



Little Peoples Pencil - Winter 2008-09

School v. Church

Picture this...

The Grade 3 students came into the classroom, sat in their desks, learned the lesson from their teacher and left knowing a bit more about the Bible.

Just a second! Wait a moment! Something is wrong with this picture! This happened at church? This sounds like school!

Jesus has called us to be disciples, not simply students - LIFE

Paul exhorted us to know God, not know Bible facts - RELATIONSHIP

Jesus established the Church, not a class – COMMUNITY

Those caring for children's spiritual well-being are pastoring, not solely teaching – SPIRITUAL FORMATION

There is a HUGE difference.

That is why we at Little Peoples stress that our small group leaders see themselves as caregivers who foster community among their kids. They introduce the children to Jesus, giving them the tools they need to deepen their spiritual walk, to live as effective disciples of Christ.

Leading a child to the understanding that they are a spiritual being and not just a brain which needs to be filled is a tall order. Encouraging kids to care for one another when they only see each other for an hour a week is yet another challenging task. To enable this, we meet in small groups, and we pray continually for a deepening relationship with God as they learn to live as His disciples.

Now let's try this again...

The Gold group burst into their room and divided into their small groups. Sitting in circles, their leaders connected with each one of them. The kids learned about each other's week, they reviewed what God was trying to teach them through His Word, and they connected with Him while praying for each other, others in need, and for their own spiritual growth.