



# 1 Youth Ministry

## Grades 7-12



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### Bible Verse

**Jeremiah**  
**29:11-13**

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

### Life Skills Class

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

### Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 2/22/15

Hello Chris



This week we finished our series on Jesus and Relationships by discussing how to handle conflicts in our relationships.

We reviewed our last two lessons on Jesus and Relationships about Grace & Understanding and about Anger & Bitterness. We then discussed several situations that may cause conflict in our relationships and how we typically handle it.

We started in **Matthew 18:15-17** where Jesus gives very clear, step-by-step instructions on how to handle conflict with other Christian brothers and sisters.

**Step 1** is to go directly to the person you are having a conflict with and discuss the issue between just the two of you. Your focus should be on resolving the issue, not on deciding who is right and who is wrong. Talking about the problem with others to gain their support is never the way for Christians to handle conflict nor is confronting the person in front of other people to try to publicly shame them or make them look bad in front of their friends. Jesus never called for us to publicly humiliate those who sin against us.

We said that for most everyday conflicts, speaking to the person directly will often resolve the issue. But, if step 1 does not resolve the issue, Jesus gives us **Step 2**. Jesus tells us that if the person will not listen then try again bringing one or two others along. We said that after the first step, the person may be angry or defensive and bringing others along will provide witnesses to the truth. We said that we should not choose others who will just support our side of the issue but those who can see both sides equally and who wish to help resolve the issue rather than determine right or wrong. They should

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

also be Christians so that they share the same Christian values.

If neither of the first two steps resolve the conflict, we have a **3rd step**. Jesus tells us to bring the matter before the Church. In Jesus time, that would have been the Pharisees or Priests. We said that we should bring the issue to our Pastors or Youth Leaders or, depending on the situation, to our school Principal, Coach, Police, Parent or other authority. Everyone involved, including the one or two others from step 2, should be in conversation with the objective to resolve the conflict regardless of who is right or who is wrong.

If the other person will still not listen, Jesus tells us to "treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector". We said that we should then separate ourselves from them because we cannot force anyone to restore a relationship. But, if they someday choose to be repentant and willing to reconcile the relationship, every effort should be made for restoration. Grace, forgiveness and understanding, just as Jesus had for the pagans and tax collectors, should always be available to help restore a relationship.

We said that in order for any of these steps to work, we need to go in with the proper attitude and that attitude is the attitude of Jesus. We discussed Jesus' attitude of humility, tenderness, compassion and of considering others. We said that if we go into this process with an attitude of pride, our focus will be on proving ourselves right but if we have an attitude of humility, our focus will be on resolving the conflict.

We finished by writing '**6 steps to resolving conflict**' on index cards so that we can keep them as a reminder of how Christians are to resolve conflict in our relationships.

1. Attitude of Christ/Humility
2. Discuss one-on-one
3. Include one or two others
4. Bring it to the Church/Authority
5. Separate yourself from them
6. Maintain attitude of Grace & Forgiveness

We said that these steps are not just something that we made up on our own. These are instructions that Jesus gave to resolve conflict in Christian relationships.

We hope you enjoyed our series about Jesus and

Relationships and have learned how to have Godly, Christ-centered, Christian relationships as shown in God's love, grace, forgiveness and understanding without carrying anger and bitterness in your heart.

Remember that good relationships are of the utmost importance because our relationships with others directly affect our relationship with God.

It will not always be an easy thing to do which is why we have the Holy Spirit to help guide us in how to have strong, healthy relationships with each other so that we can build a stronger relationship with God.

### Upcoming Events

**Coming up Friday, March 27** - 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.



Official Trailer

**Bible verses referenced in this week's lesson: Matthew 18:15-17, Deuteronomy 19:15-17, Matthew 5:23-24, Philippians 2:1-11**

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller  
1 Youth Ministry



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