



Children's Ministry Sandy Sooter

Hello from the Children's Department!

I hope that you're all enjoying summer family time. Most of our children's ministry kids will be starting school this month. My prayer for all of the children is that they are able to continue growing in grace and love and to stand firm in their faith throughout the school year.

During Vacation Bible School, I tried a new method of distributing the faith response cards. On the last day of VBS, we typically ask the kids to write down what they feel their position is in relation to Christ: had they previously accepted the gospel message? did they accept Christ during VBS? were they uncertain or not yet ready? The students answered the questions honestly. I do this every year, however, I felt compelled to make certain that the parents received the original cards. Typically, I keep them, count them and then send out letters to the parents, but only if their child had recently accepted Christ. This year, I realized that the parent needs to be aware of any part of the process that their child is in. The children were also given space to write down spiritual questions that they had. By giving this card to the parent (in the craft bag) our hope is that important spiritual conversations happen where they should be happening....in the home. If you would like assistance, please feel free to contact me or any of the New Hope Staff. I encourage all of our New Hope families to "check in" with their kids before the school year starts. Spiritual conversations can sometimes feel awkward to start but don't let that stop you. Your kids want to know what you believe and where you are. In our current social climate, many Christians are choosing to be reserved in public but please don't hide your light under a bushel – especially in your own home. My challenge to families is to check in and take some time to pray over your kids (while they are awake) prior to the school year starting and the business of life creeps in. New Hope Children's Ministry is here to support families. Let us know what you need.



Speaking of family support, Wednesday nights start back up in August! Our TeamKID sessions are for kids 1st-6th grade. While we are discipling the children, ReSET (youth group) is ministering to the junior and senior high students. There are also three adult bible studies also meeting on site and childcare too. Do you know what this means? The whole family

can have a weeknight bible study in ONE NIGHT! I love multi-tasking - and the idea of having more weeknights free for family time. You are ALL invited to Wednesday night! 6:30pm – 7:30pm for adults and 6:30pm – 8:00pm for teens and children.

This month I will begin plans for **Trunk or Treat 2018**. We have had very generous donations for candy and we are over half way to the goal. Any amount will help. You can designate your amount on the giving envelopes at church or through the New Hope website <http://www.newhopeapplevalley.com>. Select **"ways to give"** and a dollar designation. You will need to create a Subsplash account but, it will make giving so easy from here on out. There is a pull down menu where you can specify Trunk or Treat. Thank you so much!

Blessings,
Sandy Sooter