

## 1 Youth Ministry

## Grades 7-12



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## Bible Verse

## James 2:26

26 As the body  
without the spirit is  
dead, so faith  
without deeds is  
dead.

## Life Skills Class

Our Youth Life Skills class with Tom is every Wednesday night at 7pm for all Youth grades 7-12.

Don't miss these great lessons that you can immediately apply to your own every day life.

## Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 1/25/15

Hello Chris



This week, we continued our Jesus and our future series. We reviewed a forever future with God by being spiritually born again through faith in Jesus Christ and our abundant life given to us by Jesus.

We started by looking at the game of chess and talked about how it is not only a game of strategy but also of learning to sacrifice other pieces on the board in order to save the most important piece on the board, the king and capture the opponents king.

We said that God and the message of salvation can be thought of as the king piece in chess with us, as believers, making sacrifices so that God's message of salvation can go into the world.

We started our lesson in **John 12:20-25** in which Jesus uses an illustration of the kernel of wheat being sacrificed and dying in the ground to produce new life as a way to help the people see and understand what he was about to do. Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross would open the door for every person on Earth then, now and forever to gain salvation and eternal life.

We looked at several more verses where Jesus talks about sacrifice and discussed what they mean to us today. Jesus is basically saying that if we live only for ourselves and put our own selfish wants and desires as the most important then our lives will produce no fruit in the kingdom of God. But, if we learn to sacrifice our will for the will of God then God can use us to carry out His plan and the amazing life He planned for us.

We said that our society tends to promote an "every man for himself" attitude and a "do whatever it takes to be happy

with no regard for others" environment. Jesus tells us that these are not the values of God.

Jesus makes it clear what our future will look like as His followers. If we choose to be totally self-centered with no regard for others then our life will make no impact on the world for God. We will be like a seed that never gets planted, full of unrealized potential. But, if we learn to live our lives according to God's will, we will produce much fruit for the kingdom of God. We said that there is nothing inherently wrong with our wants and desires as long as we remember to keep the will of God first in our lives and live according to His Word.

To help illustrate, we looked again at our own chess board making ourselves the king and our friends and family the other pieces. We said that as long as we make US the most important in our world, everyone else is expendable and without even realizing it, we will be willing to sacrifice them for our own benefit. But, when we place God as the most important, we will sacrifice our own selfish ways for His will to live according to His plan and His amazing future for us.

We ended by each receiving a single seed to take home (but not to plant) to place somewhere that we will see it every day to remind us of this lesson about sacrifice and also to think about the seed just sitting there full of potential that will never be realized.

**Our challenge this week is:** every time we see the seed to think about ways that we can sacrifice in our life so that God can use us to produce much fruit in His kingdom.

Join us next time when we learn that the future that God has for us is worth any sacrifice we may have to make.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Mark this date on your calendar!**

**Coming up Friday, March 27, 2015** - Join us when we go see the new movie "Do you Believe?" followed by an overnight **"lock-in" at LWA**. More details to come. Check out the official trailer below.

Parents, please let us know if you would be interested in being a chaperone for either the movie or the lock-in or for both.

**Note:** Michelle and I just saw a special screening of this and it was truly awesome! I can't wait to go with our group!



Official Trailer

**Bible verses referenced in this week's lesson:** John 12:20-26, Matthew 16:25, Luke 9:23

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller  
1 Youth Ministry

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