

Fifth graders learn why we believe the Bible is the inspired word of God and how to use it as a guide for life. The life and teachings of Jesus Christ are studied all year as they read the New Testament. Classes emphasize applying the teachings of Jesus to our lives and learning to be more like Him every day.

What is the textbook?

All classes use the Good News Bible as the textbook. Today's English Version, or TEV, is easier for children to read and understand. Classes are nondenominational and all lessons are based on scripture.

How can my child participate?

According to law, children can be released for religious education classes when a permission card has been signed by the parent or guardian and returned to the school. Children who do not attend will remain in the classroom and continue educational activities with their teacher. Parents receive permission forms at the beginning of each school year. Parents who don't receive one, should be sure to ask their school, or call us!

Who are the teachers?

The teachers are professionally trained and qualified to teach this program. All teachers have college degrees and are members of local churches.

Parents:

Watch for the Weekday Religious Education enrollment form when your child enters third, fourth or fifth grade — if you don't receive a form, ask your school or call us at (260) 422-3528!

What is the history of this program?

Associated Churches of Fort Wayne and Allen County is the sponsoring agency for the Weekday Program. Since 1944, all third through fifth grade students enrolled in Fort Wayne Community Schools have been invited to attend, regardless of religious background. The program has also been offered to students in East Allen County Schools since 1995. The program serves more than 6,000 students each year. Approximately 83 percent of third through fifth grade students enrolled in the public schools mentioned above attend Weekday Religious Education.

What is the cost?

Every year, students are asked to contribute a voluntary offering of \$5 dollars. Students' families are welcome to contribute more or less than the requested \$5 dollars. The annual cost to Associated Churches is approximately \$23 dollars per student. The variance between the donations received and the actual cost of the program is paid by funds contributed by our member churches. Parents are invited to call Associated Churches, (260) 422-3528, with any questions.

Sponsorship opportunities

Local businesses or social organizations can sponsor a class, or classes, to help us fulfill our mission. Sponsors benefit from generous acknowledgements and goodwill publicity, as well as the gratification that can only come from support of local children through this unique Christian ministry. Please call (260) 422-3528 for information about this opportunity.

There are two areas of the ministry that could benefit from sponsorships. The first is for the Maxine Bandemer Scholarship Program. Individuals or churches can sponsor one child for 26 weeks of religious study for \$23 dollars a year, or 88 cents a class. (This is about the price of one to two cans of soda pop per week.) Gifts can be made to the Maxine Bandemer Scholarship fund. Maxine taught for this Ministry for more than 40 years and was faithful to her Lord and to this ministry of teaching children about God's love.

The second area in need of support is providing a copy of the Bible to every fifth grader at the end of their studies. The cost of each Bible is \$1.50 and a total of 2,000 Bibles are needed for all of the students involved. These Bibles can be donated by individuals, congregations, memorial gifts, etc. Mark these special gifts "Bibles" and send to the address listed below.

About Associated Churches

The Associated Churches represents 111 member churches in Allen County and Fort Wayne, the community commonly referred to as the "City of Churches." Member churches work in harmony to feed and support Allen County's neediest residents. Programs include the Food Bank System, which feeds 6,300 people each month; A Baby's Closet, which nurtures healthy babies and fosters self-sufficient families; Weekday Religious Education for Christian children in public schools; and the Samaritan Counseling Center, which helps people in times of trouble. The Associated Churches achieves a return on dollars invested of up to 800 percent, thanks to the power of volunteers and the efficiencies gained when 111 member churches work in harmony. The organization also serves as a voice of Christian faith in the media and an educational resource for the community on religious issues



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Weekday Religious Education

For public school families who seek
Christian education for their children.

“My sons and daughters, do not forget my teaching, but let your hearts keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare will they give each of you.” Proverbs 3:1-2



Weekday Religious Education is a Christian program that works in cooperation with area public school systems to allow third, fourth and fifth grade students to take time out of their regular class schedule to participate in religious education.

Who participates

Weekday Religious Education classes are voluntary for children in third, fourth, and fifth grades in Allen County public schools. Nearly 80 percent of local public school children participate with their parents' permission.

The classes meet once each week in mobile classrooms near their school or in a church building close to the school. Classes meet for 12 weeks during the first semester and 14 weeks during the second.

What is the purpose of the classes?

- To help children understand God's unconditional love for them.
- To help children know that God has a plan for their lives.
- To teach children to locate scripture using the Good News Bible.
- To teach children stories from the Bible and apply what they learn to their daily lives.
- To teach children steadfast moral values based on Scripture.

What do the children study?

Third graders learn about our relationship with God by using the Bible to locate Scripture lessons on prayer and faith. They study the stories of Creation and Noah. Students also learn about Hebrew traditions (Sabbath, the Greatest Commandment, synagogue school and Jesus visiting Jerusalem) through the story of a young Hebrew boy in Jesus' day. Third grade students are also taught lessons from the parables of Jesus, like being a "good neighbor," obedience and forgiveness. Classes emphasize:

- being aware of God's presence,
- using prayer to build a personal relationship with Him,
- trusting God's unconditional love,
- using God's plan for our lives as our source of self-worth, and
- knowing and following Jesus.

Fourth graders spend both semesters studying the lives of the Old Testament heroes: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, Saul and David. Classes emphasize:

- applying the Old Testament scripture lessons of obedience, faith and trust to our daily lives,
- knowing and keeping the Ten Commandments, and
- being aware of God's presence in our lives.



Teaching
Allen
County's
children
the
Word
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for
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