

B.Y.G.E. Fall D-Group Update

This fall, our youth discipleship groups have been diving into the biblical basics, learning how to open the Bible, navigate Scripture, and discover the story of Jesus through His Word. With around 30 youth interested in D-Group and an average of 15–20 attending each week, we've seen genuine excitement to grow in their faith. Sunday nights have become a cherished rhythm following worship and our weekly potluck; a joyful, safe space where students feel known, cared for, and welcomed into a Christ-centered community. Each week, laughter and conversation fill the church as students arrive, grab a meal, and settle in for meaningful time with their small groups.

We were especially thrilled to welcome our rising 6th graders this fall. Their energy and eagerness to learn have been such a blessing to their leaders and peers. Middle school students are learning how to pray together, read their Bibles with understanding, and recognize that faith isn't just something they hear about, it's something they live. Our high school groups have taken on greater ownership and leadership, from serving during church events to helping lead the youth-run "BOO Bus" for Trunk-or-Treat, where they poured in creativity and teamwork to earn 2nd place in the community competition. Their willingness to serve and participate has brought new life to our ministry and inspired younger students to do the same.

One of the most meaningful experiences this season was taking five high school youth to serve alongside Sacred Road staff on the Warm Springs Reservation. For many, it was their first trip outside of White Swan for ministry. They helped lead game stations, connected with children through four-square, jump rope, and bubbles, and shared moments of encouragement that reflected Christ's love in simple yet powerful ways. While leading the bubble station, one student found herself surrounded by young girls who eagerly asked if she would come back for Sunday church. It was a beautiful reminder that even small acts of love can plant lasting seeds of faith. Experiences like this have deepened our youth's understanding of discipleship, showing them that following Jesus means stepping out to serve and love others well.

Inside each small group, the Lord continues to move in quiet yet profound ways. Students are asking big questions, wrestling honestly with faith, and finding peace in the truth of God's Word. During a recent discussion, high school girls reflected on what it means that God has always been and always will be. Their responses- "He loves us, and He always will," "He's the only one who truly understands us," "God being omnipresent is comforting," reveal the honest, growing faith being formed in these rooms each week. As we move into the holiday season, D-Groups will shift into lessons on gratitude, praise, and Advent, preparing hearts to reflect on God's goodness and the gift of Christ. We praise God for His faithfulness in drawing young people to Himself through laughter, Scripture, prayer, and the quiet courage it takes to believe.