

Education Summit – May 28, 2009 – Ministry Reviews

Age Integrated Sunday School

Celebrate - teaching responsibility has been shared among large group, leading to a narrower focus for each teaching group. Age integrated Sunday School offers good participatory teaching methods, keeps families together and allows a time of rest for full time teachers.

Improvement – Age Integrated Sunday School is not the same as a Sunday Morning Small Group. Because of the focus on teaching all ages, adults needing adult time don't get it. Suggestions for improvement include doing only one month during the summer, using smaller groups to permit more interaction, and mentoring those new to the concept.

Age Graded Sunday School and Junior Church

Celebrate - allows for friendships among children - time for teaching etc by adults sharing parents outlook - have had creative committed teachers - have a sequence to cover most of bible topics in child's growing up time.

Improvement – Teachers often feel isolated. The time schedule (especially service ending times) is inconsistent. Class sizes are unpredictable, especially since the initiation of Sunday Morning Small Groups. Parents have difficulty finding age-graded class for kids.

Junior Church:

Celebrate - reinforces scope and sequence. Is a service to parents with active children, especially those new to church.

Improvement: There is confusion over age rotation and problems with communicating and coordinating teachers. Kids often come out of the service when they don't need to. There are occasional multi-Sunday gaps for the older ages. Like Sunday School, the group size varies. There is a need for hall monitors.

Sunday Morning Small Groups

Celebrate – They can be very participatory, teaching people how to study for themselves and developing leaders. They can build community. They can train fathers as spiritual leaders of households

Improvement –It is difficult to target age appropriate material at all ages? The time between services is very tight for developing the full benefits of small groups.

(Truth Project)

Celebrate: World view class - makes you look at the world differently

Improvement - people seem to drop in and out on video vss discussion. It is thus difficult to develop community. Time is an even worse problem because of the video length.

Small Groups

Note: success is defined as a group meeting needs, especially for Bible study, sense of family, and accountability

Celebrate: Small groups have allowed connection to fringe families; some sense of family develops, you get to know people, you know how to pray. Provides an opportunity for a 'not just Sunday' mentality.

Improvement – It's hard for newcomers to find small groups - lack of publicity. There is not a priority on regular attendance - sometimes the group evaporates. Most groups are not meeting the need for Bible Study (outside the group). Child care is always difficult. Some studies, being geographically oriented, limit the number of people you can get to know. Groups need end dates and summer breaks.

Women's Ministry

Celebrate - Retreat always successful and anticipated. Baby showers etc good fellowship times. Spring Tea well received. Bible studies provide better accountability than some other small groups. Bible studies have provided for needs that wouldn't have been met in a larger group.

Improvement – Bible studies feel like they are in conflict with other small groups. It is difficult to find times for women's events, difficult for women to take- time away from family. There have been conflicting responses to different Bible study styles. It's hard to recruit women to get involved in the board. There has been a lack of bible study for high school girls.

Men's Ministry

Celebrate – the men have had only a few retreats, but they have been well attended and appreciated. Bible Immersion camp was good. Many events have been good.

Improvement: There is no formal organization to men's ministry, and it has been very hit or miss. We need to help men learn to be leaders. We need closed ended studies. It's difficult to find times for men's studies: Saturday is family time, yet often the only open time.

Awana

Celebrate - Good leader support. Kids are learning God's Word. The reorganization last year reduced chaos. There is a relatively good balance with connection with other clubs vs work within club.

Improvement - Attendance has been inconsistent this year. Need to emphasize outreach. There have been fewer older kids participating this year, possibly due to curriculum changes, or to older kid involvement in younger clubs. We need leadership transition plans to avoid burnout. The game circle may not be as much fun for some, but it could provide opportunity for more fun through area competition.

Life:

Note that LIFE sees a cycle of strengths & weakness due to nature of the group. Also, LIFE is only one aspect of youth ministry / involvement at Trinity.

Celebrate: LIFE has often had good youth leadership, good worship, good activities. A recent example is the ministry of visiting nursing homes.

Issues: We need more discipline & boundaries. We need more parental involvement and definition of their involvement roles. We need to re-define and re-invigorate youth leadership. We need better publicity and communication with parents. We need to carefully monitor standards of behavior and guy/girl interaction. We n/ pairing off

After LIFE:-

Celebrate – We have a good, off site meeting place and a solid statement of mission. We have good relationships, including building relationships with some not from Trinity

Improvement - some young adults are only in AfterLIFE, not involved in other ministries. We need to have some form of ongoing service. We need to reach out to those transitioning from high school.