

SUNDAY SCHOOL  
PARENT PACKET

2019-2020

September 8, 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2019 – 2020 Sunday school year! We hope you and the kids enjoyed the summer. Our first day back is Sunday, September 15, 2019.

This year, the kids will continue learning from the curriculum LIFE: Live in Faith Everyday. This curriculum was created by Rachel, using resources and lessons from the past. We will still be using the Spark Bibles for reference though the lessons will be broken up into units throughout the year.

Each unit will consist of a series of Bible stories with a common theme. We will play games, work on individual and group projects, and explore with hands-on activities and crafts to understand each theme in the Bible and connect it to real life as it is today. The Sunday school will also participate and run various events for the church as well as explore volunteer opportunities.

As always, our classroom will be located in the lower part of the church through Walker Hall. Each week, when our lesson is over, we'll meet you in Walker Hall for coffee hour.

Sunday school is every Sunday from 10am to 11am. Please arrive 10-15 minutes early so the kids have time to get settled in. If you're unable to make it on a Sunday, please send Rachel an e-mail, text, or phone call. We need a headcount for planning purposes.

See you soon,

Rachel Poli

Director of Sunday school

Rpoli3@yahoo.com

617-957-8552

# LIFE's Philosophy

LIFE's mission is to connect the Bible to real life events and teachings to the Christian education of Trinity Episcopal Church.

Every LIFE lesson includes an opening and closing prayer based on the current week's lesson as well as a memory verse and vocabulary. Each week, children and teachers will gather together to explore the Bible, enjoy fun activities, pray, and grow in faith. LIFE uses resources such as technology and active learning created for today's Christians matching the 21<sup>st</sup> century lifestyles.

LIFE is Bible-centered and the students will interact with the Bible for every lesson. They will read stories and passages, look at pictures, and examine each story closer in depth. They will learn the moral of each story and be able to connect it to their real life. In addition, the kids will have hands-on activities, crafts, and games to help better understand the lesson, be able to refer to real life situations, and also have fun doing so.

## LIFE's Resources

Over the years, Trinity has used many different curricula. One is called Witness and the most recent one is called Spark. They are both fun and informative programs.

In creating LIFE, I have pulled a select few resources from Witness and Spark such as posters, worksheets, and craft ideas.

For the LIFE curriculum, we will use the Spark Story Bible for the younger age group and the Spark Bible (NRSV) for the older age group.

Most resources will be found within our classroom and church as the kids explore the Bible and the real world around them.

# 2019-2020 Lessons (Year A)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Unit</b>
September 15, 2019	First Day
September 22, 2019	Bible Study
September 29, 2019	Service Day
October 6, 2019	Community 1
October 13, 2019	Community 2
October 20, 2019	Community 3
October 27, 2019	Service Day
November 3, 2019	Community 4
November 10, 2019	People & Places of the Bible
November 17, 2019	Kindness 1
November 24, 2019	Service Day
December 1, 2019	Advent Lesson
December 8, 2019	Kindness 2
December 15, 2019	Kindness 3
December 22, 2019	Christmas Party
December 29, 2019	Service Day
January 5, 2020	Epiphany Lesson
January 12, 2020	Kindness 4
January 19, 2020	Importance of Prayer
January 26, 2020	Service Day
February 2, 2020	Perseverance 1
February 9, 2020	Perseverance 2
February 16, 2020	Perseverance 3
February 23, 2020	Service Day
March 1, 2020	Lent Lesson
March 8, 2020	Perseverance 4
March 15, 2020	Forgiveness 1
March 22, 2020	Forgiveness 2
March 29, 2020	Service Day
April 5, 2020	Palm Sunday   Easter Lesson
April 12, 2020	Easter Sunday
April 19, 2020	Forgiveness 3

April 26, 2020	Service Day
May 3, 2020	Love 1
May 10, 2020	Love 2
May 17, 2020	Love 3
May 24, 2020	Pentecost Lesson
May 31, 2020	Service Day
June 7, 2020	Year in Review
June 14, 2020	Last Day

## Please Note:

**Service Days** – While there will be no formal Sunday school lesson on these days, this does not mean class is cancelled. These days are meant to get the kids used to sitting in the church service again. They will learn the process of the service as well as the prayers and songs through the experience of following along. It will also reiterate what they learn in Sunday school. They will sit with you, their family, and enjoy a peaceful hour of worship.

**Events & Volunteer Opportunities** – These dates will be determined throughout the year. A few weeks of notice will always be sent in advance via email and a handout to go out home with the kids.

# Lesson Objectives

**Units** – LIFE curriculum is made up of different units connecting various Bible stories to the real world. For the 2019-2020 year we'll be discussing community, kindness, perseverance, forgiveness, and love. These are faith traits promoted in past curricula the Sunday school has used. By zeroing in on these specific positive traits, the kids will take an in-depth look at the Bible as well as be able to connect it to their day-to-day life.

**Church Seasons** – The church calendar is broken up into seasons – Advent, Epiphany, Lent, and Pentecost. As these seasons begin, we will do a lesson discussing in-depth about the current season to have a better understanding of the church calendar and timeline.

**Bible Studies** – As a way to get a better understanding of the Bible, we'll have lessons throughout the year discussing this topic. For example, reading the Bible in the right way, learning about the people and places in the Bible and their significance, and prayer (such as learning certain prayers and understanding the importance of prayer).

**Service Days** – As stated above, the kids will be attending the church service once a month. This is still part of the Sunday school lessons as they'll be able to use what they learn in Sunday school hands-on, understand the process of the service, receive communion, and spend an hour of worship with their family and mingling with the parish.

# Expectations for Parents and Teachers

To create an effective Sunday school program, the parents and teachers need to be on the same page. The Sunday school teachers pledge to follow these expectations to create a better program for the kids. We hope you, as the parents, will follow these expectations as well.

- 1. Punctuality:** Sunday school begins promptly at 10:00 AM and ends at 11:00 AM. We ask the teachers and students to be at church by 9:50 AM so the kids can get settled and each lesson can begin on time.
- 2. Communication:** Teachers will email parents 2-3 times a week – a recap on the current lesson and a heads up for the next lesson. If parents have any questions, comments, or concerns, email is the best way to get in touch with the teachers. However, we're only a text/phone call away.
- 3. Commitment:** We understand family events and sports happen on the weekend, but we ask for the kids to come as consistently as possible.
  - **Absences:** If your child will be absent for any reason, please email, call, or text one of the teachers. This allows us to plan ahead and prepare for the lesson. Parents will be notified in advance if one of the teachers will be absent.

Thank You.