

New Lifer News



Dear New Life Family

by Bob See

Summer is a very important time for New Life staff. While in some respects, the pace of day-to-day ministry slows down, the attention given to many special projects increases. I ask you to pray for the staff in these days as they work on the following:

- **Updating the website**
- **Planning Vacation Bible School**
- **Preparing for the fall small group campaign**
- **Possible transitions in our Sunday venues**
- **Laying the groundwork to launch a new site/location**
- **StudentLife Mexico mission trip**
- **Launching a newly revised Servant Life (volunteer) ministry**

In our staff meeting, we pointed out how all of these projects are tied to our desire to reach people separated from Christ. This must be the underlying rationale behind what we do – that it will help people find their way into a relationship with Jesus. For example, the website might be the number one way new people find their way to our church services, so we want to increase its effectiveness. As for the venues, rising numbers of attenders is leading to a situation where we'll be out of room for new people. Please pray for God to guide the staff in their efforts, and pray for an outpouring of a spirit of evangelism on the hearts of all of us at New Life.

Thanks for reading!

Touchy Topics

by Laura Walters

You have probably heard about the “Big Idea” concept we use here at New Life. In case you haven't, it basically means that everyone at New Life is on the same topic each week. This includes Sunday morning messages,

Small Groups, KidsLife (for kids Kdg – 5th grade only) and Torch.

In KidsLife, we have a curriculum team made up of volunteers who get together each month and brainstorm lessons, based on the topics adults will be covering in the weeks ahead. We take each topic and adjust it to make it interesting and applicable to the kids we teach on Sundays. We also take into consideration what topics will work well with kids, and adjust accordingly at times when they won't. We periodically will be on the same passage of scripture, or the same concept, but take a slightly different angle on it.



The Sermon on the Mount series is a good example of this. It is such an important section of scripture – yet it includes some challenging topics to cover with kids. A few examples are: murder, lust, adultery, and pornography. These are topics it just isn't our place to dive into in KidsLife. We know that parents know their children best and are the best judge of when these kinds of topics are appropriate to be discussed. We don't want a child to go home having been exposed to something highly challenging in KidsLife, without parents being aware first.

For example, with this Sunday's message on adultery and lust, we will be looking at "*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God (Matthew 5:8 NIV).*" We will talk about the importance of keeping our hearts pure, and being careful what we look at – on tv, video games, etc. It will be a very "family-friendly" way to look at what the adults are learning. The same will be true with the week on divorce. We will look at "*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted (Matthew 5:4).*" We will talk about things that make kids sad, and how God is our comforter in hard times.

Overall, I just wanted to give our parents the reassurance that we are looking out for what's best for your kids and your families. We want you to be able to go to church with the peace of mind that if the topic is one that wouldn't be appropriate for kids, we have adjusted accordingly. If you have questions about this, please feel free to call me, @ 266-9050.

I would also like to add a **thank you to our KidsLife curriculum volunteer team** for your hard work writing awesome lessons for our kids each week!