

## BE EAGER

I spent a lot of time with kids this week at VBS, and I must admit, I loved every second of it. We had a FANTASTIC bunch of kids, and I was impressed with their behavior and attitude. One of the best things that I experienced at VBS was the eagerness with which they approached God's word. This year's theme was related to a treasure hunt, and the kids didn't disappoint by taking on this idea. As we searched for the One True God in four different stories, the children assembled each night with eagerness. I heard that one woke up every morning asking for "Bible School." Imagine having to wait 10 hours (an eternity in a child's mind) for something so exciting. That is eagerness.

**Eager:** *wanting very much to do or have something, especially something interesting and enjoyable*  
- Cambridge Dictionary

Sometimes in the minutia of adult life, we lose the enthusiasm that we once had as children. As we hear the stories repeated for the thousandth time, we can become dull in our hearing such that it doesn't strike us as it once did. I think that is normal human behavior, but it isn't healthy spiritual behavior. When we dissociate ourselves from the young, we can forget what it was like to be on fire and excited to learn and experience. This is why it is vital to stay connected with our kids. Sitting and watching a 2nd grader absorb the story of David and Goliath and see their eyes light up as they learn something new is inspiring. Hearing them exclaim, "OH!" as they experience an ah-ha moment about God's power working through a young boy as he runs towards a giant warrior is fantastic.

Kids can teach us so much. Likewise, they can inspire us to continue searching for and learning about the God of Heaven. They remind us that we need to keep a Berean spirit. In Greek their eagerness about the Word means: **exceptional interest in being of service, willingness, readiness, goodwill**

### Acts 17:11

*Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.*

Paul repeatedly spoke to the churches about their eagerness. Whether it was through his example or his challenge, he talked with them about eagerness to experience the complete fulfillment of the hope in Christ (Gal. 5:5). In addition, he talks about how Christ's disciples should possess an eagerness to implement the ways of God in their own lives (Eph. 4:1-6).

Children are a wonderful example of this spirit. No wonder Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 18:3)."

May we all be rejuvenated by our children's enthusiasm and eagerness, and may that translate to an increased eagerness among us for the things of God!

Eyes Up!  
Ryan