1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12



Contact Us

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Bible Verse

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Foster Care Gifts

Don't forget to bring in gifts of **personal care items** for the hundreds of teens who will be without a home this Christmas.

We'll be packaging the items into gift bags during our Christmas Party on December 12th.

Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 11/23/14

Hello Chris



This week, we met outdoors to talk about what a Church is. We started by discussing Jesus' first major teaching to his Disciples in what is known as the "Sermon on the Mount".

We said that Jesus taught where ever the people were who needed to hear him whether it be inside or outside, on a boat or on land, to one or to many. We said that the Church of the New Testament was anywhere and everywhere people were.

We said that the word Church never referred to a building or even a specific place but instead referred to a group of people who came together for a purpose. In **Ephesians** 1:22-23, Paul describes the Church using the metaphor of the "Body". In the same way that the body is made up of many different parts with different abilities so too is the Church made up of many different people with different abilities working together as one in the Body of Christ.

We said that being a part of a Church is important to provide support, encouragement, protection, help, accountability, guidance and fellowship with other believers as well as to work together for God's purpose. We said that God's design for the Church is not only for people to have a relationship with Him but also to have a relationship with each other. We agreed that the Church is not a building or a place but is simply God's people coming together to worship Him and do His work on Earth together. We are His hands and feet.

We also talked about why people followed Jesus and why God needs us to spread the "good news" of the Gospel to others. Jesus brought his message of God's Love & Grace for all people to everyone who needed to hear it but there were some places where He was not accepted. Even in his own hometown, Matthew 13:54-58, the people "took offense at him" and He could not perform many miracles there because

No Wed Night

Our Youth Life Skills class with Tom will **NOT** be held this Wednesday night so that our youth can spend time preparing for Thanksgiving with their families.

Youth Band

Please continue to work on your songs on your own and watch for the next group rehearsal announcement. of their "lack of faith".

God uses each of us with our own unique abilities to spread the Gospel with those whom we can influence the best. Each of us have our own "sphere of influence" and can speak with others in a way that they listen.

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We said that the best way for us to continue to share Jesus' message with others who need to hear it is not to just preach and read scripture to them but to live as Jesus did with Christ-like character and to share our own testimony with others. In this way our light will help guide others to God's saving grace.

We ended by saying that a Church is NOT about religion forcing you to follow a bunch of rules. A Church is about Jesus inviting you to follow Him and have a relationship with Him as well as with each other and to invite others to follow.

Being a Christian is not only believing in Jesus Christ and following his teaching but also spreading His message so that all can be saved and none will perish. We said to ask yourself if a court accused you of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? In other words, would people know you are a Christian simply by your character?

If the answer is, Yes, that's awesome. If the answer is no, maybe or I'm not sure, you just found something to work on.

Next week we'll talk about Thanksgiving and Gratitude.

Upcoming Events

<u>Friday, December 12th</u> Youth Christmas Party! We will have our annual youth Christmas party at LWA from 7-10pm. Join us for fun, food and fellowship. Please sign-up in the youth room so we know how much food we need.

<u>Christmas Eve Service</u> - Join us in the sanctuary for a special Christmas Eve candlelight service on December 24 at 4pm Featuring music by electric string quartet, Phat Strad, along with Living Word's singers and choir. All are welcome!

Bible verses referenced in this week's lesson: Matthew 5:3-11, Ephesians 1:22-23, Matthew 13:54-58, John 6:2, Luke 6:46

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed week,

Chris & Michelle Miller
1 Youth Ministry

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