

1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

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FATHER
SON
HOLY SPIRIT
TRINITY
GOD
LOVE
GRACE
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HOPE
CHARITY
GOD
FATHER
SON
HOLY SPIRIT
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CHARITY

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Bible Verse

2 Corinthians 12:9

9 But he said to me,
"My grace is sufficient
for you, for my power
is made perfect in
weakness." Therefore I
will boast all the more
gladly about my
weaknesses, so that
Christ's power may
rest on me.

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 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
and Southern Ave.

Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 5/29/15

Greetings!



This week we talked about times that God does not seem to act in a way that we think He should, such as in times of tragedy, and how sometimes it seems as if God does not care about us yet other times it seems He does.

We looked at the raising of Lazarus from the dead in **John 11:1-44** as an example of when God acted in an unexpected manner and why He acted the way that He did.

We first looked at the relationship Jesus had with Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha. Not only does John tell us that Jesus loved these three people, we see in other scripture where Jesus spends time with them at their home. We even noted that the message sent to Jesus simply said "Lord, the one you love is sick".

We agreed that given their close relationship, the sisters would have certainly expected Jesus to come heal their sick brother. After all, He healed complete strangers who came to Him, He would certainly do the same for a close friend.

But, Jesus does not go to heal His sick friend and instead even stays where He is two additional days before heading to Judea to see Mary and Martha.

Upon arriving, the general feeling is that Lazarus would not have died if Jesus had been there to heal him. This is similar to when we sometimes blame God when tragedies happen.

We noted that Jesus was deeply moved and troubled and He even wept when He arrived at the tomb. Of course we know how the story ends but Jesus did too. So, why did Jesus weep?

We saw that Jesus was not weeping for Lazarus but for his grieving sisters and for the grieving crowd of mourners who had gathered. Jesus cared deeply for them all. He felt their pain and their grief to the point that it made Him weep.

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.

So, the story ends with Lazarus being raised from the dead but the question is why was he raised and why did Jesus not just heal him BEFORE he died as everyone expected Him to do? Does the reason really have anything to do with Lazarus at all? After all, he eventually ended up dying anyway.

The answer to why he was raised from the dead instead of simply being healed is seen very clearly in **verse 4** and in **verses 14-15**. The reason is so that God (and His Son Jesus) will be glorified and we will all believe.

Jesus also tells Martha in **verse 40** that if she believes, she will see the glory of God. We said that there are signs of God's glory everywhere, all around us, every day, but if we do not believe we will miss seeing God's glory.

Jesus was literally coming to the end of His time on Earth and this was to be His last miracle. He delayed coming to not only make sure Lazarus had been confirmed dead but also to make sure there were as many mourners there as possible to witness the glory of God and believe that He was indeed the Son of God, the long awaited Messiah, our Lord and Savior.

So, we find that God does not perform miracles as it suits us for our own benefit. God's divine purpose in all that He does is on a much bigger scale and is the most important of all things. God's actions are to glorify Him so that people will believe in Him and come home to Him in an everlasting relationship with Him.

Just as we saw Jesus weep at the tomb of Lazarus, God loves us very much and He understands and cares about our needs, He feels what we feel, He is happy when we're happy, He hurts when we hurt but He also knows that there is only one thing more important than everything on Earth and that is having a relationship with Him for all of eternity.

Join us next time as we continue our Thread Series when we talk about the importance of the Last Supper.

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: John 11:1-44, John 14:1-6

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller
1 Youth Ministry