

1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

ONE GOD
FATHER
SON
HOLY SPIRIT
TRINITY
GOD
LOVE
LIFE
LIGHT
TRUTH
PEACE
GRACE
MERCY
FAITH
HOPE
CHARITY
GOD
FATHER
SON
HOLY SPIRIT
TRINITY
GOD
LOVE
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CHARITY

Contact Us

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

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Bible Verse

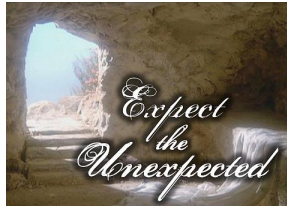
Matthew 6:1-4

6 "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 3/27/15

Greetings!



This week we celebrated Resurrection Sunday by going back 2000 years ago to see that without Jesus' Resurrection, the Christian Church may well have never been. We said that nobody expected Jesus to actually be

Resurrected, not even the Disciples.

To get a better idea what happened 2000 years ago, we put ourselves alongside the Disciples and imagined that we were there. For the past few years, we have spent literally all of our time with Jesus, following Him, hearing Him teach and experiencing first hand many unexpected moments and miracles.

We then took a look at a few of the miracles and imagined we were there. We started in **Mark 4:35-40** where Jesus taught that if they had true faith in the outcome, they could be at peace no matter what happened along the way instead of being in fear. Jesus even slept during the storm in total peace with the faith they would reach their destination while the Disciples expected they were going to all die.

We compared this with our teaching about Daniel when we saw that Daniel's faith in eternity with God was so powerful that it allowed him to be at peace even while in the lions den.

We then looked at when Jesus "Feeds the Five Thousand" in **John 6:5-13** where Jesus taught to have faith and believe without any doubt that God will provide by simply giving thanks for the food as if it was already done and it was done.

The Disciples' dependence on their own senses and worldly expectations concluded that there was no way they could possibly feed so many. Jesus' faith that God would provide left no room for doubt.

Finally, we looked at **John 11:1-44** where Jesus teaches that nothing is impossible with God and all you have to do is have faith and truly believe without putting worldly limits and

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.

expectations on the power of God and you will see God's glory as Lazarus was brought back from the dead.

Through miracle after miracle, Jesus was preparing the Disciples for His last days. He even tells them step by step exactly what will happen when they arrive in Jerusalem (**Matthew 20:17-19**) including that on the third day he will be raised to life, yet when the time comes they were still unprepared. They still did not expect what happened.

When Jesus died on the cross and was placed in the tomb, the Disciples all expected that it was all over and Jesus was gone. Nobody expected the Resurrection and they were so busy being afraid about what would happen to them as Jesus' followers that they certainly were no longer thinking of spreading Jesus' message.

On the first day of the week when they found the tomb empty, since they expected Jesus to be dead, their natural assumption was that somebody had stolen His body (**John 20**). Based on their worldly expectations, this is what made the most sense.

Even when Mary sees Jesus alive and actually talks with Him she doesn't even realize that it is Jesus because her expectation is that He is dead so it could not possibly be Jesus. He must be the gardener (Based on their worldly expectations, that's what would make the most sense)

We said that this is important because it shows us that our expectations can actually blind us from the truth even when it is standing right in front of us. When we don't expect the miracles and the goodness of God in our lives, we will not see them even though they are all around us and even right in front of us.

Of course, Jesus is able to finally convince them all that He was indeed raised from the dead just as He said He would be. Even Thomas believed but only after actually seeing, and touching, Jesus' wounds. Jesus tells them to now "Stop doubting and believe" [**John 20:27**]

Jesus blessed all of us who have NOT seen yet still believe by our faith. We said that through the power of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit, we can all have the very same faith as Jesus had, live in the same peace and authority as Jesus did and we can always expect the **unexpected with God**.

Join us next time when we return to our Thread Series with our first lesson in the New Testament, The Birth of Jesus.

Upcoming Events!

Saturday April 2nd - God's NOT Dead 2

When a high school teacher is asked a question in class about Jesus, her reasoned response lands her in deep trouble and could expel God from the public square once and for all.

Join us on Saturday, April 2nd to go see the New God's NOT Dead 2 movie in it's opening weekend! We will meet at LWA at 5:30pm and go as a group to AZ Mills Harkins. Cost is \$10 each. We will return to LWA between 9:30 & 10:00.

PARENTS: If you would like to go see this movie with us and help chaperon, please let us know ASAP.

Movie Trailer



Bible verses referenced in this lesson: Mark 4:35-40, John 6:5-13, John 11:6-8, John 11:14-16, Matthew 20:17-19, John 20:1-29

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller
1 Youth Ministry