

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

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Last week, I spoke about the theme that the preschool has adopted for this school year: "Be a Light". I wrote how I felt that our students had brought their own special light with them back to preschool. I also wrote how I felt certain that God was shining His light through them to help us remember His goodness, particularly during the challenges facing us now with the pandemic, social unrest, unemployment, and political finger pointing. As we finish the second week of school, I have delighted in watching this light shine through the children in many different ways. Each day, I have been privileged to witness countless examples of God's grace reflecting through our children. Following are just a few that I'd like to share.

When I peeked in at one of our 3-year old classes this week they were all dancing to a new song about God's love; you have probably heard it before in church, "Waves of Mercy". Even though the children didn't know the words, they were all moving and jumping around to the music. I marveled at how the music and motions of the song alone captured their attention! How could I not see God's light when they were praising Him with their joyful movements!

I watched one of our 4-year olds gather some of the fallen crepe myrtle flowers out on the playground and present them to her teachers. Just a small yet powerful message of kindness and another way to "be a light"! In a 2-year old classroom, one little girl offered me some of the vegetables that she was "cooking" in the play kitchen; I've also been invited to

God's Light Showing



partake in a snack of goldfish crackers during morning carpool. Sharing is most definitely a way to spread light to others! On her very first day at preschool, one of our 3-year olds fell and scraped her elbow. After her teacher bandaged her, she offered a tiny 'thank you' without any prompting or reminders; remembering to offer our gratitude is sometimes hard even for adults!

Scotting over at a table to make room for a friend, offering a goodbye to a new classmate when they are climbing in their car to go home or waving to the workers on the church roof are additional examples of God's light showing through the humble actions of our preschoolers. Is it not God working when a 3-year old approaches a new classmate who has mobility differences and invites him to play? Is it not God's light showing when a child offers an unsolicited ear to ear smile when he/she sees you first thing in the morning? Big, little, typical, extraordinary, daily or a one-time occurrence, these are the examples that our preschool children provide to show how they are a light for us and for each other.

Our preschoolers continually teach me so many things, but their lesson on how to "be a light" and to share God's message truly tops the list! As Msgr. Clay and Fr. Jairo get to know our preschoolers, I am sure that they too will be enveloped by the light of our small but mighty children! I again encourage you to take a lesson from them, particularly as we navigate these troubled times, and seek occasions to be a light for those around you! Maybe that one chance will be just what someone needs to feel closer to God's eternal love!

To learn more about the wonderful opportunities that we provide, please visit our website at www.preschoolatstfrancis.com or contact Shelley Freeman at: shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org

