

1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12



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Community Service

Temporarily Paused

The LWA Youth, along with 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 3925 East Broadway, Phoenix, AZ.

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.

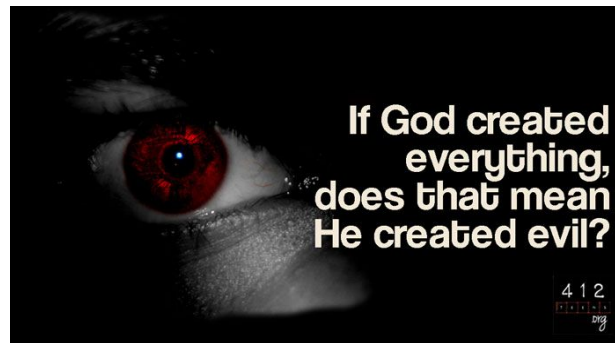
Foster Care Teens
Personal Care Items

Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update

Join us now every Sunday at 9:30
(New Service Time)

Remember: If you need to speak with one of us just text Michelle at 602-684-1665 anytime.

Did God Create Evil?



A few weeks ago, while we were talking about Good and Evil, we said that **evil was not** created by God and that evil is actually just the absence of God just as darkness is the absence of light.

One of the students remembered hearing there was a verse in the Bible somewhere saying that God **did** create evil. We discovered that in **Isaiah 45:7**, God does actually say "I make peace, and **create evil**" which seemed to be a pretty big contradiction.

So, we decided to investigate to see what was going on.

Looking at different versions, we found that each version used a different word and only the King James Version used the word evil.

We then decided to look into the Hebrew meaning of the word that it was translated from and found many different meanings largely dependent on how it was being used which would help explain the different words used in the different versions.

So, we then decided that we should look at how it was actually being used instead of just taking the single verse out of context.

When we look at the entire chapter of **Isaiah 45**, we see that God is basically warning the Israelites that He alone, as the Creator, will bring blessings or goodness or peace for those who obey Him. He warns that He will also bring calamity, adversity, disaster, or Judgement (or what we see as punishment) for those who go

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 bin 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 bin.

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

Bible verse of the week

1 Corinthians 6:12
The Passion Translation

12 It's true that our freedom allows us to do anything, but that doesn't mean that everything we do is good for us. I'm free to do as I choose, but I choose to never be enslaved to anything.

against Him (or sin).

That sounded like a pretty serious warning so we decided to find out what was going on at the time that God would give them such a warning. We found that over many, many years, the Israelites had continued to stray further and further from God, worshiping other Gods, idols, and were committing many great sins against God. We pointed out that this was not just a one-time mistake but rather continued sinful acts against God for hundreds of years.

We were reminded that this was all happening **BEFORE** Jesus died for all our sins on the cross which means that at that time in **Isaiah 45**, sin required God's judgement.

We were also reminded that "God's Judgement" was really just God "turning away" or no longer protecting them from the sin of the world. This exposes them to disaster, adversity, evil, etc. which is what we, as humans, typically perceive as 'punishment'.

We said that there were many other verses throughout the Bible that also back up the idea that God did **NOT** create evil and that evil is in fact the absence of God and His protection. We were also reminded that God does not ever actually "leave us". It is us who separate ourselves from Him and His blessings.

So, in conclusion, we decided that yes, standing alone, out of context, **Isaiah 45:7** does seem to imply that God did create evil.

But, when studied further, **IN CONTEXT**, as we should always do when we have questions, **Isaiah 45:7** is NOT saying that God created evil but is actually God warning the Israelites that He will no longer protect them from the evil world unless they repent or change their continued sinful ways and come back to Him.

In this particular case, we found that God's unheeded warning did finally result in God no longer protecting them from the evil world which ended up having the Israelites soon being overtaken, conquered, split up, and oppressed by the Babylonians.

What's funny is that we always see this kind of result as God "**punishing**" us for our sins when in reality it is actually us who are bringing what we perceive as "punishment" upon ourselves by our abandoning God and His protection.

We said that **Isaiah 45:7** is a perfect example of how people (and the enemy) can and do use various Bible verses, out of context, to try to discredit God's Word. This is why it is so important that we be diligent in studying **ALL** of God's Word for ourselves.

Upcoming Youth Events

More details to come

**Dec. 11th Christmas Party
at Wagner home 6-9pm**

Invite your friends!

Please RSVP in the Youth Room

March 2021 - Save A Life Conference at LWA
Watch for details!

All 1 Youth Students and their friends in Grades 7-12
are invited to all events.

See you there!

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed day,

Chris & Michelle Miller
1 Youth Ministry