

1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

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Bible Verse

James 1:13

13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

Life Skills Class

Our Wednesday night Youth Life Skills classes with Tom are back!

Come out for fun, fellowship and maybe even a little learning about topics important to you.

7:00pm every Wednesday night only at LWA!

Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 8/23/15

Hello Chris



This week, we discussed our "free will" to make our own choices whether good or bad, big or small.

We said that God gave us each 'free will' to choose to follow and obey Him or to do things our own way. 'Free will' to choose to love Him the way He loves us or to not believe He even exists.

God wants nothing more than for us to love Him the way He loves us but He wants it to be our choice because to do so not of our own choice means nothing.

We discussed a few of the hundreds of choices that we make every day and some of the consequences of those choices. Choices from when to get out of bed, what to wear, who to hang out with, etc. etc.

We asked three important questions and discussed each.

We started by asking, WHO makes our choices? We said that our culture or society has a huge say in what we do, what we wear, how we act, how we talk, etc. Sometimes our parents make choices for us but as we get older we eventually become responsible for making more of our own choices. Sometimes our friends make choices for us. Sometimes things, such as money or stuff, can make our choices for us.

We then talked about HOW our choices are made. We said that popular music, and various media sources such as TV shows, movies, celebrities, sports stars can all influence how we make our choices. Many times implying that it's okay to choose some un-Godly things or leading us to make wrong

choices that draw us further from God.

We said that it is unrealistic to completely avoid all of the many things in our society that can lead us to sin. The most important thing is for us to be aware of what is influencing us and causing us to make the choices we make.

We also looked at WHY we make the choices we make. We said that the two major reasons are FEAR & ACCEPTANCE. We do things we shouldn't do because we are basically afraid of not being accepted.

We then talked about how we make the right choices by basically knowing God's character and asking "What would Jesus do?" and by following the guidance of the Holy Spirit when He speaks to us.

God surely wants us to follow His plan for us because He knows it is an amazing plan full of His blessings but He will never force us to follow, it is always our choice to do right or wrong.

We were reminded that God does not punish us for making wrong choices just as He also does not reward us for making right choices. The blessings we receive by choosing God's way are simply the result of following the plan that God already created full of His blessings. When we choose to not follow His plan, we simply cannot receive those blessings and are instead subject to the consequences of the world.

Finally, we warned that Satan will use seemingly meaningless things that can sometimes even seem like they could be "good" to tempt us to make wrong choices and leave the path of God's plan.

Satan will also help us justify making wrong choices to make them seem like they're okay. Such as if we are not charged for purchasing a case of water, we try to justify it by saying that we "told the cashier so it's her fault she didn't charge me" or "it's only a couple of dollars" when the right choice would be to return to the store and pay for the water.

We realized that many times it seems that the right choice turns out to also be the most difficult choice but regardless, God gave you 'free will' to make the choice of right or wrong so don't let other people or things make those choices for you. Listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit who will always be there to guide you in the right way to go so you will always

choose the correct way to keep you following God's plan full of His blessings for you.

Join us next time as we start our new series on what Jesus had to say about influence.

Upcoming Events

THIS Saturday August 29:

Don't miss the most fun you will have all summer.

See Promo --->

Join us and a few hundred of your closest Jr. High and High School friends in pledging to stay sexually pure until marriage, tackling the

most outrageous obstacle course known to man and staying for the amazing after party with inspirational messages plus live performances by **'7th Day Slumber'** and **'Fireflight'** all combined to make it the best night ever!



This event will take place at our Mesa campus located at Brown & Val Vista in Mesa. Check-in starts at 6pm.

Over 800 teens are expected this year! Register today online at <http://www.lockwalk.com>



Winter Jam!!! Mark your calendars for Winter Jam 2015 on November 6th. Ten great Christian bands all on one stage. This year we are going VIP. Ticket price is \$30.

A limited number of group VIP tickets have been purchased and are now available from Chris or Michelle in the youth room for \$30 (cash or check).

Concert is Friday, November 6th. **WE MUST leave LWA by 3:30pm as a group.**

Our VIP tickets get us early admission for the best seats as well as a Q&A session with the artists!

Follow [THIS LINK](#) for a list of artists performing.

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!

Check out our [Facebook Page](#) For more information!

Bible verses referenced in this lesson: Isaiah 30:21, Romans 12:2, 1 Corinthians 2:11

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller
1 Youth Ministry

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