

Grades 7-12

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

[Email](#)
[Website](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)
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Philippians 4:6-7

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

Greetings!



Last week we talked about the "Meaning of Life" or "Why am I Here?". We said that many people have been desperately searching for the meaning of life for centuries upon centuries.

We said that when you don't know what your purpose is it makes your life harder trying to do things you were not created to do. Knowing your purpose allows you to change your life to better align with achieving your purpose.

We said that God not only created each of us, He created us each with a purpose. We agreed the best way to find out why we were created is to ask the one who created us.

We started in **Genesis** and saw that God created us in His image to live in a close personal relationship with Him in perfect world free from sin. **God's purpose for us is to get us back to living as we were first created to live** and nearly the entire Bible is all about helping us to get there. God even sent His own Son to show us by His example how we should live according to the purpose God has for us.

We saw in **Ephesians** that this is not something that just happens. We must choose to actively put off our old sinful self and put on our new "Christ-like" self to begin our journey to becoming who God created us to be.

We then talked about how knowing our purpose profoundly affects our lives in many ways and we discussed a few of the ways.

Knowing our purpose changes our identity. Knowing we are created by God and for God (**Colossians 1:16**) gives us our identity in God. It doesn't matter what people say we are or how the world defines us.

Knowing our purpose changes our heart because we don't have to worry about our future because God has a plan for us (**Jeremiah 29:11**).

Knowing our purpose changes our priorities because we know that life and everything in this world is temporary but life with Jesus is eternal (1 John 2:17). We don't have to get upset about "the little things" or worry about what others say about you because none of those things need to be a priority in our thoughts when we have God as our priority.

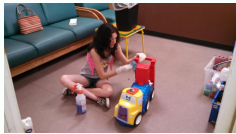
Knowing our purpose changes our actions by using our God given gifts and talents to serve God and others (**1 Peter 4:10**). We begin to look for opportunities to use our gifts in a way that serves God and others.

Knowing our purpose changes our whole attitude because everything we do is done in love and with love according to God's commands (2 John 1:6). We no longer do things just because they are "right", we do them out of our love for God.

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.



Life Skills Class

Our Youth Life Skills class 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.

Young Adult Service

Our weekly young adult service, lead by Jake, is every Thursday at 6:30pm for ages 18+.

Join us for Worship, a great lesson, fellowship, and donuts!

There will also be monthly activities as well as mission opportunities.

Those are just of a few of the ways our life changes when we know and understand our purpose in Christ. We talked about how it's sad to see others who don't know their purpose frustrated and struggling to get through life with no real meaning.

We said that the changes in our lives that we just talked about will be obvious to others and they will want to know how they can have the same peace that we have which gives us the opportunity to share with them their purpose in why they were created.

We closed by discussing several ways you can know that what you're doing is actually following God's purpose for our life.

Ask yourself these things about what you're doing:

- Does it bring glory to God?
- Does it align with God's word and with God's character?
- Does it bring peace and love to yourself and to others?
- Does it help fulfill God's purpose by bringing yourself and others closer to God and to who He created us to be?

Upcoming Events!

Watch for more awesome youth events!

Listen for Michelle's new Uplifting & Encouraging Christian Talk Show live every Tuesday night from 7:00-8:00pm only at www.centralcityradio.com/king-fm

or listen to previous shows anytime at www.centralcityradio.com/walking-in-grace

Personal Care Items Drive:

1 Youth is now 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.

Bible verses referenced in this lesson: Genesis 1:27, Ephesians 4:22-24, Colossians 1:16, Jeremiah 29:11, 1 John 2:17, 1 Peter, 4:10, 2 John 1:6

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

