

# 1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

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### Links

- [Email](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Facebook](#)
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## Attention!

**Attention all High School & College Age Students!**

Trinity Zubeck is putting together a 'small group' for High School and College Age students. Contact Trinity for more information at [trinityzubeck@gmail.com](mailto:trinityzubeck@gmail.com)

## Community Service

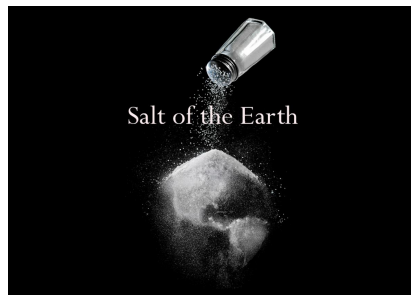
The LWA Youth, along with adult volunteers provide an ongoing monthly community service project with the Department of Child Services (DCS).

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

## Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update

### "You are the salt of the Earth"



When we were talking about our identity in Christ last week, a question came up about what it means that we are the salt of the Earth as Jesus says in **Matthew 5:13**.

We said that Jesus always spoke very purposefully with a reason for everything that He said and how he said it. He often spoke in parables using metaphors and analogies. Often, when reading a verse such as this in the Bible, we tend to just gloss over it and move on without really understanding what it truly means.

We looked at why He might choose "salt" for this metaphor by discussing what salt is used for. We found that salt is most often used to add flavor to food and in Jesus' time, it was also used as a very important natural preservative. Also, in Jesus' time, the Romans sometimes paid their soldiers with salt. We said that salt can also be used for healing.

With this, we looked back at the verse and noticed that Jesus did not say that the Disciples should be like salt or act like salt. He said that they **ARE** the salt of the world.

Just like how salt makes food taste better, they will change the sinful world and make it better by spreading the good news of the Gospel. They will provide a divine natural preservative for eternal life. They will heal the sick in body and in spirit. They will have value that others will also want

For more clarity, we looked at the surrounding verses and what was going on at the time. We found that this verse was part of what was often called the 'Sermon on the Mount'.

The 'Sermon on the Mount' was Jesus' first official teaching of His Disciples. Jesus was preparing them for what He was about to teach them over the next several days.

We looked at the next few verses and saw that Jesus seemed to be saying the same thing in a different way, using light instead of salt when He said "You are the light of the world".

We talked about how besides looking at context and the meanings of words, it sometimes helps to look at the same scripture in different translations to help us get an idea what

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 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 month

#### Philippians 4:6-7 Message (MSG)

6-7 Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.

the scripture is about. This is easy to do with modern Bible Apps like Bible Gateway or You Version.

Unless you are reading the original Hebrew or Greek text, your Bible has been translated by somebody into English (or other language). The translations go from the sometimes more difficult to understand exact 'word-for-word' translations all the way through the less exact but sometimes easier to understand paraphrased versions.

We looked at and compared **Matthew 5:13-16** in various translations from the more word-for-word NASB translation to the more paraphrased Message translation. We learned that while translations like The Message or The Passion may not be the exact Word of God, the paraphrasing often helps us to better understand what the scripture means and how we can apply it to our own lives.

We compared some of the different translations and then took what we had learned so far about our verse in question and combined it with what The Message translation said.

#### Matthew 5:13-16 The Message (MSG)

13 "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. 14-16 "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand-shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

We see that just like salt brings out the flavor in food, we are to be seasoning to the Earth bringing out the flavor of God's goodness. We are also to be like a light that cannot be hidden by not keeping what we learn about God a secret from others. We are to shine God's light in the dark world for all to see God's glory.

So, we concluded the Jesus was starting His Disciple's teaching by giving them their purpose and setting His expectations of them telling them who they are and why they are here. He also basically told them that if they could not be who He told them they were, they are useless, like salt without its saltiness, and would not be able to serve their purpose.

So, we learned that being the salt and light of the world basically means that our purpose is to share the Gospel and God's goodness to make the world a better place.

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### Upcoming Events

Keep your eye out as we continue to restart other Youth activities and events.

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Remember to text Michelle at 602-684-1665 if you need to talk with somebody any time.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed day,

Chris & Michelle Miller  
1 Youth Ministry