

Growing Up in Christ

BY TYLER BROWN

As we start a new quarter I want to take some time to talk about our Bible classes. During this past quarter I had the opportunity to teach the High School class. This is the first quarter that I have taught an “under 18” class since Elle was born and, as with many things, my perspective on Bible classes and the teaching of our children at Folsom has changed. I have been involved in teaching our children at Folsom for close to 10 years now, but I still find that with each quarter I have a new reason to appreciate the family at Folsom.

This quarter I’ve seen that we have a great opportunity to reinforce what is taught at home in the classes at the building. The collaboration of teachers and parents bringing what is taught at home and what is taught in classes is one of the key elements that let our children see that our faith extends outside the building. We can establish a community of faith that extends beyond the building. This brings to focus the fact that our classes here are not designed to be the only teaching that our children receive during the week. The classes here at the building are meant to supplement what is taught at home. The classes provide topics for parents and children to explore together throughout the week in their real lives.

For the High School class this quarter we studied the Sermon on the Mount. As we explored weekly the foundation, the Kingdom Ethics, that Jesus lays out, we discussed topics that opened the door for application that both parents and students can work on together during the week, making the scriptures come alive every day. As a teacher in the classroom I can talk about application, and make it as real as possible, but as a parent I see that I have the opportunity to develop that application in my child’s life. By being involved in both what is taught to my child and my child’s life, I have a place, designed by God in the family unit, to make those points of application stick and grow.

At this stage in my life with a one year old, this means that we sing “The B-I-B-L-E”, (well, at this point it is “B-I-B-I-B-I”), say the books of the Bible, pray, and read Bible stories together. As we reflect on our children and our lives, we find times that as a family we discuss the things of the Lord. Around the dinner table, we can ask about the Bible lesson from the last class, or discuss how you or your child have found a way to show some key point of their latest class in their life. Bible lessons, or Bible class homework, can become a way for the family to come together and talk about spiritual things. Bible lessons can also be a way that mom and dad show their children that we can take time out of our lives to stop and study the Word of God together.

This takes work! I only have one child and I feel sometimes that I am grasping at time as it flies in front of me. Aren’t our children worth it? The greatest opportunity that we have to evangelize as parents, is our children. As I read the sobering words in Judges 2:10, I am reminded that I am to raise my child to know the Lord. “And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done

for Israel.” I want our children not to just have a knowledge of who God is, but to truly know Him, to love Him, and to know what He has done for us!

Everyone is involved in this effort. If you don't have children, you are a child, or young adult there is work for you to do. Children are impressionable and are taught by everyone around them.

Those without children have the opportunity to connect with children in our church family. Not only do you have knowledge to share, you show them that what mom and dad are doing extends outside their family. You have the chance of providing a person for them to talk to about spiritual things, life struggles, to become a spiritual mentor and friend to them. We are all children of God and learning from each other.

Children, be peer teachers to other children sharing the things that you have learned. This applies to all of us, regardless of our age or place in life.

This quarter become more involved with your child (or a child at Folsom) and their classes. Find ways to make the teaching extend into the home. Ask thoughtful questions, “What does Jesus teach us about anger in the Sermon on the Mount?” instead of “What did you learn in Bible class?” Don't settle for “Jesus”, “the Bible”, or “I don't know.” Connect with the teacher and find out what the class topics are so that you can engage your child. Lead them in bringing the class topics home, into everyday life. Teachers, connect with the parents and help them out. Provide a list of topics, questions, and an open door and ear for parents to come in give feedback for the classes. We can be, and raise, a generation that knows the Lord