

Family Ministry 2020 – 2021 Accomplishments, Goals and Challenges

2020 Accomplishments:

Children's Ministry:

- Making a transition from in person Sunday School and Kids Church to our Sunday morning Zoom classes. We shifted to a Kids Church zoom in the late spring and summer, and then added in a separate 3rd & 4th grade class in the fall. Both our PreK-2nd and 3rd & 4th grade classes are attended by a solid group of regular students and our amazing teacher volunteers.
- Preschool Chapel program: producing lessons and videos for the teachers to use each week in class and also creating materials to complement the summer take-home program. We also hosted a few Family Chapels via zoom for the school and parents to participate in.
- Producing a really joyful Advent Festival in December that drew some of our families who don't participate in Sunday School Zooms back into a community ministry event.)

Student Ministry:

- We has a smooth transition to Zoom back in March and were able to find new and fun ways to keep our students engaged during the thick of quarantine. For example, CLUB had weekly "game time" meetings where our middle schoolers were able to play light-hearted games and catch up with friends. We also started small groups in the spring that are still going on.
- Despite the obstacles Covid brought, we feel as though we have made deeper relationships with a consistent group of students. Our Sunday school meetings have a more consistent group of kids than we had while in person, allowing us to cultivate friendships and create a discipleship based program.

Family Ministry:

- Launched 3 community groups (one of which is continuing in 2021 with 12 participants)
- 40+ "Family Table Service Offerings" on YouTube (avg. views = 93). 40+ families have read and recorded our Family Table Prayers of the People.
- Produced and executed a 10 week "Kingdom Relationship" series via Zoom and YouTube featuring interviews with Father Ed, Sr. Warden Cindy Wade, vestryman Tony D'Emidio, Little Lights Executive and Director (and leader of "Race Literacy 101" course) Steve Park along with sections of sermons on "Kingdom" from Pastor Tony Evans. Each class had a Q & A component. Thursday evening attendance was between 15 – 30 people. Views on the sessions we uploaded to YouTube range from 30 – 160+

2021 Goals:

Children's Ministry:

- Developing and producing a Family Take-Home VBS that will be a blessing to our families and inspire them to share it with other friends and neighbors.

- Planning a safe return to in-person children's ministry classes and events that families are comfortable participating in as we get closer to a time when we can begin to make that transition back.

Student Ministry:

- To make our meetings (both Sunday school and small groups) feel more exciting and interesting. We do not want these meetings to feel like their daily school Zooms, so we are hoping to continue to build excitement and fun around our meetings.
- We hope to stay in close contact with families through phone calls and emails to ensure they know we are always there for them and their children during this time. Further on in the year, when it is safe to do so, we're eager to find fun ways to spend time in person with small groups of students or students and their families.

Family Ministry:

- Launch 2 more community groups
- Develop a series or workshop with Coracle expanding our ministry on relationships and dealing, Biblically, with divisions and hatred.

Challenges:

Children's Ministry:

- Finding ways to engage those families that are zoomed out and exhausted, so they feel connected and cared for without feeling guilty or overwhelmed.
- Developing creative ways to do ministry without spending money, since the finances and budgets are severely restricted.

Student Ministry:

- Fighting Zoom fatigue among our students and competing with their busy Zoom school schedules. It has proved to be difficult to ask kids to hop on a Zoom with us after they have had a full week in front of a screen already.
- We hope to expand our ministry and increase the number of students that are involved with Club and Crew; however, it is challenging to invite and engage new students when everything is virtual.

Family Ministry:

- Keeping the flock connected.
- Pastoral concerns around family stress - pandemic, politics, race, finances, virtual learning, marriages.