



1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

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Bible Verse

James 2:14-17

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Life Skills Class

Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 3/22/15

Hello Chris

This week we continued our series about Jesus and our identity after reviewing our lessons about how we, as Christians, draw others to God by the goodness that they see in our lives and how greatness in God's eyes is about our love and service to others.

We started our lesson in **John 15:1-8** in where Jesus is telling us that if we remain connected to Him, as a branch is connected to its vine, we will bear much fruit. But, if we do not remain connected to Him we will be like a branch that bears no fruit and withers and dies no longer being connected to its vine.

We listed some things we can do to remain and grow more connected to Jesus. We said we can read and meditate on God's Word, we can talk to and listen to God in prayer, we can praise and worship God as individuals and as a Church and we can simply recognize evidence of God in the world around us and give Him thanks.

We said that the fruit that we bear is the evidence of God in us. It is all of the Godly aspects of our character and all of the Christ-like actions in our lives. We mentioned some of these things which included the Fruits of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Jesus tells us in **Verse 8** that the purpose of the fruit that we bear is to bring glory to God.

Jesus also tells us that while He is the vine, God is the gardener who removes branches that bear no fruit while pruning those that do so as to encourage new growth and more fruit. In order for us to be healthy and reach our full potential, like a gardener prunes a vine, God will cut away, or will lead us to cut away, things in our lives that are

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.

keeping us from remaining strong in Jesus Christ. These could be things like relationships, misguided plans, bad habits, or basically anything that leads us away from God.

We said that when God shows us areas in our lives that may be leading us away from Him or getting in the way of our connection to Jesus, it's not always easy or fun and can be hard for us to let go of something even if it's not good for us. We need to remember that God is a good and loving gardener who prunes us because He loves us and cares about us and He wants us to stay strongly connected to Jesus, the Vine, and continue to bear much fruit in our lives.

We then showed that staying strongly connected to Jesus leads to producing more fruit which in turn brings more glory to God which then brings us more strongly connected to Jesus which leads to producing even more fruit, bringing more glory to God, leading to a stronger connection...etc.

We asked God to show us any parts of our lives that may need to be pruned and we asked for help in letting go of these things so we can grow stronger in our connection to Jesus.

Join us next time for our final lesson in our Jesus and our identity as Christians series in which we will talk about compassion for others and sharing the Gospel.

Upcoming Events

1 Youth Movie & Lock-in!
ATTENTION! Please note updates below.

THIS FRIDAY! March 27th, meet at LWA BY 6:00pm We will be leaving for the movie at 6:00pm (they changed the movie start time to 6:20 instead of 7:00) to go with us to see "Do You Believe?" and then return to LWA for an overnight Lock-in until 8:00am Saturday morning!

You can text me at 602-684-1820 if you have any questions.

Everyone must have a permission form signed by a parent to attend. You can [download one here](#) or pick one up in the youth room.

The cost is \$10 for the movie plus whatever you want to bring

for snacks. There is no charge for the lock-in.

This is a really powerful movie that challenges us as Christians to not only believe in Christ but to accept and embrace our identity in Jesus and actually live out our faith in our daily lives.

See the trailer below.



Official Trailer

Bible verses referenced in this lesson: John 15:1-8

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller

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