

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

Jeremiah 29:11

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

goodness in **Psalms 27:13**. He tells us that he would have "**despaired**" if he had not believed he would see God's goodness in his every day life. He would have '**lost all hope**' if he didn't believe that God was good **ALL** the time **AND** also believed that he would actually see and experience His goodness in his every day life ("in the land of the living").

David certainly had plenty of things going on throughout his life to cause him to despair and he goes through some of it in **Psalms 27**. But, no matter what happens, we noticed that he never plays the victim card, he never throws a pity party, he never gives up, he always keeps his focus on God and no matter what, he never, ever loses hope.

David does not despair because he always keeps his focus on God and on God's goodness instead of focusing on the world around him. We thought back to when David was just the young shepherd boy who killed the giant Goliath. David didn't concern himself with Goliath's size and strength because his focus was on God's goodness and on God's strength. If he had instead focused on his own senses, his own strength, and on his current circumstances he would have very quickly been overwhelmed with fear just like the Israelite soldiers were.

When we focus on our circumstances, we can quickly become overwhelmed by negativity and can easily fall into fear and despair. When we keep our focus on God and truly believe that we will see His goodness in **ALL** circumstances, we can overcome our fears and have hope instead of despair.

We said this is especially important for us today in regards to Teen Suicide which has recently become the 2nd leading cause of death for youth 15-25 (and is still climbing!). What's especially important is the reason given from nearly all those who survived a suicide attempt. The number one reason for wanting to end their life is **DESPAIR**, the loss of all hope.

We said that even Jesus tells us that we will have troubles in this world. But, when we keep our focus on God, like David did, we can keep from being overwhelmed and falling into despair no matter what the world is throwing at us at the moment.

We said to truly believe in your heart that not only is God good, He really is always good, **ALL** the time. We said that if we look for God's goodness in this world all around us, every single day, it helps us keep our focus on God, on His love, on His promises, and on His strength, rather than on our temporary circumstances. When we always seek God's goodness, we **WILL** see it and it **WILL** give us hope.

Upcoming Youth Events

More details to come

**October 30 - Halloween Party
at LWA - 6-9pm**

Invite your friends!

Costumes are encouraged

Church appropriate costumes please

November 13 - Movie Night LWA - 6:00pm

December 11 - Christmas Party Wagner Home

March 2021 - Save A Life Conference

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