

1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

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FATHER BODY SPIRIT HOPE LORD FATH
HOPE LORD FATH
BAPTISM

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Bible Verse

1 Peter 3:15

15 But in your hearts
revere Christ as Lord.
Always be prepared to
give an answer to
everyone who asks you
to give the reason for
the hope that you
have. But do this with
gentleness and respect

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.

Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 5/15/15

Greetings!

This week we started talking about our experiences with people asking us to explain to them what we believe about God. We also wrote down several of our beliefs and asked, "Who is Jesus?"

We looked in **Matthew 16** where Jesus asked that very same question of his Disciples.

He first asked them who people say He is and their answer was very important because it showed that people really didn't understand who Jesus was, why He came and what He came to do. They definitely did not see Him as the Messiah.

Then Jesus asked the big question directly to His Disciples when He said, "Who do you say I am?" We thought that would be a lot of pressure to be put on the spot like that. But, Peter gives a confident answer when he answers "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

We see in Jesus' response that Peter did not make this 'confession of faith' based on his own senses, logical or physical evidence or even popular opinion. He believed that Jesus was not just another prophet but the long awaited Messiah, the divine Son of God sent to save His people because it was revealed to him by God.

That is very significant because it reminds us that our senses, our thoughts and our environment can all blind us from the truth but God opens our minds and our hearts to understand who He really is.

We said that the most important confession we can ever make is who we believe Jesus to be.

We talked about Jesus' response to Peter where He says, "on this rock I will build my Church" and said that it partly had to do with Peter's role as the foundation in expanding the Church. But, we said it wasn't just about Peter but also about the content of Peter's confession. Believing, in faith, that Jesus is our Lord and Savior is the foundation or "rock" of the

Christian Church.

We also thought it was interesting that, in **verse 20**, Jesus ordered His Disciples to not tell anyone that He was the Messiah.

We said there could be several reasons He would tell them that. He may have wanted others to see who He really was in the same way that Peter did, by revelation from God. Another reason could be because the people were waiting for a Messiah who was a political leader or king who would fight the Romans and free the Jews from their oppression. If the Romans heard that Jesus was such a person they certainly would not have allowed Him to continue His teaching and may have caused Him a lot of trouble before His purpose was completed.

We then looked at what Paul had to say in **Ephesians 2:19-22** and saw him refer to us as "fellow citizens" and "members of His household" making us part of one family, God's family.

Paul called Jesus the "cornerstone" of that household which is the first and most important stone laid in a foundation as it serves as a reference for all other stones placed after it in building a strong foundation.

The foundation of the Church is built on the Apostles who took the message that Jesus is the Messiah, our Lord and Savior, the Son of God, who was sent by God to save us, His people, and spread it throughout the world with Jesus as the cornerstone. As Christians, and as part of God's family, we are called to continue to spread this very same message.

We were reminded that our most important confession is to confess that Jesus is our Lord and Savior but that confession alone does not mean anything unless we believe it in our heart to be true.

We said the real power of this confession to make a real difference in our world is to not only confess it and to believe it but to also live it out in our own lives each day and to share God's message of love with the world.

We also discussed how difficult it is sometimes to explain our faith to people or how we sometimes fear sharing our faith with others. Our difficulty and fear stop us from doing what God has called us to do.

The difficulty or fear that we feel comes from when we try to share our faith in our own power rather than letting the Holy Spirit speak through us.

When somebody asks us about our faith we just need to take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to help guide our words and

our actions. We also need to remember that we are not called to change or 'convert' people but only to share the "Good News" message and let God make the changes.

Join us next time as we continue our Thread Series as we talk about God's amazing and unconditional love for us.

Upcoming Events!

LWA Summer Movie Series

LWA will be having a monthly Saturday night movie series for the Summer months. Our first movie is "Born to Win" (see below) on **Starting at 6pm on Saturday, May 21st.**



Born to Win

The Youth will be selling popcorn, drinks, etc. to help raise money for upcoming Youth events. More details coming soon. Please come at 5:30pm if you can volunteer to work concessions.

CPS Community Service Saturday May 21st



Our monthly community service at Child Protective Services will be Saturday, May 21st. We meet at LWA at 9:30am and return after lunch.

Please call 602-684-1820 or [email us](#) with any questions.

Bible verses referenced in this lesson: Mathew 16:13-20, Ephesians 2:19-22

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller
1 Youth Ministry