

## ❖ Parent Orientation & Open House

Parents and children hear from the pastors for child, youth, and young adults regarding the vision for discipleship. The parents and children visit the Sunday School classrooms to hear an overview of the curriculum and class structure and to pray for the upcoming school year. Meeting the classroom volunteers lays a relational foundation from which the church – home partnership can flourish.

## ❖ Parent Visit

Invitation in Monthly Newsletter:

*Parents,*

*You are invited to visit our Sunday School class—to worship God with us as we hear and discuss the Bible story, sing songs, practice our memory verses, play with toys, and eat our snack. At the check-in counter, you will find a sign-up sheet to schedule your visit—pick a Sunday that best fits your schedule. During your visit, we'd love to have you share a little about your family. We would also love to have the class pray for you!*

Reminder email:

John & Mary,

We are so excited to have you visit Suzy's Preschool 2 Sunday School class this Sunday, March 3. Join the class volunteers at 10:30 am in room 222 for our pre-class prayer time. Move through the parts of class with Suzy. After the worship time, we will ask you a few question—"Who are the people in your family? What does Dad do during the day? What does Mom do during the day? What do you like to do as a family? What else would you like to tell us about your family? How can we pray for your family?" Suzy's small group leader will lead us in prayer for your family. How does this sound?

## ❖ Parent Substitute Leader

Parents make great substitute leaders in their children's classrooms! It gives parents a front row seat to what their children are learning from the Bible, which will aid in use of the parent resources that are sent home with the children. "A picture is worth a thousand words." After seeing classroom ministry in action, parents may be excited to serve regularly in children's ministry.

## ❖ Sunday Lunches

Since some families didn't know many other families well, hosting Sunday lunches in the classroom provides opportunities for people to get acquainted. Families may meet others who live in their neighbor. Possibly important connections will be made, such as making newcomers feel welcome. Families can sign-up to share a potluck meal. Doing this a couple times a year will strengthen relationships among the parents and the children.

❖ **Mother ~ Daughter Birthday Tea** (Heidi Johnson – Small Group Leader)

*Every year for her birthday, I give my girls a very special, pretty, hand-written invitation for her and her mom to join me at my home for a birthday tea in honor of her birthday. A tea can range from a formal Afternoon Tea serving fruit, finger sandwiches, scones with jam/cream/curd, and dessert... and, of course tea AND sugar served at a pretty table, to a simple low tea of just tea and cake served in the living room on special plates in front of the fire place. On their first tea with me, I have given them their own tea cup. I try to make the event beautiful, so the girls feel how special they are to me, and I always pray a blessing on them, thanking God for their lives, for bringing them into my life, and praying that they will know how much God loves them and that they will grow in their knowledge and love for Him their entire lives. In other words, I use the occasion to give them a “taste” through me of the love of God for them.*

❖ **Junior High Sons & Dads – Gym Night**

Invite the junior boys and their dads to enjoy a night of physical activity with the junior classroom volunteers. Enjoy time building relationships around eating pizza, playing board games, shooting baskets, and other activities.

❖ **Missionaries in the Classroom**

When missionary families are on home assignment, invite them into the classroom to share stories of their life and ministry. Have a time for questions and answers. Invite the missionaries to share prayer requests and have the children pray for them.

❖ **Father – Daughter Retreat**

This is a Transition Years (fathers and their daughters, grades 5–8) event. Transition Year events are designed to encourage the parent child relationship and to do so by helping them turn to God in distinct ways. This particular event is designed to help fathers and daughters look to God in Jesus' name.

❖ **Young Women's Conference**

Mothers and daughters (ages 11-18 years) learn together under the teaching of God's Word. Strengthening the mother-daughter relationship through the seasons of life will be a primary focus.

❖ **Father–Son Quest: Marking Milestones and Making Memories in your Son's Masculine Journey**

Navigating the road from boyhood to manhood is a treacherous journey in today's postmodern culture. We look to The Bible as the source of truth for parents throughout this important journey. Daily parenting, effective communication, prayer, encouragement, and loving support are important steps in building a firm foundation for your son.

We also believe there is unique power in marking key milestones and making lifetime memories. Whether preparing your pre-teen for the onset of adolescence, or confirming values and commitments with your high school Senior before he leaves home — [Father/Son Quest™](#) was created just for this purpose.

Designed for fathers with sons 12 years of age and older, this getaway encourages the deepening of relationships between a father and son in a rustic north woods setting. It's a special three-day weekend of godly fellowship and character-building activities in a personalized, one-on-one discipleship mode.

