# 1 Youth Ministry

## Grades 7-12

## **Contact Us**

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Links Email Website Facebook Instagram Previous Lessons

## **Bible Verse**

### 1 John 3:1-2

3 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

### Bible Study

Come check it our midweek youth/adult Bible study every Wednesday night at LWA starting at 7:00pm.

#### **Community Service**

The LWA Youth, along with several adult volunteers Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 11/25/18



Last time we met, we talked about how we label people, how people label us, and most importantly, how we label ourselves.

As humans, we seem to have a natural desire to separate and label things to help us organize our "stuff". We said that labeling and categorizing may come in pretty handy when organizing your socks or packing to move your things but, people are NOT things. When we label people, we tend to take away their identity and divide them into groups or just "boxes of stuff".

Labeling people can unconsciously change our perception of them or even our perception of ourselves. Many times the groups become "Us vs. Them". Unfortunately, how we see people is typically determined by the world we live in. People are labeled by the world and that's generally the way they are perceived or judged by us, and we often do not even notice how we can judge people we don't even know based solely on the labels put on them.

We did an activity where students wrote words they use to label others, words others use to label them, and even words we use to label ourselves, on mailing labels. They then took a few moments to randomly put the labels on each other.

We talked about how the labels made us feel (both good and bad) and discussed what our perceptions are when we identify others by their label. We also talked about our own perceptions of ourselves when others label us or even when we label ourselves.

We even talked about how bad it felt to randomly put some 'not so nice' labels on our friends. Yet, we often do it to

V	provide an ongoing monthly community		others we don't know or don't like without a thought.
Ń	service project with	1	
	the Department of		We talked about how identifying people by a label can also
2.	Child Services (DCS).		make them seem less human or inferior. Their label takes
X			away their identity as a person and makes them just a thing
200	On the 3rd Saturday		which can make it easier to not care what happens to them or
	of each month we		sometimes to even hate them.
4	meet at 10:00am at		
ń	the DCS offices	1	We discussed how labeling people has been used countless
	located at 1201 South Alma School Road		times in history to divide and control people or to make a
1.	(on the SE corner of		certain group of people seem less human. Labeling is also
X	Alma School and	0	used to get some groups to actually hate other groups,
1	Southern Ave.	$\sim$	
			sometimes violently, based on nothing other than the label
Y	We typically spend		society as given them.
Ń	about an hour or so	/	
	cleaning the family		We were reminded that as Children of God, we are the "light
1	visitation rooms and		of the world" and in <b>Matthew 5:14-16</b> , are commanded by
X	the toys that the		Jesus to "let your light shine before others, that they may see
3	children play with while they are there.	ି	your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven."
	while they are there.		
Y	Please join us and be		We then looked at how Jesus reacted to the labels that
$\sim$	a part of this blessing	1	society used to label people in His time. We looked at how
	we bring to these		Jesus didn't see Matthew as a lowly Tax Collector, He didn't
2	children, to their		see an 'adulterous' woman, did not consider the woman at the
X	families and to the		well to be "Samaritan". He didn't see the Centurion as a
100	tireless workers at	$\sim$	"Roman" or the countless sinners, crippled, blind, lepers, as
	DCS.		the labels they had been given.
Y	Foster Care Teens		the labels they had been given.
	Personal Care Items	/	Larve sour them all recordless of their label with source
	1 Youth is continuing		Jesus saw them all, regardless of their label, with equal
5	to collect "Personal		goodness as Children of God and treated them as such.
X	Care Items" for the		
8	teens in foster care	23	We then had the students label themselves as a "Child of
	throughout the year.		God" and said that is the ONLY label they should use to
¥	Items for both male and female teens are		identify themselves as it is how God labels us and is the
1	being collected in the	/	ONLY label that really matters.
	two bins just outside		
2.	our youth room. These		We then talked about our perceptions of being a Child of
X	items will be sorted	1	God and said it was very easy to see that if we identified not
	into personal bags and		only ourselves but EVERYONE as a Child of God, it would
	given to DCS to be distributed to teens		not only help us to live a Christ-Like life, it would also help
Y	who may not even		us to shine our light before others.
1	have their own tooth	/	
	brush or comb.		This goes for our actions and conversations with friends and
0	M4 1 .		This goes for our actions and conversations with friends and
×	Whenever you're out shopping for your own	1	family as well as in Social Media and with total strangers and
	personal care items		especially for our "Self-Talk" about ourselves.
	such as soap,		
Y	deodorant, tooth paste,		Identifying yourself as a Child of God means that you don't
0	feminine hygiene items	/	have to pay any attention to the labels that others put on you.
	or when you see the		You know you are unconditionally loved, valued, awesome,
0	"travel size" shampoo, mouthwash, etc., pick		fearless, precious, smart, kind, good, forgiving, etc. and most
1	up a few extra items	1	of all, you know in your heart that you are worth dying for.
1	and drop them in the		
	bins.		We said that when we see others as God does, as a 'Child of
¥			God', we immediately change our perception of them. We
10	Help share God's love	/	

