

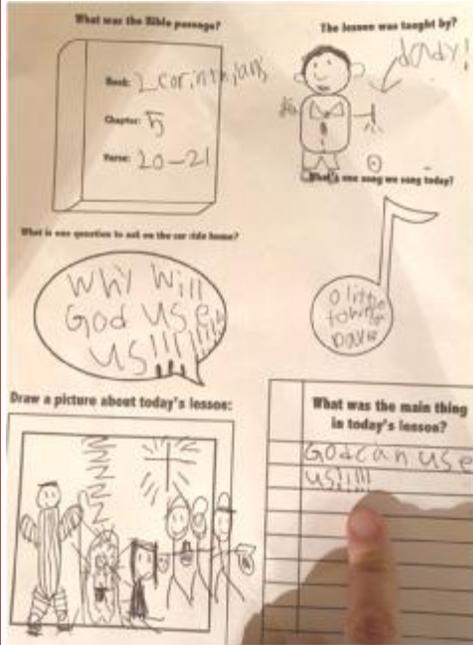


FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

51 North Franklin Road • Indianapolis, IN 46219 • 317.897.1298

PASTOR ANDY



THIS PAST SUNDAY THE YOUNG BELIEVERS WERE IN THE MORNING SESSION TO WATCH THE CHRISTMAS CANTATA. WITH LIZ IN THE CHOIR, IT WAS JUST JACK PATRICK AND I SITTING IN THE PEW. .HE ACTUALLY WANTED TO SIT IN THE VERY FRONT ROW – SO WE DID. WHILE WE WERE SITTING THERE HE PULLED OUT A PIECE OF PAPER THAT HE RECEIVED FROM ONE OF HIS TEACHERS TO HELP HIM FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE SERMON/PROGRAM.

HE STARTED TO FILL IT OUT WHEN I WAS DOING THE OFFERING BECAUSE HE SAID I WAS TALKING FOR A WHILE, SO HE THOUGHT I WAS PREACHING (HE THOUGHT THAT WAS FUNNY). THE LITTLE ARTIST IN HIM CAPTURED MY SOUL PATCH UNDER MY BOTTOM LIP, MY BOWTIE, AND EVEN THE PEN I HOLD IN MY HAND WHEN I TALK. HE DIDN'T QUITE GET THE SONG TITLE RIGHT, "O LITTLE TOWN OF DAVID",

BUT THE MORE I THOUGHT ABOUT IT. .HE ISN'T WRONG. BETHLEHEM IS THE TOWN OF DAVID. HIS MARY IN THE NATIVITY SCENE LOOKS VERY REMINISCENT OF LUCY FROM CHARLIE BROWN.

WHAT CAPTURED MY ATTENTION THOUGH, WAS WHEN HE WROTE DOWN, "GOD CAN USE US". HOW TRUE THIS LITTLE STATEMENT IS. AT THE MOMENT OF OUR SALVATION WE HAVE BEEN UNIQUELY EQUIPPED TO BE USED BY GOD. . . POSSIBLY MORE THAN WE CAN COMPREHEND.

HEBREWS 13:20-21 SAYS, ²⁰NOW THE GOD OF PEACE, WHO BROUGHT UP FROM THE DEAD THE GREAT SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE ETERNAL COVENANT, EVEN JESUS OUR LORD, ²¹EQUIP YOU IN EVERY GOOD THING TO DO HIS WILL, WORKING IN US THAT WHICH IS PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, TO WHOM BE THE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

THE GOD OF PEACE, WITH HIS OMNIPOTENT POWER, DESIRES TO EQUIP US. AND BECAUSE THERE IS PEACE BETWEEN THE ALMIGHTY GOD AND HIS REDEEMED PEOPLE, WHAT KIND OF EQUIPMENT DO YOU THINK WE GET TO WORK WITH (HAVE ACCESS TO)? THE DIFFICULT PART IS ALLOWING OUR STUBBORNNESS TO YIELD TO WHAT WE WANT TO DO (THE WAY WE WANT TO CAST THE NETS) AND ALLOW HIM TO WORK THROUGH US.

GOD CAN USE US (BECAUSE OF HIS SON), BUT HOW WILLING ARE WE TO BE USED? NOT IN THE WAY WE DEEM NECESSARY, BUT IN ALL THE WAYS HE DOES?