

## Grades 7-12

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14647 S. 50th Street,  
Suite 16  
Phoenix, Arizona 85044  
480-584-6116

[Email](#)  
[Website](#)  
[Facebook](#)  
[Instagram](#)  
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## Jeremiah 29:11

11 For I know the plans  
I have for you," declares  
the Lord, "plans to  
prosper you and not to  
harm you, plans to give  
you hope and a future.

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

Come check it out every  
Wednesday night at  
LWA starting at  
7:00pm.

Learn practical, Biblical  
principals to help you in  
your every day life.

Watch for Tom teaching  
on Sunday October 29th.

The LWA Youth, along with several adult volunteers provide an ongoing monthly

# Greetings!



This week, we discussed the choices we make, what influences those choices, and the consequences of our choices. We started in **Proverbs 13:20** to see that we tend to become like the people we choose to hang out with the most.

We said that we are all created by God to be in a relationship with Him as well as with each other. Therefore, it is in our human nature to be liked by others, to fit in, to be part of the group, which can sometimes lead us to making poor choices to try to be liked and accepted by those we hang around with. We said this is why our parents always seem so concerned about who we are spending our time with.

We talked about the many choices that we each make every single day and then discussed what influences us to make those choices. We saw that our environment, circumstances, and our friends all influence the choices we make.

We talked about our sphere of influence as it relates to the friends that we choose. We should always have God at the center along with our family as those who should influence our choices the most.

Outside of the center, our inner circle, are our very best friends. These friends share our same faith, protect, encourage, and hold us accountable. They forgive quickly and always want what is best for us regardless of how it affects the friendship.

These friends have the most influence on our choices and therefore should be chosen very carefully. In turn, we also have the most influence on their choices. We said that being a true friend attracts true friends.

community service project with the Department of Child Services (DCS).

On the 3rd Saturday of each month we meet at 10:00am at the DCS offices located at 1201 South Alma School Road (on the SE corner of Alma School and Southern Ave.

We typically spend about an hour or so cleaning the family visitation rooms and the toys that the children play with while they are there.

Please join us and be a part of this blessing we bring to these children, to their families and to the tireless workers at DCS.

#### **Foster Care Teens Personal Care Items**

**1 Youth** is continuing to collect "Personal Care Items" for the teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the two bins just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

Whenever you're out shopping for your own personal care items such as soap, deodorant, tooth paste, feminine hygiene items or when you see the "travel size" shampoo, mouthwash, etc., pick up a few extra items and drop them in the bins.

Help share God's love by letting these teens know that somebody really does care about them.

This is not to say that we shouldn't have non-Christian friends or friends who may not have the qualities of an inner-circle friend. We are called to share the Gospel and bring others to God. These are the friends in our outer-circle.

We may still have some influence over these friends to help guide them toward Jesus but they may also still have some influence on us as well. Therefore, it's always good to know who or what is influencing our choices to insure we are making Godly choices. Keeping one or two inner-circle friends nearby also helps protect us from being influenced to make poor choices. We also need to be aware of our emotions and stay in control of them rather than allowing our emotions to make choices for us (never a good idea).

We agreed that choosing the right friends is very important but of course our most important choice starts with choosing to accept and follow Jesus as our Lord and Savior and making Jesus our closest best friend forever.

We then talked about how every choice we make has a consequence. God created us with 'free will' to make our own choices each with consequences either good or bad, either now or later, and affecting just us or others as well.

For example, the "Worst Choice Ever" was made when Adam and Eve chose to listen to Satan and go against God in the Garden of Eden. Their choice literally affected ALL of mankind for eternity.

We said that the result of their choice was not really a punishment as it was just a consequence of the choice they made.

God is only good and He has a plan for each of us which can only be good. When we choose to follow God's plan, the consequences of our choice will generally be goodness full of God's grace and blessings.

When we make choices that are not aligned with God's plan our consequences are those of the world which many times are not so good at all.

We can know what choices God wants us to make by studying the Bible to know God's character and also by simply just asking Him. We have the Holy Spirit within us who is happy to help guide us along the path of God's plan.

Of course, Satan doesn't want us to follow the plan God has for us and will do whatever he can to distract us, discourage us, and tempt us to make worldly choices that cause us to stray from the path God has for us.

We said that the better we are at following God's plan, the harder Satan will try to derail us. Satan will usually not tempt us with obviously bad things but will use small seemingly meaningless

**Michelle is on the radio!**

Listen for Michelle's new Uplifting & Encouraging Christian Talk Show live every Tuesday night at her new time from 6:00-7:00pm only at [www.centralcityradio.com/walking-in-grace](http://www.centralcityradio.com/walking-in-grace)

You can also find podcasts of Michelle's previous shows at the same address.

For those on Facebook, look for her page: walking in grace for inspirational messages throughout the week.

Contact Michelle at **602-684-1665** if you have a topic you would like her to talk about or if you would like to be a **guest** on her show!

things that may even appear to be good just to get us to step off the path for a moment making it easier for him to keep us from God's plan.

We said that the first thing that Jesus always did was to pray. When we find ourselves needing to make difficult choices it's always a good idea to ask the Holy Spirit to guide you but you also have to be willing to listen. The Holy Spirit's answer may not always be easy or what WE think is best.

We said if we practice asking the Holy Spirit for help making even the smallest daily choices, we will not even hesitate to call on the Holy Spirit for guidance when something big comes up and we will already be familiar with His voice.

It's also important to know when it is the Holy Spirit talking to us (that little voice we hear in our head) rather than Satan misleading us (that other little voice we hear). Again, it comes down to knowing God's character. The Holy Spirit will always align with the character of God and will always glorify God.

We finished up with another important choice we get to make even more so today. We said we may not always get to choose our circumstances but we can still always choose how we respond to our circumstances.

We gave some examples such as when somebody shows anger toward us and we have a choice to return their anger or to control our emotions and instead respond with love.

Or, when somebody is mean or hurts us we have a choice to continue to carry the pain and sadness to keep reliving it over and over or we can choose to forgive, let it go, and move on with God's plan for our life.

Having 'free will' means being free to make our own choices but it also means having responsibility for the consequences of those choices. Choosing God's way leads to God's consequences while choosing the world's way not only leads to unpredictable consequences but it also leads us from God's path for our life.

In closing, we said to wake up every morning and choose to follow Jesus, choose to be happy, choose to forgive, choose to show love, choose to be positive, and choose to live the amazing life God has planned for you.

## Upcoming Events!

### First Fridays:

Join us for our monthly youth events for Fun & Fellowship with 1 Youth students and their friends in grades 7-12.

Watch for our next event.

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**Winter Jam** November 10th.

**Bible verses referenced in this lesson: Proverbs 13:20, Ecclesiastes 4:12, Isaiah 30:21, 1 Corinthians 2:11, Ephesians 4:29, Jeremiah 29:11**

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller  
1 Youth Ministry