

October 2009

"Dear God, no biting Stefanie. Amen."

Is it possible that this short, sweet prayer could come from the same four-year-old that I wrote about in August? The boy with no discipline, no language, and no understanding of who God is? Amazingly, it is (and I can hardly believe it myself!) Here is an exciting update full of answered prayer about what God has been doing in classroom #4!

It has been a very hard semester. I wrote in August about the two new students and the fighting, tantrums, and headaches. Thankfully, our staff was able to work together to teach constant, structure and discipline. It was tiring work, but each week we could see the tantrum times lessen. The time-out corner was not constantly in use. And finally! The day when Saul told God that there would be no more biting! Our class has finally experienced some peaceful days.

With such a young group- early readers- I've gotten to teach some great units. We've learned about several "Bible heroes." Each week we look at one person- David, Samson, Noah, Jonah... as we look at each story, I ask, "did this person obey God? What happened when they did (or didn't)?" After discussion, I ask "are YOU going to obey God?" I love to see the eager, unanimous "Yes!" We also learned about pumpkins. A

family from PA mailed is five of them! So we were able to admire them, poke them, take them on the swings & slide (NOT my idea) and then carve Jack-o-lanterns. We roasted and ate the seeds, too. At the end of that week, each child took a pumpkin home, and more than one parent later came and told me that their child insisted on taking their pumpkin to bed with them. Just when I thought we'd had enough, a pumpkin plant sprouted in the courtyard where we had messily made our Jack-o-lanterns! And so the pumpkin learning and excitement continues...

We also read *Green Eggs and Ham...* for a month. The kids could read all the words and act it out. To celebrate the achievement, we cooked green eggs and ham omelets for lunch one day.

So as you can see, our chaos has dimmed a bit, and we are back to discovering, learning, and enjoying so much. Especially about God, and how we can worship, obey, and enjoy what He has made for us. Other highlights include a visit from my grandparents, and Glendora Friends Church sending gifts and letters of encouragement for Christmas!

Thank you for your prayers, support, and boxtops/Campbell's soup labels. I can't wait to see what's in store for the Spring!

<3 Jen