



Youth Ministry
March 9, 2014

Lesson:

This week, we continued our 3 part series preparing us for our viewing of the movie, “God’s NOT Dead” on Friday, March 21st.

We started with some discussion about waving to a friend in a public place but they don’t even acknowledge you even though you know that they saw you. We talked about some reasons why people may do that such as embarrassment or awkwardness. We also talked about how it made us feel when that happened to us.

We then watched a scene from the movie “God’s NOT Dead” in which two TV show characters are “ambushed” by an aggressive reporter who confronts them about their faith and how they feel about some people being offended by them openly expressing their faith on TV. We saw that they stood strong in expressing their faith regardless of what other people may think. They had no problem at all acknowledging Jesus as their Lord and Savior. They didn’t even give it a second thought.

We read **Matthew 10:32-33** and discussed what Jesus meant when he said that whoever acknowledges him before others, he will acknowledge before the Father. But whoever denies him before others, he will deny before the Father.

We learned that in the context of these verses was Jesus talking about the “lost sheep of Israel” as he was sending his disciples out into the world to teach them and giving them instructions. If they did not acknowledge him then he could not acknowledge them. If they did not know him then he could not know them. When your righteousness is based on your own good deeds and the law then you are saying that you do not need Jesus.

We said that if we are in a relationship with Jesus, he expects us to publicly acknowledge him and to not be afraid to talk about our relationship with others. We compared it to other relationships we have with friends or family and agreed that we would not be afraid to acknowledge or talk about them so why would we do so regarding our very best friend, Jesus?

We said that we don’t acknowledge Jesus to make him feel better, we acknowledge him for us. Acknowledging our relationship with God helps us be committed to our relationship. Again, we compared it to other relationships and agreed that a boy/girl relationship doesn’t really become “official” until it is announced publicly. Acknowledging a relationship publicly makes it more legitimate, more real and more committed. It’s important to Jesus that we acknowledge our relationship publicly.

We also talked about when we are with a friend and run into a group of their friends but they don’t introduce us. We said it made us feel awkward or uncomfortable and it made us feel like our friend may be embarrassed by us or maybe they didn’t really consider us a friend. We said that this indifference is the same as denying our relationship.

We read that Jesus talked about this indifference in **Matthew 12:30** when he said that anyone who is not with him is against him. He also talked about his dissatisfaction with those who are “lukewarm” regarding their faith in **Revelation 3:15-16**.

So, we found that God wants to be acknowledged, he wants people to know that we know him, he wants us to not be afraid to talk about our relationship with him, he doesn’t want to be that awkward friend who gets ignored as they frantically wave to you and call out your name down the hallway at school. We also found that God wants to be introduced. He wants to be so important to us that we are not afraid to mention him in front of our family, friends, teachers, everyone!

Something to remember: We don’t acknowledge God to prove our love for him, we acknowledge God because we love him.

Matthew 10:32-33: 32 “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

Matthew 12:30: 30 “Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

Revelation 3:15-16: 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.