SUNDAY MORNING WITHOUT SCREENS

Why we set technology aside in Sunday school

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything.
1 CORINTHIANS 6:12

When we set screens aside, we are…

- **Resting from the rest of the week**
  - Most children spend much of their week surrounded by screens: at school, at home, in the car.
  - The Lord's Day is meant to be different. Setting screens aside helps children feel that this day is set apart.
- **Putting real people in front of children**
  - Children learn best from faces, voices, and people who know their names.
  - Faith has always been passed from person to person, as it was from Lois to Eunice to Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5).
  - Our teachers tell Bible stories themselves. In each of our early childhood and elementary classrooms, stories are told using wooden figures. The story-telling is thoughtful and deliberate…not entertaining, but with great intention.
- **Making music with our own voices**
  - When possible, we sing a cappella or with live instruments, not recordings.
  - Children learn that worship is something they do, not something they listen to.
  - Now and then a teacher may play quiet music from a phone to help lead singing, but the voices in the room are the point.
- **Learning to pay attention**
  - Screens train children to expect constant stimulation. A story, a craft, a moment of silence train them to stay with one thing.
  - Children who can sit with a Bible story now are growing the attention they'll need to sit with Scripture for the rest of their lives.
- **Refusing to be ruled by our devices**
  - Screens are useful tools, but they're very good at taking over. We want children to learn early that they can put them down.
  - When teachers leave their phones alone, children see adults who aren't ruled by them either.