



**A BIBLE IN HER HAND**, teacher Carol Brown (above) looked up a scripture at the United Explorers last Wednesday as Justin Gee watched over her shoulder. Kolton Paul (below) put two beads on a string for two members in his family who he loves. Jacob Gee sat next to him.

## Students learn about God, Christ

A Wednesday after-school program at the United Church started with eight students the first week and 20 the second, and organizers say they'd like even more kids to join them to learn about God and Jesus.

Carol Brown, a kindergarten teacher; Tim Thornton, a fifth-grade teacher; and Kristi Smith, a teacher aide, started the United Explorers group three weeks ago. The program, open to all students in kindergarten through sixth grade, starts right after school on Wednesdays and runs until 5:30 p.m.

The idea, said Mrs. Brown, is to tell kids about God and Jesus. It's a ministry, she said, adding that she has wanted to start the program for a long time and now has some help, including fellow professionals who are able to join her.

At each session, she said, the students get a snack and have a lesson. They will start doing songs and games soon and some crafts. The women's group of the church has been helping with snacks.

They started off the first afternoon, she said, talking about the Fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace,

patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. She said they will be talking about each one separately, and last week, they covered love.

The program is fun, Mrs. Brown said, and the students are learning about things which are good for them to know for the rest of their lives. There is no cost and the kids are supervised.

The program is open to everyone. Mrs. Brown said students need to be picked up by 5:30 p.m. or be able to walk home.



**LARA ZODROW** tied the shoe of her friend Sierra Lohofener (above) during a skit last week. Patty Brown (right), a volunteer from the United Church women's group, helped serve cookies.

