## 1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12



#### Contact Us

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

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## **Bible Verse**

John 3:16-18

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned. but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

#### Community Service

The LWA Youth, along with several adult volunteers provide an ongoing monthly community service project with the Department of Child Services (DCS).

On the 3 rd Saturday

Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 12/11/15

### Greetings!



This last week we discussed Christmas. We started by listing and discussing all of the various activities and traditions that we normally associate with celebrating Christmas.

We then took a look at the birth of Jesus as described in **Luke 2:1-20** and asked if somebody who didn't know anything about Christmas would be able to tell what Christmas was about by looking at our celebrations.

We discussed the true meaning of Christmas and found it in **John 3:16** in where God loved us so much that he gave us his son, Jesus, to save us from ourselves to be in a personal relationship with Him and we did absolutely nothing to deserve it.

We said Christmas is really all about God's amazing unconditional love for us and His giving us the most amazing gift ever in His S on Jesus Christ.

We thought about if somebody were to observe us celebrating Christmas, would they know the true meaning of Christmas from watching us. We talked about ways we could show others the true meaning of Christmas such as glorifying and praising God for all He has done and sharing God's love and most of all telling everyone all about God's amazing gift for all people in His Son Jesus Christ.

We said that it doesn't mean that we shouldn't be celebrating with presents, trees, lights, Santa, etc. but we should also not let all these other things distract us from the true meaning of Christmas or from sharing God's message of Love.

We then talked about while Christmas does fall around the pagan Winter solstice holiday and we have adapted some similar traditions/rituals, Christmas has NEVER been a pagan holiday and has ALWAYS been solely about the birth of Jesus.

Also, December 25th is most likely NOT the actual day that Jesus was born (the Bible does not say because it's really not important). It really doesn't matter what the actual day was but it IS the day that we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

We said that Christmas is not about celebrating a day but is about celebrating an event, an amazingly huge event. It is a day for celebrating and sharing God's ever faithful and amazing unconditional love for us in the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Sharing that love with everyone is our thank you to God and is really what the celebration of Christmas is all about.

of each month we meet at 10:00 am 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 deaning 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.



#### Life Skills Class

Our Youth Life Skills dass with Tom is every Wednesday night at 7pm for all Youth grades 7-12.

Don't miss these great lessons that you can immediately apply to your own every day life.

# **Upcoming Events!**

Watch for more exciting youth events!

#### Personal Care Items Drive:

1 Youth is again collecting "Personal Care Items" for the teens in foster care. 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.

Bible verses referenced in this lesson: Luke 2:1-20, John 3:16

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller 1 Youth Ministry