

LIVES OF FRAGRANCE

2 Corinthians 4:14-17

Kids' Day is an adjunct ministry to Women's Bible studies. Sandy Coffman has dedicated over thirty years to this ministry, serving first as a Kids' Day teacher and continuing for twenty-seven years as the Kids' Day coordinator. Sandy highlights the activities, motivations, and goals of Kids' Day.

A Time to Plant

By Sandy Coffman

Each Tuesday morning while mothers are attending the Women of the Word Bible study, their children, from age three through kindergarten, are enrolled in Kids' Day, a program where they are also learning the truths of Scripture. Each week, children hear a Bible story, learn a memory verse, sing songs, and participate in crafts and various other activities, all planned to reinforce the day's lesson.

This program is blessed with loving, dedicated workers who serve the Lord as Kids' Day leaders and who count it a privilege to share God's Word with the children while they are so teachable and receptive. This team of leaders, which has worked together for many years, is comprised of teachers Barb Rader and Marlene Jones, and their assistant, Joanna Mason. As the Kids' Day coordinator for the past twenty-seven years, I have been privileged to work alongside these very capable leaders. They have been a blessing to many children, and in turn, they have been blessed themselves by the children they have served. What a joy and a delight to hear children retelling the Bible stories they have heard, repeating Scripture from memory, repeating Scriptural truths they have learned, or singing a Scriptural truth in a song. Kids' Day leaders are blessed to experience these things each week and to see the Lord working in young lives.

Paul's words to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:15 continue to be our motivation: "...from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." It is our prayer that each child, in God's perfect timing, will come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and will continue to hide God's Word in their hearts. We thank God for the opportunity He has given us to be able to support parents in teaching these little ones the truths that are able to transform and guard their hearts and minds and to guide their lives. We are grateful the Lord is allowing us to plant these seeds and we pray these seeds will take root and bear fruit in each life.

Comments by moms

"We love Kids' Day! Tuesdays are the highlight of Rosie's week as she anticipates what craft, snack, and video she'll get to do with Ms. Marlene, Ms. Barb, and Ms. Joanna. I'm so grateful that while I get this time to learn alongside my sisters in Christ, Rosie is being taught and encouraged about our good God by these wonderful women."

Kinsey Biggs

"Kids' Day is something my boys look forward to every week! It has been a great experience for both them and me, as a stay-at-home mom, to connect with other women. My kids love spending time with friends, learning Bible stories, and making crafts with teachers who invest in them each week."

Erin Goins

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Strategic Retreat

By Lydia Krueger

The Tulsa Bible Church (TBC) Women's Retreat was a splendid success! Friday night consisted of a marvelous game night at TBC, where participants pelted each other with snowballs, developed coordination skills, and displayed a remarkable knowledge of each other's personalities. Ah, but throwing things at one another was not the only attraction of Friday night; it also boasted a massive slumber party at Frontier Cove, New Life Ranch's stunning Lake Hudson location, where the merrymakers enjoyed a bonfire with s'mores and songs and a variety of games. Saturday's event, likewise, took place at Frontier Cove, where the guest speaker, Ruth Stevens, gave an outstanding presentation from the book of Joshua, while relating many of her own experiences of how God led her from fear to faith. Likewise, the worship team provided an excellent opportunity to praise God vocally.

Any description of the retreat must also mention perhaps the most appealing aspect, in that each phase of the retreat, though different, was marked by the same spirit of open fellowship with one another; the retreat was not a gathering of strangers, but of sisters in Christ, and it is earnestly hoped that anyone who came supposing the former, left convinced of the latter. In conclusion, to each of the ladies involved in the creation of the retreat, whether it be the two leading ladies, Kathy Bradford and Tressa Nunley, for their organization and planning; the ladies who fashioned the decorations, prepared the refreshments, washed dishes, registered guests, readied the materials beforehand, planned games, shuttled guests, organized car rides, led table discussions, prayed for God's favor to be upon the retreat, and helped immensely in all capacities: sincere thanks for being blessings and contributing to make that weekend in September one to remember.

Laugh, and Again I Say, Laugh!

By Karen Krueger

When was the last time you really laughed? Can you remember when you doubled over and laughed until the tears ran and your sides ached? The heaviness of spirit felt by so many of us over the last couple of years has not lent itself to easy laughter. There have been multiple difficulties for individuals and families; daily news reports have focused on dark and ominous issues and events. Perhaps you have had a significant personal loss and continue to grieve; laughter and joy are distant memories.

However, joy and laughter are gifts from God. A firm conviction in the good purposes of our God means that we trust Him through dark times as well as times of comparative ease. Our crushing and bruising experiences produce a sweet harvest of joy and faith as we yield to God's plan and purpose. The times of trial and pain increase our faith in God, and as He heals our wounds, we are able to laugh again.

Sarah's years of grieving barrenness gave way to joyful and infectious laughter after the birth of her son, Isaac. Sarah credited God as the source of her joy (Genesis 21:6, KJV).

The Jewish exiles in Babylon had ample reason to mourn. They had been forcibly removed from their homeland; loved ones had been killed; and they were at the mercy of captors who mocked them, demanding mirth and song. With agony, they questioned how it could be possible to sing the Lord's song in a strange land (Psalm 137, KJV). Compounding their anguish was the realization that the painful circumstances were the result of their sin being judged by God. After many years of captivity, when God brought the Jewish people home again, they rejoiced with exuberant laughter and shouts of joy (Psalm 126, KJV). God had restored hope and blessed with abundance. There is a time to weep, but there is also a time to laugh (Ecclesiastes 3:4, KJV).

Pat Scott gave a great reminder of the importance of laughter when she shared a humorous story with the Praying Grannies group; she said that she and her son had read the story a number of times and laughed helplessly each time. Rejoice!! Be merry! Laugh! Read jokes; share them with family and friends. Listen as a family member with a gift for humor describes the mishaps of her day. Watch a funny video. We can laugh at the human condition; we all have "oops!" moments, and we share the common experiences of being human and living in a fallen, albeit oftentimes funny, world.

Sometimes we can be intentional in seeking out humor; other times it is the unexpected story, quip, or incident which compels us to laugh. We may find different circumstances amusing, but we also understand that a situation may bring pain or embarrassment to another person; consider their feelings before laughing. Conversely, our laughter may be balm and a blessing to a bruised spirit. "A merry heart doeth good like medicine ..." (Proverbs 17:22a, KJV).

In Heaven, there will be no sin, no "oops" moments, no errors, and no confusion. God, who created us with the capacity for laughter, will endow us with fullness of joy. Perhaps that joy will spill over into peals of laughter, as we enjoy and worship our Savior forever. "Thou wilt show me the path of life: in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore." (Psalm 16:11, KJV)

Riddles Who Am I?

Question 1

My deeds were many, my life was blessed,
To please my God, did please me best,
To one who would slay me, I was son and friend,
Yet to my life, God did attend,
My life He did save, and to me gave,
All that my pursuer took not to his grave.

Question 2

I came hither to listen and reason,
Yet grew weary of talk past its season,
My downfall came swift,
But God re-gave His gift,
And the message resumed with cohesion.

It's Time for Pumpkins

Diane says that this recipe is an old favorite and is good to serve to a crowd to make the desserts go further. It is also a nice addition to serve with traditional pumpkin pie at Thanksgiving.

Pumpkin Raisin Bars

from Diane (Mrs. Steven) Brown

Ingredients for bars:

- 2 c. flour
- 2 c. sugar
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp nutmeg
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp cloves
- 1 c. oil
- 4 eggs
- 1 can pumpkin
- ½ c. chopped nuts
- ½ c. raisins



Frosting:

- 1/3 c. butter
- 3 oz. cream cheese
- 2 c. powdered sugar
- 1 T milk
- 1 tsp vanilla

Heat oven to 350°. Grease 15 X 10 X 1 baking pan. Combine all ingredients except nuts and raisins. Beat at low speed until moistened, then 2 minutes at medium speed. Stir in nuts and raisins. Pour into greased pan. Bake 25-30 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool completely. For frosting: In small bowl combine all frosting ingredients. Beat until smooth. Frost cooled bars. Store in refrigerator.

Option: to make a cake, use a 9 X 13-inch pan and bake 40-50 minutes.

Trick-or-Treat

Vi Cobb and her husband, Carthal, pass out a nice treat along with a Halloween-specific tract; they also give the parents a treat and a tract. Vi says that kids enjoy seeing her in a fun hat or costume. They also take the opportunity to give the million-dollar tract to workers at fast food windows along with a \$1 - \$2 tip. *Source of tracts: Tract Planet online.*

Amber Schaecher and her husband, Todd, are known for their full-size candy bars, which they offer along with Halloween tracts. *Source of tracts: TBC.*

Lives of Fragrance is a publication of the Women's Ministries of Tulsa Bible Church. For questions, corrections, or comments, please contact flnewsandviews@gmail.com.

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For Riddle Answers See: Q. 1, 2 Samuel 2:4 Q. 2, Acts 20:8

A Welcome Retreat

(As Seen by the photographer)

By Lydia Krueger



Inside the Chapel



Walkway

All the Ladies from Saturday's Event Kindly Pose



Cheri Ennis



Guest Speaker Ruth Stevens



Amber Schaecher

Devotion Time



Getting to Know You



"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" Psalm 133:1 ESV

Dual Devotion



Praise and Worship



Lingering by the Lake



Sharing Perspectives



Table Discussions