, "We'll study; survey, and spend millions to produce whatever turns kids on" (cf. Psalm 101:3). To be continued...

This congregation is lucky to have a Youth Minister on staff, and for that man to be Michael Welch. If you have already met Michael, I'd encourage you to do so. He and I have discussed ways we can help our young kids, our congregation, and our community; and that has me excited about our future. However, if we hope to help our young kids, the first thing we need to realize is that it's going to take full participation from their parents, as well as the congregation. There are so many opportunities for you to be a part of the lives of our youth; whether it's teaching a Bible class or hosting a devotional at your home. We need to stop making excuses as to why we don't help; because the world makes no excuse when it comes to teaching them falsely. My encouragement to you is to be a part of the youth, even if you are not so youthful! Show them through your actions what it means to be a Christian, and how that life can be an exciting one. It might not seem like a lot, but it's a great place to start! God Bless.



A sign-up sheet has been placed in the foyer for you to sign if you would be willing to host a youth devotional—meeting together in homes to share a meal and fellowship with one another is not only a way that we follow the pattern of the first century church (Acts 2:46), but it's also an opportunity for our youth to have a sense of ownership in their worship to God as they get to participate in group-building activities, the young men get to lead in a time of praise and mutual edification in song, and all are given a more open opportunity to ask questions as we together strive to deepen our understanding of who God is and who we are as His people. Thank you for your willingness to help us grow together; without your continued support the youth group could not be the living and thriving part of this church body that we all want it to be.

Upcoming events:

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| Jan. 26 | JAM |
| Jan. 26 | Devo @ the Austin's |
| Feb. 21 | Sweetheart Banquet |
| Feb. 23 | Devo with Westside in Alvin |



So we do not focus on what is seen, but ON what is UNSEEN. FOR what IS SEEN is TEMPORARY, but what is UNSEEN is ETERNAL.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:18

ONE teacher is needed for Bible Time to finish out this school year, beginning in March. If you can help, please sign up in the foyer.

January 20
Bring a sack lunch at noon

Please Pray

Bobbie Krejci remains in Methodist Hospital, Alkek tower, room 848...Joy Wood is doing much better and hoping to return to Country Village for rehab in the next couple of days...Please pray for our many members who continue to struggle with health issues.