

1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12



Contact Us

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Links Email Website Facebook Instagram Previous Lessons

Bible Verse

1 John 3:18

18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Life Skills Class

Our Wednesday night Youth Life Skills classes with Tom are taking a break for the summer.

Watch for classes to resume in August.

Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 6/21/15

Hello Chris



This week, we continued our series on what Jesus had to say about loving others. We started by discussing statistics about some groups that Jesus calls "the least of these" such as the homeless, hungry, thirsty, etc. We talked about who these people are and some places where we can find them.

We then reviewed the first weeks lesson about the two greatest commandments, Love God & Love Others and also last weeks lesson on loving people who don't like or may even hate us.

We started this week in **Deuteronomy 15:7-8** to see that taking care of people in need was actually a requirement in the Old Testament Law and while we are no longer under the Law it is still a big part of God's character as seen all throughout the Bible.

We then looked at **Matthew 25:31-33** where Jesus tells a story about Judgment Day when He will separate the people as a shepherd separates the goats from the sheep putting the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.

We discussed why Jesus may have chosen specifically goats and sheep in His story about Judgment Day. We said that one reason could be that sheep and goats can be difficult to tell apart from their appearance much like telling the difference between believers and non-believers. We said another reason could be that sheep tend to obey and follow their shepherd while goats tend to do their own thing and go their own way.

We looked further in **Matthew 25:34-45** to see Jesus painting a picture of people providing for the "least of these" with no motive other than pure love. Jesus told the the ones

on His right that they were blessed and would inherit the Kingdom of God because the things they did with the love OF Christ are just like things done FOR Christ.

He told the ones on His left that they were cursed into eternal fire and separation from God because of what they did not do for the "least of these".

We thought about what Jesus was saying when compared to what we know about God's character and about salvation. We know that we are saved by our faith and our acceptance of Jesus as our Savior. We said that on the surface, it may look like Jesus was saying that the ones on His right were saved by their actions.

When we looked back at **Matthew 25:32** when Jesus said He would separate the people as a shepherd separates the goats from the sheep we could see that it was not their actions that caused them to be saved or not. But, it was their actions that identified them as already being saved or not.

The people on His right did those things because they had already been saved and it showed they had a saving relationship with Jesus. The people on His left not doing those things showed that they had no saving relationship with Jesus and did not have the love of Christ in their hearts.

We are not saved by our actions but our actions are proof of the change that Jesus has made in our lives. So, loving the "least of these" does not make us a Christian. But, when we are saved, our actions are the fruit of our transformation.

Our good deeds do not make us righteous but our righteousness leads us to do good deeds. As we've said many times before, we are not saved by our good works but are saved to do good works.

We finished up by discussing several of the "least of these" such as, Hungry, Thirsty, Homeless, Clothes & Sick, and came up with ways we could meet the immediate need of such a person and also a meet the long term needs of this person.

We said that we need to make sure to use our common sense and be careful that providing for the needs of the "least of these" never puts us into any kind of danger and we should also always make sure to ask and to listen to the Holy Spirit for guidance on how best we can help them. We also discussed a few things that our Youth Group already does such as our monthly community service at CPS and our collection of personal care items for Christmas presents for teens in the foster care system.

This lesson and our discussion even lead us to create a brand new project for our Youth Group to actively show God's love to the "least of these" in our community. More information about this new project will come as we develop it.

We repeated one more time that showing our love by providing for the poor and the needy or the "least of these" is **NOT** a requirement for salvation but rather a sign of the love that comes from being saved and having a real personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Join us next time as we continue talking about what Jesus had to say about being known by our love.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 18: Our monthly community service at Tempe CPS will be on Saturday (July 18th) We meet at LWA at 9:30am and return after lunch.



Please Email us with any questions.

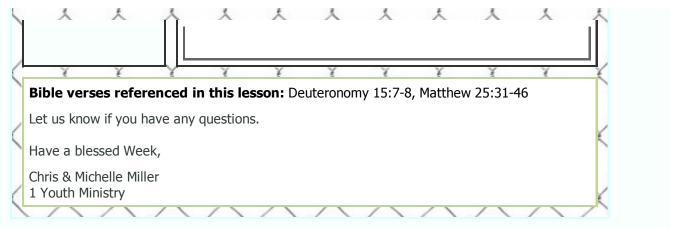
FX15-BeU Youth Conference!

Mark your calendars now for the biggest most exciting Youth Conference ever!

November 12th through November 14th at Living Word in Mesa

Lots of fun activities for Junior High and High School students with amazing guest speakers and performers each day. Invite all of your friends!

More details to come...Mark your calendars now!



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