

# Kids Learn Worldwide Lessons

Dan Nelson - pastor

Calvary Chapel of the Ojai Valley

What do you get when you put a hundred children together, along with a team of parent-and teen coaches, throw in some thrilling water balloon games, a Jolly Jump, exciting songs, tasty food, and adventurous Bible lessons? You have got the makings of the best Vacation Bible School in the history of the planet. Well, that may be a bit of biased exaggeration, but you definitely have something good happening.

With all of the crazy stuff going on in the world today, one has to be careful not to lose hope. There seems to be fewer and fewer people who know right from wrong, truth from error, black from white. Some of these individuals are already in positions of power and authority. Because there are so many children growing up in homes of confusion, with no end in sight for real change, a forward look into future leadership can seem bleak. But then I look into the faces of these Vacation Bible School kids and I get excited. Not just for the fun they are having today, but for our future as a society. You see, I know that there are other events like these throughout our community and many across our nation. I see this as more than what they can possibly learn in one week of camaraderie and adventure, but as a coming together of families who share similar values in how they desire to raise their children. And, by and large, these are ones you will want someday working on your car, doing your home improvement project, handling your investment portfolio, or leading your country.

If you agree that a global perspective is what is needed in order get along well in the future, you will appreciate that the children have been learning about the people of Egypt, China, Mexico, Japan, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and the like. The world is changing so quickly and there is a ready recognition in almost every learning environment of the need to understand things from a global perspective. With international travel and communication technology so readily available to the average person, it seems most people understand this. One cool thing about this is to watch our culture "catch up" to a Christian world-view in this area.

Since Jesus gave his followers the infamous final instructions that would become known in history as the "Great Commission," his people have been thinking about ways to get God's message of good news to every corner of the world. Throw out the argument about the phonies who have used this pretense for their own purposes, I am talking about real Christianity. The one that changes lives, cuts through the darkness and produces awake of glorious hope and life for all who believe.

Have you ever heard a hoard of kids shouting at 10,000 decibels? I have! At least, it felt thunderous enough to "bring down the

steeple." It's comforting to know they had something worth shouting about. Do you have anything good worth shouting about? I am convinced that there are some things that we should never outgrow. Maybe we could take a cue from the kids on this one. Could you imagine what the future might be like if every child on the planet got to experience families who prioritized Vacation Bible School for each summer? Parents who think that way probably make a whole lot of other decisions that reflect good stuff for our future. Now stretch your thinking to say, what if every adult and teen, around the globe, found away to bring in similar experiences for themselves? What would our world look like? Would crime rates drop? Would family court have to fire some staff? Would your repair bill be fairer? Some groups and activists still would not like it no matter how peaceful, safe, fair, honest, and "close to heaven" things become. Certain ideologies and alternative lifestyles would fade into the distance and values like truth and justice would trump tolerance and acceptance. For now, I am happy to see a hundred kids and their families shout for joy and sing songs about the "Prince of Peace."

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Dan Nelson is a frequent contributor to the Ojai Valley News and currently serves the Ojai Valley Ministerial Association and community as editor of the Religion Column. Permission is freely granted to reprint the article in its entirety. Dan Nelson is pastor of Calvary Chapel Christian Church of the Ojai Valley.



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### **Sunday Worship:**

**9:00 & 10:45am**  
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley  
195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View

### **Mid-Week Study:**

**7:00pm Thursday**  
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley  
195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View

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