

Tahoe Douglas Christian Preschool & Childcare
A Ministry of Tahoe Community Church
Hands to Work, Hearts to God



The Preschool is still open. Why?

An interview with our Preschool Director, Sarah Tran
April 6, 2020

Q. Why is Tahoe Douglas Christian Preschool & Childcare staying open during this time of recommended Social Distancing?

- A. We are staying open for the same reason that many Nevada Preschools and Child Care Centers are staying open. We are providing essential care for children who are not yet old enough to care for themselves while their parents are providing essential services in our community and attending to essential life tasks.

Q. Why aren't these children receiving essential care in their own homes from their parents or other members of their household?

- A. Each family situation is unique. Many Preschoolers are being cared for in their own homes and that is the safest, healthiest, most consistent and stable place for them to receive care right now. For other children, we and other Nevada Preschools and Child Care Centers are able to provide care when their parents are in need of a safe, healthy, consistent, stable alternative.

Q. Aren't your teachers putting themselves and their families at risk by providing care?

- A. Each Teacher situation is unique and determines the extent to which they are able to participate in care while we remain open. Each of our Teachers is a valued member of our Preschool Staff and we are supporting each teacher in doing what they need to do to protect their personal health and the health of their family. For those who are here at Preschool providing face to face care, we are adhering to all CDC (Centers for Disease Control), WHO (World Health Organization), NV State and CCL (Child Care Licensing) guidelines and recommendations. This includes following the routine standards of care, cleaning, hygiene and sanitation required by licensing that already provide us with a strong measure of health and safety. In addition we are following intensified cleaning and sanitizing procedures, modified drop-off and pick-up procedures, and close monitoring procedures of anything that would compromise the health and safety of our Preschool environment for our children, our families or our Teachers.

Q. Are you going to keep the preschool open no matter what?

- A. We are going to keep Tahoe Douglas Christian Preschool & Childcare open only if the State of Nevada allows us to stay open, only if Nevada Child Care Licensing allows us to stay open, only if the Pastor and Elders at Tahoe Community Church allow us to stay open, and only if we are able to provide a safe, healthy, consistent, stable place to care for our children.

Q. Do you think other Preschools that have closed or are thinking about closing should stay open?

- A. Each preschool and child care center needs to make the decision to remain open or to close based on their teachers, their children, their families, and their ability to provide a safe, healthy, consistent, stable place for children that is safe for everyone. These are not easy decisions to make and the factors that go into making these decisions can change at any time.

Q. Do you have any recommendations for other Preschools that are trying to make these decisions?

- A. Making the decision to stay open or to close is the same as making any decision: Pray about it. Ask others to pray with you and for you about it. Know that if there's uncertainty in how to pray that the Spirit will intercede on your behalf [Romans 8:26,27]. Read the Bible and reflect on any Bible stories or verses that seem to speak to the situation. Gather information from credible, reliable sources. Seek advice from credible, reliable, knowledgeable sources, especially anyone who you believe will pray about the advice they give before they give it. Then make a decision and after the decision is made be ready to make a different decision if anything changes.

Q. Are there any Bible stories or verses that are telling you to keep the Preschool open?

- A. There's a story in Luke 5 about Jesus telling some fishermen to keep fishing. These fishermen were probably really tired and other fishermen were probably done for the night when Jesus sent them back into the deep water to drop their nets again. That seems to fit in some ways. It's one of the Bible stories we tell our Preschoolers about the time when Jesus called some of His first disciples:

One day when Jesus was all grown up He was teaching people about God. The people didn't know He was really God so they were surprised and amazed at the way He could explain God and explain God's words. On this day so many people wanted to listen to what Jesus was teaching them that they all began to crowd around Him. They were crowding around Him so much that it was hard for Him to teach everyone. Sometimes that happens at Preschool story time when all our friends want to see the pictures at the same time and then the Teacher has to remind everyone to sit down again so all our friends can see. Grown-ups do that sometimes too. Jesus didn't tell them to sit down though. Instead He found a place that He could sit down. Jesus saw two fishing boats at the edge of the water and He got in one of them. The boat he got into belonged to Simon-Peter. After He got in He asked Simon-Peter to take the boat just a little bit offshore. Simon-Peter and his friends were busy washing their fishing nets after fishing all night and they were tired, but they stopped what they were doing so that they could help Jesus. After they did what Jesus asked, Jesus sat down in the boat and taught the people who were standing on the shore. Simon-Peter and his friends had front row seats listening to Jesus in the fishing boat. James and John, Simon-Peter's fishing partners, were listening on the shore with the rest of the people.

When Jesus was done teaching he told Simon-Peter to take the boat out in the deep water and to let down the nets. Simon-Peter was really tired, but he was also really amazed by everything that Jesus said. Simon-Peter told Jesus, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so I will let down the nets." It's really hard to do things when you're tired, but Simon-Peter really liked that Jesus knew so much about God so He wanted to do what Jesus said.

When Simon-Peter let down the nets in the water so many fish were caught that the nets started to break. Oh no!!! Simon-Peter and his friends signalled to the shore for Simon-Peter's fishing partners James and John to come help. When James and John brought their boat out next to Simon-Peter's boat they all worked together to get the fish out of the nets and into the boats before the nets broke. There were so many fish that they filled both boats so full that both boats began to sink. Oh no!!! There were a lot of fish, more fish than they had ever caught at the same time before. It was a miracle and Simon-Peter was so frightened by the miracle that he fell to his knees in front of Jesus and said, "Leave me, Lord, I am an unworthy sinner." Simon-Peter thought God should only do miracles for people who were Holy like John the Baptist or the Prophets, but really God can do miracles for anyone. Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." That's really funny. It probably made Simon-Peter laugh and stop being frightened. It was also a way for Jesus to tell Simon-Peter that He wanted his help telling everyone about God and God's words. Then Simon-Peter, James and John and all of the friends jumped in the water and pulled their sinking boats to shore. Then, even though they were really tired and they still had a lot of work to do, Simon-Peter, James and John left everything there and followed Jesus. They left a lot of fish and torn nets and two waterlogged boats there. It probably kept everyone busy for a while. That's when Simon-Peter, James, and John became special helpers for Jesus. They were the first disciples.

Q. What is it about that story that is telling you to keep the Preschool open?

- A. Simon-Peter's words to Jesus "*Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so I will let down the nets.*" are just inspiring me right now. I love the commitment, the dedication, the resoluteness that Simon-Peter has in this moment before he has even really started walking with Jesus. These are the things that move him forward in spite of his incredulity at the task Jesus is giving him. I know our Preschool Teachers are feeling some of that in this situation, but this Bible story isn't telling us to stay open. It is just providing encouragement and confirmation about the decision to stay open.

Q. Is there anything that people can do to help support the Preschool right now?

- A. 1) Keep us in prayer. "*More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of*"--Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Pray for our preschool children, our families, our Teachers, our classroom environments and our Church Leaders. Pray that God keeps all of us safe and healthy. Pray that God guides all of our decisions and that God gives us all the time and energy needed to do the things that need to be done to keep the Preschool open for as long as we are meant to stay open. 2) Offer words of encouragement to our Teachers and Families. 3) There are always projects that need to be done (maintenance, repair, craft and admin projects). Email the Preschool <sarah.preschool.director.tdcp@gmail.com> if you would like to help with a project that you can do from home or at Preschool during times we are not in the classroom. 4) Contribute financially. Contributions can be earmarked for sanitation supplies, child scholarships, Teacher encouragement, payroll, or general use. 5) Follow us and like us on Facebook. It encourages the Teachers and the Families when they can see tangible confirmation that there are people who care and believe that the things that we are doing are making a difference.