

Wonders on Wednesday

Youth Group (WOW)

WHAT IS WOW?

Wonders on Wednesday (WOW) is the name that we at First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro have selected to call our Logos program. Logos is a national program which provides in-depth and well-rounded Christian nurture for children and youth of the church. The program is intended to parallel the school year with weekly meetings beginning September 10th. The weekly meetings consist of four basic segments which are Bible Study, Recreation, Family Time and Worship Skills.

The program is not a substitute for, or replacement of, Sunday School or other programs of the church. It is rather a strong enhancement to the entire program of the church.



Relationship between Logos & WOW

The Logos program is a program used in many churches. Some churches use the name Logos as their program name; others select their own local name to use. As mentioned above, we have chosen to call our program WOW or Wonders on Wednesday. From time to time you will hear (and read) both terms, WOW and Logos. Please don't be confused; we are really talking about the same program.

The Program

The Logos Program is not just a design by which young people can develop an intellectual understanding of God. It is not just "about" theology; it IS theology - that is, it is a design by which the Christian understanding of God is expressed in relationships. The Logos Program is designed to be theology in action. Its design is to help children and youth move from understanding in the way God is and calls us to be, into the "learning experience" of putting into practice within

the program time arena what our biblical study helps us to understand theologically. The Logos system intentionally provides for that learning of the gospel that comes only by experiencing it as we "practice up" on treating each other as the children of God that we are.

So here is an "arena" of time and experience in which young people and adults can "practice up" on "treating everyone as a child of God." That is the one rule of the Logos Program and is the summary of the theology to be practiced. The Logos Program system provides designed time in which understanding the Way, the Truth, and the Life is nurtured, experienced, and practiced up on, so that everyone in the Logos Program grows in learning how to treat everyone else as a child of God.

We require four areas of study and experience. These elements, indispensable to the program, are:

- 1. Bible Study**
The Logos Study offers a program of Bible study which is the heart of the program. It is designed to train young people to be intelligent, committed, concerned Christian men and women.
- 2. Worship Skills (Choir/Bells/Drama)**
Every Logos member is required to participate in worship, to serve the church in some special way. Singing in the choir is one method of deepening the young person's understanding of individual Christian service and the investment of life within. Other opportunities will include bell choir, worship leadership, drama, etc.
- 3. Recreation / fellowship**
In addition to the various forms of study, there are supervised recreation and craft programs for each child to participate in.
- 4. Family Time**
A common meal together is an essential of the Logos program and is a big part of the total "experience." In this dinner hour is the opportunity for the cultivation of a unique "esprit de corps," a sense of the family of God, training in unselfishness, sharing in clean up of tables, serving one another, etc. Manners, too, come into the picture. The program time of dinner hour is used for group- singing, games, skits and announcements.

Our regular program times are as follows:

Children entering Kindergarten through Fifth Grades come at 4:00 p.m. for the start of their program,

Junior Highs will come at 5:15 p.m. for their program.

Discipline at Logos

Simply stated, we will adhere to the following:

No one has the right to treat anyone else as if they do not matter.

There is only one rule:
**We are all God's children,
and we treat each other that way.**



Cooperation with all members of the staff should be stressed by the parents at home. General demeanor during the Logos Program should reflect Christian thought and concern for others. Courtesy is expected at all times whether in study or play.

Parent questions about discipline should be referred to the Pastors. Disciplinary problems will be dealt with as promptly, realistically, and consistently as possible, as they are detrimental to the progress of the entire class and sometimes to the safety and well-being of other persons.

Behavior at the Dinner Hour-

Table parents, who each supervise one table during the dinner hour, require courtesy and good manners from those at their table. "Please" and "Thank you" are expected. The table leader functions as host, disciplinarian, teacher, and friend.

Logos members are asked to remain in the dining room until dismissal, unless specifically and personally excused by the table leader. Parents arriving to pick up children should address the table parents regarding early dismissal.

Fees

The cost to participate for the first semester in WOW is \$ 65.00 per child. Additional children in the same family will cost \$ 55.00 each. This covers dinner, arts/craft materials, special prizes and activities.

Scholarships and payment plans are available. Please see Anne Swanson.

Transportation

Logos will be happy to assist you if there are transportation problems you need help with.

Absence

We will be looking for your enrolled child every Wednesday. If for some reason he/she cannot attend, please call the church office 483-2772.

Arrangements for visitors

Logos members may invite visitors but they must call the church office by Wednesday noon and make a reservation. The meal will cost \$3.00. If a visitor wishes to be enrolled, the parents will need to attend an orientation meeting with the Logos coordinator.

The person bringing a visitor is responsible for the visitor's conduct at all times.

Visiting parents who are coming to the dinner hour will sit at the guest table. The dinner cost is \$3.00



Parent Participation

When parents present their children for the Sacrament of Baptism, they commit themselves to rear them in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord." The Logos Program gives parents some concrete and specific ways to keep such a commitment. Parents are asked to assist their children/youth with Logos assignments, counsel with them, and encourage their faithful and regular participation in the total life of the church.

Active participation by at least one parent or sponsor of every child in the Logos Program is essential. Since the staff is voluntary (except for the pastors), part-time service by a large number of people is needed to keep the many activities going. At least as important, however, is the "morale-boosting" effect of the parent's physical presence and visible support of the program from time to time. This is a vital element in the successful operation of the program.

At the time of registration, either one or both parents shall be asked to indicate where they will be participating.



How to help your child in Logos

1. Insist upon regular attendance in the program on Wednesdays and in worship on Sunday Mornings.
2. Assist your son or daughter in the preparation of any outside home study. We do not expect that you prepare this but that you see to it that he or she does. Unprepared children soon lose interest because they cannot follow the class.
3. Fulfill your commitment to volunteer your service. Staff members in Logos are not paid, but are working for their Lord in committing this time for the development of young people, and you, by giving of your time, render a vital service to our youth.
4. Encourage and participate in daily Bible reading and prayer at home and participate in Sunday worship with your child or children.
5. Stress the importance of courtesy and good behavior at Logos. Emphasis on these matters at home will greatly ease the work of our supervision.

Common Parental Questions about Logos

My child has too much homework. What shall we do?

Homework is an important aspect of a child's life, and on particularly heavy days children can go to a supervised "study hall" during their Recreation time at Logos. Also, since the Logos program does not begin right after school, nor end very late in the evening, homework can mostly be accomplished outside of Logos. Remember, we make time in our lives for those things which count. Our growth as children of God certainly needs to be a priority for all of us.!

Does every child have to be in choir?

Every child needs to participate in a worship skill area. These include choir, worship leadership, drama, etc..

Can't we do away with dinner and save time, trouble and money?

To have only part of the program destroys the essence of its success. To eliminate any 1/4 of the program diminishes its importance and success by over 1/2. The value of the Logos Program is not the activities offered but a total program of growing relationships.

Can't this be on a Sunday?

There is a real value in mid-week education. It tends to teach that religion is not separate from daily activities. It is relevant to young people - much of their major activity occurs during the week-day school year. Attendance on weekdays is almost guaranteed; Sunday for many has become a day of recreation and absenteeism.

Doesn't this compete with Sunday Church School?

No. In every situation where Logos is used the tendency has been to upgrade the Sunday School hour. The children come to Church School as better friends and with better background to add to class discussions, etc.

My child is involved in after school athletics. Can he/she come to only part of the program.?

Since most athletic programs do not run the whole year and are of real value in the life of the developing young person, it is suggested that the child come to Logos as soon as he/she can after practice. Then, following the season, full participation can be resumed. If Bible class must be missed, independent study can be done at home with a parent's help.

I work late and cannot easily help. What should I do?

There are many areas where help is needed and at different times. The Logos Director can help you work out your volunteer assignment.