

# 1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12



#### **Contact Us**

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### **Bible Verse**

#### 1 Peter 3:13-16

13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

#### Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 3/8/15

#### Hello Chris



This week we started a new series about Jesus and our identity. We talked about how we were created to stand out and get people's attention. Not attention for us but

for God.

We said that our identity is our personality or our character and it is what makes us who we are. We added that as Christians, our identity is also as it is found in Christ. As Paul tells us, when we come to a saving relationship with Jesus, our old identity dies and disappears as we are born again with a new identity in Christ.

We started our lesson in **Matthew 5:13-16** to see what Jesus had to say to His Disciples about their identity as Christ followers. We learned that we are to live our lives to affect the world around us as salt affects the flavor or food and as light affects darkness. Our purpose is to let our lives shine with the light of Jesus so that others may see the goodness of God through us and bring glory to Him.

When we live as Christians, people should notice us and realize there is something different about us and attribute that difference to the presence of God in our lives.

We looked at **1 Peter 2:12** to see Peter also saying we should live our lives so that others will see God's goodness in us and glorify Him. We said that the way we live our everyday lives has the power to draw others to a relationship with God. We noted, that if we are not careful, we also have the power to draw people away from God.

We said that we don't need to stand on a street corner shouting Bible verses at people and telling them they are going to Hell unless they change their ways. We simply need

#### **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. to let others see us living Christ-like lives so that they can see and hear about the goodness that God brings to our lives. We said that Jesus will work through us to bring people to Him and our responsibility as Christians is to let Him and to embrace our identity in Christ.

We then looked at who the people are that we can influence in our own every day lives. We said that there may be Family members who do not have a saving relationship with Jesus. We looked at Friends and all agreed that we have friends who do not yet know Jesus. Acquaintances, people who we know but are not specifically friends with like classmates or teachers, can also be in need of knowing Jesus. Even Strangers, people we just run into such as cashiers, store clerks or a person riding the bus, can be in need of salvation.

We said that all of these people in our lives can be influenced not by preaching to them or judging them but by how we live our own lives. Our own actions, the words we use and our attitude is what will lead others to salvation and a personal relationship with God.

God depends on each of us to shine the light of Jesus in a dark world so that ultimately, none will perish but all will be saved. We said that living our lives in such a way isn't just a suggestion or something reserved for the most spiritually mature. It is very literally an essential part of our identity as Christians as taught to us by Jesus, Himself.

We said that whether you realize it or not, YOU really can make a huge difference in others lives by accepting your identity as a Christian and simply living a Christ-like life for others to see.

Join us next week as we continue talking about Jesus and our identity and turn "the world" upside down.

## **Upcoming Events**

#### 1 Youth Movie & Lock-in!!!

**Friday, March 27th**, meet at LWA at 6:00pm to go with us to see "Do You Believe?" and then return to LWA for an overnight Lock-in until 8:00am Saturday morning!

In order to help transition our new students graduating from

**"LWA Kids"** to **"1 Youth"** in just a couple of months, we are also inviting current 6th graders to join us for **THIS** event.

**Everyone must have a permission form signed by a parent to attend.** You can <u>download one here</u> or pick one up in the youth room.

If possible, please drop it off with us by Sunday March 22 so we have an idea of how many are attending. **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.

**Adult Chaperones:** Please let us know what times you will be available between 6pm Friday to 8am Saturday so we can make sure we have enough coverage. Thank you so much!



Bible verses referenced in this lesson: Matthew 5:13-16, 1 Peter 2:12, 2 Peter 3:9

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller 1 Youth Ministry

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