

Buzz, Excitement, ROAR! – VBS at Calvary

Praise the Lord for His faithfulness! Each year, you will hear the buzz at Calvary about Vacation Bible School. Calvary's KidzLink Director, Christina Seid, and I are a dangerous combination as we both burst with excitement at the thought of VBS! This year, we offered ROAR! VBS by Group and transformed our KidzLink area, Youth Ministry Room, and Sanctuary into an African themed safari where kids learned that God is Good in all circumstances. With a running waterfall and an all-terrain vehicle on stage, there was no shortage of excitement for the kids to enjoy.



But all of the fun and decorations mean nothing if that is the only reason for doing it. Thankfully, behind all of the outward decorations, which took weeks to prepare, were hearts that care deeply about connecting to kids on a spiritual level. Each leader, from teenager to elderly, was there to minister to the children's hearts and teach them the importance of Jesus Christ as Savior. As a result of our 5 day VBS, 4 children accepted Christ as their Savior! What a blessing it is to be a part of the Lord's work.

The Lord continued to bless our week of VBS through a fundraiser the kids participated in. This year, we challenged the children to raise \$600 to help buy school supplies to fill 192 backpacks. We worked with the organization The Forgotten Initiative (TFI) as they minister to children in the Foster Care system. In a classic boys vs girls contest, the kids loved bringing in money each night and hearing who was ahead. Sticking with the African Theme, the losing team's leader (either Pastor Josh or Christina) had to eat a Zebra Tarantula! With some last second donations from some dads, the boys made the contest an exact tie. Christina ate a few legs, Pastor Josh ate the rest! The most excitement of this event was that it is the most money we have ever raised at VBS! The \$1300 was way more than our goal and fully paid for all the supplies needed to fill 192 backpacks and more!

Overall, ROAR VBS was a fun-filled week but, more importantly, a week filled with blessings from the Lord, salvation, and reminders that God is Good, no matter what!

Pastor Josh van Gorkom, Calvary Eau Claire