1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

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<u>Links</u> <u>Email</u> <u>Website</u> <u>Facebook</u> <u>Instagram</u> <u>Previous Lessons</u>

Bible Verse

1Corinthians13:4-7

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not selfseeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

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

Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 9/11/15

Greetings!

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This week, we talked about love and how understanding love is a big part of understanding God because God IS Love.

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We discussed the differences between human love and Godly love and talked about the three

types of love found in the Bible; Eros, Philos, and Agape.

To help understand love and its part in who God is, we looked at a letter from John in **1 John 4:7-12**. John was writing to early believers who, much like believers today, were having issues being swayed by the popular or secular beliefs in society around them. John tells them to focus on the truth of the Gospel and the true love of God to help keep them from being lead astray by those around them.

We said that Eros and Philos are the human types of love that we typically show toward one another when we "love our neighbors as ourselves" as commanded in **Leviticus 19:18**. But, Jesus commanded that we love everyone not as ourselves but **as <u>He</u> loves** us which is with Divine Agape love.

The love that Jesus commanded we have for each other is the same love that He showed us. We talked about some of the things Jesus' love included such as being Unconditional, Acceptance, Forgiveness, Understanding, Non-judgemental, and even loving those who don't love us back.

Human love is limited, comes with strings or conditions attached and is based on feelings or emotions. So, when our feelings or emotions toward others change, so does our love for them. Human love lasts only as long as the conditions it is based on remain.

Agape love comes with no strings or conditions and is never, ever based on feelings or emotions. It is God's love for us which is freely given with nothing expected in return.



To have God's love for others, as Jesus commanded, means loving them despite our feelings and emotions or if we think they deserve it. It means forgiving, accepting, and not judging. It is the most powerful love because it is the power of God in us.

Showing God's Agape love toward others in our actions shows them that we know God and that the power of God is in us. It shows that we are different than the world around us and shows others what having a relationship with Jesus means. People should be able to immediately identify us as being followers of Jesus just by our character and our actions.

One way to know whether you are showing human love or God's love is that our human love is intended to draw others toward us while God's love is intended to draw others to God.

Living a life showing God's love is not easy to do in the sinful world in which we live. That is why we must do it with the power of God living in us with the Holy Spirit as our strength and our guide.

We can also ask God to remind us of everything we have been forgiven of and everything we have done against Him yet He still loves us. Really understanding God's amazing love for us helps us to share that same love with others.

We closed by saying that talking about God's love is not enough. God's love is not an idea or a feeling but is an action. If we are to love others as He loves us then we must actually do something about it.

Challenge: This week think of one person in your life who needs to experience the power of God's love and think how you can show God's love to them.

Some ideas we talked about include:

- Forgiving somebody who doesn't "deserve" it.
- Showing them what it's like to feel valued the way that God values us.
- Provide some help with a need or problem
- Show them that somebody cares about them
- Even just be there to listen without judgment

We said that sharing God's love with others not only changes their life by drawing them closer to God, it also changes your own life by helping to draw you closer to God as well.

Join us next time as we come near the end of our Thread Series when we take a look at the book of Revelation.

Upcoming Events!

Register NOW! Winter Jam 2016!!!

Join us for an awesome concert featuring 10 of your favorite Christian artists. This year's artists are shown below along with a promo video. We will be going VIP again which let's us enter at 4:30 (1-1/2 hours before general admission) so we can get the best seats. Plus you receive a collectable VIP pass and lanyard and can participate in a special Q&A session with the artists.

All for just \$35 each!

We will meet at LWA at 2:30pm and travel together to the Glendale Arena. Concert is typically over by 11PM.

You must sign-up and pay with Chris or Michelle as soon as possible. Space is limited to the first 20 tickets.

1 Youth Students will have first opportunity for tickets. Friends can be invited if there are still tickets available. We will have a sign-up sheet in the youth room during Sunday services.



Winter Jam 2016

