



House of Faith

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Taking JESUS to neighborhood children, youth, and families

February 2023

## Backyard Bible Club: Our Little Leaders

By Haley Galvan



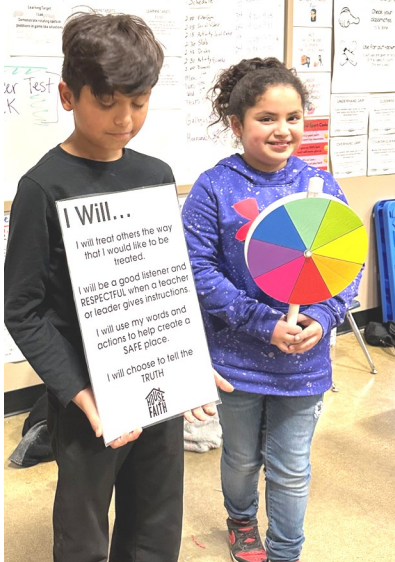
I have the tremendous privilege of leading our PK-1st grade group at the Bradford Elementary Backyard Bible Club. Each week we have about 40-50 energetic little souls gathered in our spot near the playground, and getting them all settled in for lesson time is a unique challenge. On our first week back at the beginning of February, I was giving instructions for students to sit, leave their backpacks in the corner, etc. and was momentarily distracted by a student coming to ask me a question. As I finished answering them, I turned back to the group to see one of our first grade boys telling the children around him to “get a bubble in their mouth” (a common phrase for encouraging students to be quiet), and was inspecting their “bubbles” to see who deserved the cotton candy prize he was offering.

The next week, the same student volunteered to pray at the beginning of our lesson time. With this age group, most of them want to pray but then they don’t know what to say, so we coach them. Not this little guy! He very confidently led the entire group in a repeat-after-me prayer that was so precious as he thanked God for the day, for House of Faith, and then went on to list many reasons why God is “the greatest.” And the other students stayed focused, repeating each phrase with great enthusiasm!

I was reminded of how much our students want to help and be little leaders at House of Faith. They love to hold posters, pick up trash, help carry things, lead in doing hand motions for the verse, and anything else we will let them do! Their humble hearts, so eager to serve, convict me and cause me to think of Matthew 18, when the disciples are arguing about who is the greatest in God’s kingdom. Here was Jesus’ response:

“Jesus called a little child to Him and put the child among them. Then He said, ‘I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.’” (Matthew 18:2-4)

It is truly such a joy to get to work with our little leaders, pointing them to Jesus and watching them grow and flourish. **Thank you** for all the ways you give, pray, and support House of Faith so we can keep taking Jesus to neighborhood children, youth and families!!





Tony and Jackie Arroyo with their three daughters, Jolie, Jaycee and Joey Angel, at House of Faith Family Camp in 2022. Family camp is a favorite memory for their family!

## Volunteer Highlight

By Jade Marty

House of Faith exists to take Jesus to neighborhood children, youth, and families, and would not be possible without help from volunteers like Jackie and Tony Arroyo. We asked them to share with us what brought them to House of Faith as volunteers.

*"My husband Tony had been a House of Faith kid growing up, and now our own children attend House of Faith, so a couple of years ago I decided I wanted to get more involved and start volunteering. This year my husband decided to join me," Jackie said.*

The Arroyo family has many great memories and moments involving House of Faith. They said, *"One of our absolute favorites is family camp. Getting to enjoy being together as a family and spending time with the other families and the staff was absolutely amazing. The presence of the Lord at camp was so beautiful and overwhelming."*

Jackie speaks on what draws her and her husband back to House of Faith. *"For me, first and foremost it's Jesus!! As long as the Lord continues to place it on my heart to volunteer, I will do so! And of course the children. Being a light to those kids is the best feeling. For Tony, it's comfort. He has been with House of Faith since he was a kid, and it feels like home to him. Like he's meant to be there."*

House of Faith means something different to each individual who steps through the door. Jackie says, *"For us, House of Faith is about showing kids the love of Jesus. Teaching them about the most important choice they will make in life. We truly feel House of Faith is all about being the hands and feet of Jesus, their devotion to these kids and their families is truly amazing, and we are so blessed and honored to have a part in that."*



Jackie sharing about what worship is at our Monday night 321 youth program

## 321: Bring Your Own Bible

By Brandon Berry

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, we started our weekly teen program called 321 for the spring semester! We had 87 students attend for our first week back after our winter break. Our program begins with serving dinner to the students and giving them time to hang out with their friends. We then sit them all down to play another game, worship together, and teach about the Bible.

Speaking of the Bible, we are currently in a unit called Bring Your Own Bible! We encourage students to bring their Bibles from home so they can look up verses and follow along during teaching time. On average, about 15 students each week do this, though we had almost double that on February 13<sup>th</sup>! The purpose of this unit is to teach the students how to use their Bibles. They all received a Bible at Christmas as part of their gift through House of Faith sponsors and donors, but many of them come from unchurched families and thus don't know how to read or understand them.

In this unit, we have talked about what the Bible is and why it's important. Our next two weeks will provide some instruction on how to find verses, read their Bibles, and interpret what they read. After that, we will lead two weeks of small group rotations to give them practice doing just that! We are very excited to take these extra steps to equip our students to follow the Lord on their own.





## *Gifts Given In Memory of:*

**Jason Roberts**

By Shirley Smith

**Harrison and Elizabeth Beauchamp**

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Your tax deductible gift can be made in any amount and sent to:

**House of Faith  
321 Montecito  
San Angelo, TX 76903**

or online at [www.hofministries.org](http://www.hofministries.org)

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MAIL TO:



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## **SAVE THE DATE:**

**San Angelo Gives is on May 2, 2023**

**It's easy to Give! Donations are made  
through [www.sanangelogives.org](http://www.sanangelogives.org)**

**EARLY Giving Starts: April 18, 2023**

San Angelo Gives is sponsored by the local San Angelo Area Foundation that matches every donation through San Angelo Gives with an "amplified" pro-rated amount.

**For House of Faith, San Angelo Gives is a tremendous opportunity for donors to support the ministry.** Last year, House of Faith received \$176,100 on the day of San Angelo Gives and \$12,589.17 net amplification. Every donation makes a difference!

Funds received through San Angelo Gives will support House of Faith Summer programs and other programs throughout the year, and is a major part of our annual budget.

## **House of Faith Family Camp: April 14-16, 2023**

Family Camp is a highlight of the House of Faith year, both for families and our staff and volunteers. This year we will take about 50 families to the H.E.B. camp near Leakey, TX for a weekend of fun, faith and family! If you would like to give towards House of Faith's annual Family Camp weekend which will be held April 14-16, 2023, please send gifts to:

**House of Faith, 321 Montecito Dr, San Angelo, TX 76903**

My tax deductible gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support House of Faith Family Camp is enclosed.

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Call House of Faith at 325-486-8637 if you have any questions.



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