

Emra Expressions

An Investment

I wanted to share with you some excerpts of a note I received concerning the S.A.Y. Yes! Training we did in December.

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Dear John,

Again, thank you for your investment in our Church!

I wanted to let you know that following last week's training, our first after school session with the kids was awesome.

We implemented much of what we learned last week from you and it was fantastic. What you taught us about using rewards - the dollars and the store, relating to kids - the four standards (Affection, Boundaries, Consistency and Discipline) and how to set boundaries and have agreed upon consequences. It really works!

The change I am seeing started with the adult volunteers. The tools they now have to work with the kids is allowing them to feel really good about what they are doing. They are understanding how important the Four Core Needs are and the role those play in learning.

The change in the children was like night and day. All of the kids who have struggled the most to behave were competing with each other to say thank you, to be helpful, to help other kids earn rewards, etc. These changes made it possible in Bible Club time to get deeper than usual.

Also, I had four new volunteers helping with snacks, crafts, the store and banking. Everyone was joyful. So keep praying. Thanks for helping us turn a major corner.

Blessings,

Paul

Answered Prayer

The most obvious one is the training we held in December. Thank you for your prayers!

We had a wonderful time celebrating Christmas and New Years. Also Sheryl's birthday on January 1st.

Prayer Requests

We have talked about John and Sally Childress who are part of Life Is Full Of Choices in England. Sally will be undergoing surgery on her foot in April. She has asked us to pray for her as she will be forced to limit her mobility for a number of weeks after surgery.

Both of our families are experiencing turmoil. Health issues are expected as we age but there are also other issues that cause heartache. Please pray for both of our families.

Praise God! It is so encouraging to hear the specifics about how this training helped make a difference. This is why we do what we do!! Glory to God!!!

Thank you for your prayers and the support you give in order to make everything Life Is Full Of Choices does possible! You are appreciated!!

In His grip,

John
for John and Sheryl Emra

The Rest Of The Story

There is never enough room to talk about all the things that happened during the training. In the regular letter we just have to hit the high points - but in the e-mail version there is space to go into a little more detail.

I love it when I can see the light go on behind the eyes of an adult who is taking the training. I know they have encountered a new thought, a new paradigm and their view of the world has changed.

I saw this happen for a number of people at the S.A.Y. Yes! Training.

We were talking about using S.A.Y. yes! dollars to reinforce the boundaries and that you either give dollar's or take them away depending on the choices the kids are making.

One lady asked how to make it work, so I showed her.

Almost everyone was talking, I held up my hand to get their attention but they kept talking, so I went to the two who were quiet and gave them a dollar and said that I appreciated their choice to be quiet. Others saw what I was doing and asked if they could have a dollar, too. I said, "No, you chose to continue talking." A few minutes later the same thing happened. This time as I raised my hand almost everyone saw and chose to quiet down. They got dollars and the praise for choosing to be quiet. The two who didn't choose to quiet down complained that they didn't see the signal. We talked about how most everyone did see the signal and maybe next time they would choose to pay more attention.

While this was going on I could see people starting to understand the power of positive reinforcement. The lady who asked the questions still could not understand how I could let the two people sit there and not behave.

I told her that behavior is a choice. I can't control their behavior but I do control the dollars. Eventually they would make better choices if I was consistent.

About an hour later we were in the middle of a discussion and I raised my hand. Almost instantly everyone was quiet.

As I saw the light go on in their eyes I said, "People choose to reward those who are misbehaving. They are rewarding bad choices by paying attention to those who make them. Reward the behavior you want to see because you will see that behavior again."

Thank you for what you do that lets me see the light in their eyes!

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