

1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

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Bible Verse

1 Timothy 4:12

12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

Life Skills Class

Our **Wednesday night** Youth Life Skills classes with Tom are back!

Come check it out every Wednesday night at LWA starting at 7:00pm.

Learn practical, Biblical principals to help you in your every day life.

Community Service

Due to the Holidays, there will be no DCS community service for November or December

The LWA Youth, along with several adult volunteers provide an ongoing monthly

Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 11/26/17

Greetings!



This past week (11/26), we discussed Thanksgiving and what it means to be thankful in ALL circumstances.

We looked at **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** and said that this message from Paul is a great example of how we can be the

light in a dark world.

The first thing Paul says is "Rejoice always". Not once a week, not only at summer camp, not only when we "feel" like it, all the time, ALWAYS.

We said we can think of it more as a conscious attitude of contentment, hope, and happiness that comes from deliberately focusing on Jesus and all we have received. In this way, rejoicing always becomes a way of life, always, rather than just something that we do.

The next thing that Paul says is "Pray continually". Not just when we need something, not only on special occasions, or when we "feel" like it, but persistently, repeatedly, CONTINUALLY.

We said that praying is simply talking to God and compared it with talking with a best friend. We talk with our friends all the time, continually, about everything, under all circumstances, and it brings us closer together. When we talk (pray) with God continually, under all circumstances, it brings us closer to God. We were also reminded that there really is no wrong way to pray or talk to God.

Finally, Paul said to "Give thanks in all circumstances". We took a look at our list of things we are thankful for and decided that it's really easy to be thankful in good times or when we get something we wanted. The hard part is still being thankful even when things are not going well. We agreed that being thankful in hard times can be nearly impossible.

Paul tells us to be thankful in ALL circumstances, not just

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.

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.

Foster Care Teens Personal Care Items

1 Youth is continuing to collect "Personal Care Items" for the teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the two bins just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

Whenever you're out shopping for your own personal care items such as soap, deodorant, tooth paste, feminine hygiene items or when you see the "travel size" shampoo, mouthwash, etc., pick up a few extra items and drop them in the bins.

Help share God's love by letting these teens know that somebody really does care about them.

Michelle is on the radio!

when things are going well. We noted that Paul said 'in' all circumstances not 'for' all circumstances. Being thankful doesn't mean we have to accept or be happy about being in a tough situation and we are not even thankful 'for' the situation we're in. Being thankful to God, especially in hard times, is really more about FAITH.

Thanking God in bad situations shows our faith that God will lead us through the situation. It shows our faith in God's love for us and our trust that He is always with us.

Paul was telling the Thessalonians, and us, to stay strong in faith and thank God even in the toughest situations. He finishes by giving a very compelling reason for doing these things. Paul says that this is "God's will for you in Christ Jesus".

God's will is for us to be in a perfect relationship with him in peace, love, and joy. All three of these things, rejoice, praying, and thankfulness, that Paul instructs us to do help us to never give up on God by building our faith and they help to bring us closer to God.

We talked about the many people in the Bible living as Paul instructed in **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**, thanking God even in the darkest times, including David, Joseph, and even Paul himself and how God never left them and always helped them through whatever situation they found themselves in ultimately making them stronger in faith and closer to God.

We finished up by pointing out that being thankful to God in ALL circumstances, especially in difficult times, is a great way we can shine our light for others to see in a dark world. It also helps us keep our focus on Jesus, something positive, rather than focusing on the negative situation which also helps us get through it. Finally, it helps us build our faith and our trust in God for all to see.

It's really all about our attitude. An attitude of gratitude, in all circumstances, brings us peace and helps strengthen our faith.

Upcoming Events!

First Fridays:

Join us for our monthly youth events for Fun & Fellowship with 1 Youth students and their friends in grades 7-12.

Due to scheduling issues, the Youth Christmas Party has been cancelled. Watch for new events coming up in 2018.

Listen for Michelle's new Uplifting & Encouraging Christian Talk Show live every **Saturday night** from **5:00-6:00pm** at www.centralcityradio.com/walking-in-grace

You can also find podcasts of Michelle's previous shows at the same address.

For those on Facebook, look for her page: walking in grace for inspirational messages throughout the week.

Contact Michelle at **602-684-1665** if you have a topic you would like her to talk about or if you would like to **be a guest** on her show!

Bible verses referenced in this lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller
1 Youth Ministry