

1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

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Links

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Bible Verse

Ephesians 4:29

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Life Skills Class

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

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

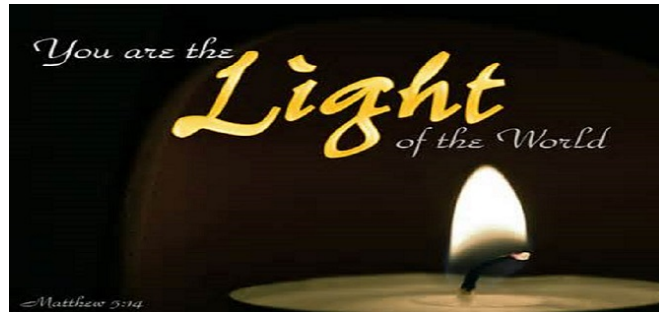
Learn practical, Biblical principals to help you in your every day life.

Community Service

Due to the Holidays, there will be no DCS community service for November or December

Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 11/12/17

Greetings!



This past week, we discussed being the light in a dark world. We started by reviewing our lesson about choosing friends and were reminded that we are called to reach outside of our inner circle to influence those who may not know Jesus.

We looked at **Matthew 5:14-16** to see Jesus tell us that we are the light of the world and we should let our light shine before others to glorify God.

We said that we cannot control how people see things but we can always control what they see in us. Jesus says that we should choose to let people see us as a light in a dark world.

We saw that before **Genesis 1:3**, there was no light in the world. There was only darkness covering the Earth. We agreed you cannot create darkness because darkness is simply the absence of light.

We discussed how darkness can be scary and how the world we live in can sometimes be a very dark and scary place full of evil, sin, fear, pain, violence, etc.

We said when you are in a building and the power suddenly goes out (turned off the lights), the first thing you usually feel is fear and you also feel lost, not knowing where to go. Then the person who instantly becomes the most popular person in the room is the one with a flashlight.

The people in the darkness instantly focus their attention on the one person with the light. They look to the source of the light for guidance and they even follow the person through

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

the darkness to safety.

We lit a candle and saw how the light filled the room (light overcomes darkness). We lit another candle and the room got even lighter. Finally, we had everyone turn on their cell phone lights and saw that the room became nearly as bright as before we turned off the lights.

The same is true with the light that Jesus tells us to shine in the world. People are drawn to us for guidance and to be lead from the darkness. We're the guy with the flashlight in a dark world and the more we share our light with others, the less darkness there will be in the world.

We then talked about HOW we shine our light that Jesus talked about. Like we said, we can't control how people see us but we CAN control what they see when they look at us. We can't control every situation but we CAN control our response to every situation.

We can shine our light by our actions when confronted with darkness/negativity by showing love/positivity. We can show patience, forgiveness, and like we are told in **Ephesians 4:29**, use our words for building others up rather than degrading them.

When we live this way, we'll see others look to us for guidance through their darkness and they will want to know how they can shine as well which brings glory to God.

We then talked about what keeps us from shining our light for everyone to see.

We said fear of what others may think of us, being judged by others, wanting to fit in, can make us hide our light.

When we act and speak like the world expects us to, rather than like Christians, it shows others that we're no different than anyone else and they become uninterested in following the light.

Perhaps the biggest way we hide our light from the world is to judge others. We expect non-believers to live a Christ-like life and we judge them based on our Christian standards which causes them to miss seeing the light through all the judgment against them. We try to preach to them citing Bible verses that mean nothing to them.

We said that we don't just **HAVE** a light to share, we **ARE** the light that others may see the glory of God by us. Our job is not to change anyone or rid the world of evil/darkness but only to bring people to God.

We do that by shining our light and sharing God's love by

that somebody really does care about them.

Michelle is on the radio!

Listen for Michelle's new Uplifting & Encouraging Christian Talk Show live every **Saturday night** from **5:00-6:00pm** at 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!

our actions. We may not always see immediate results of our actions but we shouldn't be discouraged because God will take the seeds we plant and change the world.

Think about what others see when they see you. Does it bring them closer to God or leave them in the darkness?

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.

Friday, December 16th: Youth Christmas Party!
Watch for details

Bible verses referenced in this lesson: Matthew 5:14-16, Genesis 1:1-3, John 1:4-5, Ephesians 4:29

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller
1 Youth Ministry