

1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

ONE
FATHER
SON
SPIRIT
TRINITY
GOD
LOVE
GRACE
FAITH
HOPE
CHARITY
GOSPEL
BAPTISM
SACRAMENT
CHURCH
COMMUNITY
SUPPORT
ENCOURAGEMENT
GROWTH
DEVELOPMENT
MATURITY
WISDOM
KNOWLEDGE
UNDERSTANDING
ACCEPTANCE
REDEMPTION
RESTORATION
RECONCILIATION
HEALING
TRANSFORMATION
RENEWAL
REVIVAL
REDEMPTION
RESTORATION
RECONCILIATION
HEALING
TRANSFORMATION
RENEWAL
REVIVAL

Contact Us

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

Links

[Email](#)
[Website](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)
[Previous Lessons](#)

Bible Verse

John 15:18-20

18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20 Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

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

Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 5/22/15

Greetings!



This week we talked about value. We looked at different things that we value and why as well as why we may value some people more than others.

We found that how people treat us typically has a lot to do with how much we value them.

We briefly mentioned two of the three parables that Jesus told a crowd of Sinners, Tax collectors and Pharisees in **Luke 15**. We then looked more closely at the third parable of "The Prodigal Son" to see how God values us.

The first thing we noticed is the total disrespect the younger son showed the father by asking for his inheritance before the father had died. This shows that the younger son didn't really care at all about his father or in having a relationship with him. He was only interested in his father's stuff.

We then noticed when the younger son was starving and had come to his senses, he decided that while his father would likely be angry with him, he would just come up with this awesome apology speech so that maybe his father would at least treat him as one of his paid servants so he would no longer be starving.

We saw that when the younger son returned home, instead of being angry, his father was overjoyed to have his son home. So much so that he didn't even care to hear about his son's apology speech but instead threw a huge party in celebration of his son's return.

We realized that the younger son in the story represented us, all the sinners who had rebelled against God in favor of "reckless" living. The father in the story represented God who no matter what the son had done or how the son treated him, welcomed him home with undeserved Grace, Forgiveness, an amazing unconditional love and a huge party to celebrate his

immediately apply to
your own every day
life.

return.

We talked about the reactions of the different groups in Jesus' audience and saw that Jesus continued His story specifically for the Pharisees in **Luke 15:25-32**. We saw that the older son represented the Pharisees who could not understand and was even angry at the father's reaction to his younger son coming home.

We discussed how many times we have the same response as the Pharisees when somebody who clearly does not deserve it gets the same Love and Grace as those of us who feel that we do deserve it.

We saw that the father was equally grateful for both sons and only wanted to have BOTH sons home and pleaded with the older son to understand and come "join the party". This showed that God's unconditional love and grace is for ALL of us regardless of what we have or have not done.

We talked about some of the differences between this parable and the first two that Jesus told. We said that this parable involved a person, rather than an animal or object, who found his own way home rather than being found. He was also not accidentally lost but openly rebelled against his father and ran away by his own choice.

Jesus is showing that regardless of what we do, the choices we make, how we become lost or how far we stray, God's amazing Love and Grace is waiting for us when we finally come home and when even just one of the "lost" finds their way home, all of heaven rejoices with a heaven sized party!

We said that God values us so much that He sent His own Son to find us, to redeem us and to bring us home. God wants to have ALL of His children home again.

After the story, we discussed how WE see the "lost" and agreed that we can often have a similar reaction as the Pharisees or the older son in the story. We can sometimes look down on people or even judge their appearance or their actions and maybe feel that they don't deserve God's love and grace in the same way that we do.

We said that we can start seeing the value in others as God sees them by remembering that while NONE of us deserve it, we are ALL loved by the Father and we are ALL invited to come home and join the party.

Join us next time as we continue our Thread Series as we discuss the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.

Upcoming Events!

LWA Summer Movie Series

LWA will be having a monthly Saturday night movie series for the Summer months. Our next movie is "Courageous" (see below) **Starting at 6pm on Saturday, June 18th.**



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

Bible verses referenced in this lesson: Luke 15:1-2, Luke 15:4-7, Luke 15:11-32

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller

1 Youth Ministry