

1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

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Links

- [Email](#)
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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.

Suggested Viewing



While this is not an official Youth Group Event, we would like to recommend that all of our youth go see the movie "Old Fashioned" to witness what a

Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 2/8/15

Hello Chris

This week we started a new series on Jesus and Relationships with our first lesson about grace and understanding.

We discussed some examples of how easy it is to make serious judgement mistakes about others when we don't know their story of what's really going on.

We studied **Luke 6:41-42** in where Jesus asks how can we offer to take the speck of sawdust out of our brother's eye when we have a plank in our own. We said that Jesus' main point is that we should be more aware of our own sin than the sins of others. He makes such a ridiculous exaggeration because it is equally ridiculous for a person to ignore their own sin to point out the sin of another. All sin is equal in the eyes of God and all sin separates us from God which makes all sin just as serious as a plank of wood stuck in your eye.

We also noted that Jesus did not say "if" you have a plank in your eye because everyone has sin and the only way to be free from the consequences of our sin is by the grace of Jesus.

We said that we normally tend to magnify other people's sin or wrongdoing to draw attention away from our own sin or wrongdoing to make us look better than we are. When we change our attitude toward our own shortcomings, it changes the way that we view other people and their shortcomings.

We said that instead of trying to make ourselves feel better or look good by minimizing our own sin while magnifying the sins of others, the Gospel tells us to be honest with ourselves about our own sin while extending **understanding** and **grace** to others.

We said that **understanding** is having an awareness of why people do what they do (knowing their story). Instead of

God-honoring courtship in contemporary America looks like.

It is opening this weekend!

Theater locations and times can be found on the website link below.

Michelle and I will be taking both of our daughters on Sunday evening to the San Tan Village 16 in Gilbert.

[See Website Here](#)

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.

jumping to conclusions about them or making up our own story about them, we should talk to them to get the whole story and maybe try putting ourselves in their shoes.

We said that **grace** is basically when you get better than you deserve. All sin deserves God's judgment but by our relationship with Jesus we are freed from the consequence of our sin. We didn't earn it and we certainly didn't deserve it but God graciously gave it to us because He loves us.

We said that we can extend grace to others by being quick to forgive them and by treating them better than they deserve. We pointed out, however, that grace does NOT condone wrongdoing or consider a wrong deed to be right. Grace simply loves despite the wrongdoing.

We agreed that extending understanding and grace is not always easy but it is a major part of what it means to have relationships that are Christ-centered and honor God.

We ended our class by asking God to make us each more aware of our own sins and help us to see other people's shortcomings through the lens of our own.

CHALLENGE: Your challenge is to identify one person in your life that you see on a regular basis who you have been critical of or has let you down or maybe you just don't like them very much for whatever reason.

Once identified, you are to simply talk to that person. Ask them questions about their life, get to know them and their story. Then, the hard part, extend them the same **grace and understanding** that God gave to you. It may not be easy and they may even resist talking to you at first but the result will move you closer to having Christ-centered relationships.

Join us next time as we talk about anger in relationships.

Upcoming Events

NEXT EVENT! Friday February 20th - Movie Night!

Join us at LWA for games, pizza and friends while we watch "God's Not Dead" for those who haven't seen it or who would like to see it again. Don't miss it! From 6:00pm to 10:00pm at LWA.

Saturday, February 21st:

Join us for our monthly community service project helping to clean the kids meeting rooms at Tempe Child Protective Services. We meet at LWA at 9:30am and return after lunch.



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: Luke 6:41-42

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,
Chris & Michelle Miller
1 Youth Ministry

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