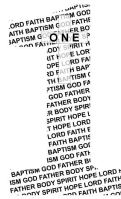




1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12



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Links

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Bible Verse

John 3:16-18

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.
 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 1/4/15

Hello Chris



This week, we learned how Guilt & Bitterness can hold us back from moving forward and living the life that God has planned for us.

We discussed some things we have done that we regretted doing and feel guilty about. We also discussed some things

that others have done to us that we have trouble forgiving them for and feel bitterness toward them.

To help understand what Guilt & Bitterness does to us, we looked at the parable that Jesus tells in **Luke 15:11-32** about the prodigal son or lost son.

We discussed the guilt that the younger son felt. He felt so guilty for what he did that he felt he didn't even deserve to be called his father's son. He returned to his father and asked to be treated as one of his servants. His father, however, not only was not angry with his son, he accepted him back joyfully and even celebrated his return with a big party.

We said that this part of the story shows us that no matter what we have done or how guilty we feel about it, our heavenly Father's **UNCONDITIONAL** love is always more powerful. We should never, ever, ever be afraid to come to God and ask for his forgiveness no matter what we have done or how guilty we feel about it. We said that there is absolutely nothing in all of creation that can separate us from His love for us.

We then talked about the older brother in the story. He felt so angry and bitter about his father's reaction to his younger brother's return that he refused to go in to the party for him.

We said that both sons were given the same from the father

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.

but the older son let his feelings of bitterness keep him from joining the party.

We looked at **Ephesians 4:31-32** where we are told that we should forgive others just as God forgives us.

We talked about how carrying these feelings of guilt & bitterness with us is like going through life carrying heavy bags along with us and the longer we carry them the heavier they get. They hold us back and keep us from living the amazing life God has planned for us. They keep us from joining the party.

We said that the only way to completely let go of these feelings and be fully healed is to take it to God through what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Everyone then had the opportunity to privately write down anything that they felt guilty about or any bitterness they held against someone else. We then held our cards and prayed for God to forgive us for whatever it was we wrote down and asked the Holy Spirit to show us how to receive God's forgiveness and let go of any feelings of guilt. We also prayed for the Holy Spirit to show us how to forgive others and release any bitterness we held toward them.

We then burned our cards as a symbol that we were letting these things go and were not going to continue to carry them with us into 2015 so we can start living the amazing life God has planned for us from the beginning.

Next week we'll start a new series about Jesus and our future.

Upcoming Events

Mark this date on your calendar!

Coming up Friday, March 20, 2015 - Join us when we go see the movie "Do you Believe?" on opening night, 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.

MIPA SORVINO MAN ASTIN ALEX PENAVEGA DORIS LINDO ANDREA LOGAN WHITE CYRIL SHEPHERD LEE MAJORS

FROM THE CREATORS OF "GOD'S NOT DEAD"

PURE FLIX PRESENTS

DO YOU BELIEVE?

COMING TO THEATERS SPRING 2015

WWW.DOYOUTHMINISTRY.COM

Official Trailer

Bible verses referenced in this week's lesson: Luke 15:11-32, Ephesians 4:31-32, Romans 8:39

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed New Year,

Chris & Michelle Miller
1 Youth Ministry

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