

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Your Vacation Bible School

(Jerry Fite)

**T**his week marks our 19<sup>th</sup> year for our Vacation Bible School. Over the years we have changed the dates, and times, but never the focus as to why we have it. As the children are entering their summer vacation from school, we desire to engage their minds and hearts in daily Bible study with their friends. Teachers have worked tirelessly on each lesson to not only present the truth as taught in the Bible, but to make the revealed truth practical for the young as they develop spiritually in the Lord.

We began with “*Young Heroes Of The Bible*” where Jesus, Esther, Joseph, David and Ruth shined brightly in the mind’s eye for living bravely and godly in this world. The imagination of the young have been intrigued by interesting topics from “*Strange Messengers*” to “*If Walls Could Talk*” as their minds have been grounded in how God speaks to us today, and how a middle wall of partition was taken out of the way through Jesus providing salvation for all.

This week young minds will be directed toward ancient Babylon. Lessons emphasizing the sadness of disobeying God and the consequences of ignoring our longsuffering God will be stressed. We will weep with the people of Judah as they hang up their harps by the willows of the waters of Babylon (*Psalms 137:1-2*). In times of difficulty, character shines brightly. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego will lift young spirits as they see how to live with conviction, even when living far away from home. God working out his purpose in the kingdoms of men will be highlighted as the young study about the great image of King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. The seventy year captivity, which God promised, will captivate our attention on Friday as we return to Jerusalem with the remnant. What lessons can we learn from their return?

Singing songs is an important part of our teaching the children. Their minds are so receptive, and absorb many Bible truths quickly through musical rhyme. Many through the years

have learned to say the Books of the Bible, by singing The Old Testament Song and the New Testament Song. The rhythmical flow of “*Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Peter, Paul, James and Jude*” helps keep the writers of the New Testament permanently fixed in young receptive minds. Each year a new theme song for the week is sung, highlighting the truths to learn and remember for the week.

Today, in many religious circles, “VBS” is a quick way of saying, “Come let us have some fun!” There is nothing wrong in having fun, but playing games, and eating snacks are not what we do. Grounding a young generation in the Truth of God’s word and encouraging them to live their lives with conviction is much more important than eating cookies and drinking cool-aid.

We adults study the same subjects the young are studying. All ages can profit from attending our Vacation Bible School. Come, and bring someone with you. It should be your Vacation Bible School as well!