

1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12



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Previous Lessons

Bible Verse

Matthew 7:15-20

15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will

Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 4/19/15

Hello Chris



This week we continued our series about what Jesus had to say about "mean people" specifically talking about "Loving our Enemies".

We started this week by first defining who our enemies are. We came up with many examples of "enemies" but came to a common definition as anybody who is against you or in the case of this lesson, "mean people".

We reviewed last week's lesson where we learned that when we are persecuted, we should count it as a blessing and look for how God can work for good through our interactions with "mean people".

We studied **Luke 6:27-36** where Jesus really turns the Disciples' world upside down when he says that they should **love** their enemies, **do good** to those who hate them, **bless** those who curse them and **pray for** those who mistreat them.

We talked about how completely opposite the actions Jesus proposed were to what the world would expect our response to be toward "mean people" and what a shock it must have been to the Disciples who had been taught to love their neighbor and hate their enemies. We said that non-believers would even consider actions such as hate, treat poorly, curse and praying against them to be an accepted and "normal" response to people who are mean to us. But, Jesus tells us that we are to behave differently as His followers.

Jesus tells us that if we love only those who love us or only do good to those who are good to us it makes us no different from the world because even sinners do that. We are to do to all others NOT as they do to us but as we would want them to do to us. recognize them.

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. In this way, we can be identified as followers of Jesus and children of God because He loves the ungrateful and the wicked in the same way as He does those who love Him.

We said that when we treat others in the same way that God treats us we identify ourselves with God who created us in His image.

We agreed that this is definitely one of the most difficult things that Jesus commanded us to do and said that it is difficult to the point of even being impossible to do without God. If we were left to our own desires we would give in to our sin nature and never treat "mean people" with grace and mercy.

Since it is not possible any other way, when we respond to "mean people" with love and kindness we are showing others the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in us and the power that God has to transform our lives with his goodness which draws others closer to God through our actions.

We finished by discussing practical ways that we can **Love**, **Do Good**, **Bless and Pray For** the "mean people" in our everyday lives. We asked for the Holy Spirit to guide us and for God to give us the strength to follow through and treat others the way that He treats them, even if they are "mean" to us.

We noted that if the situation is dangerous or physically abusive, we should still Love and Pray for the "mean person" but do so from a "safe distance" instead of directly addressing the person.

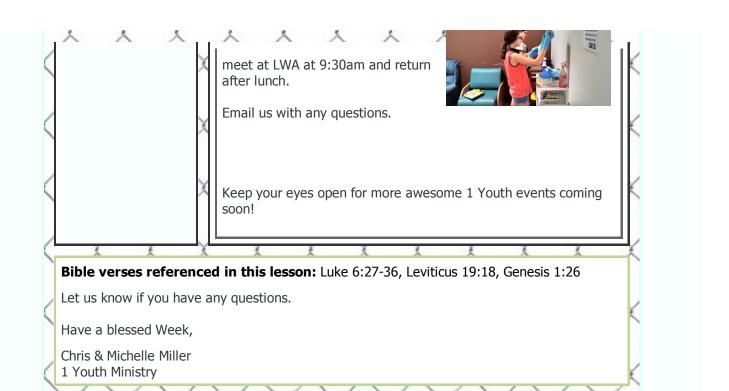
We remembered that all people who are mean are not necessarily mean people and we could always pray that God would help them heal whatever it is that is making them act mean and our kindness to them could be the first step toward their healing.

Join us next time as we continue to talk about how Jesus expects us to deal with "mean people".

Upcoming Events

THIS SATURDAY! Our monthly community service at Tempe CPS will be on Saturday (April 25th) We





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