

1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12



Contact Us

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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

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

Join us now every Sunday at 9:45

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

The Beatitudes Part 1

Taking a step back from
last week's lesson in
Matthew 5:13-16, we
went back to the
beginning of Matthew 5

to start our series on the Sermon on the Mount.

We reviewed that the Sermon on the Mount, **Matthew Chapters 5-7**, is Jesus' first official teaching of His Disciples and He lets them know right away that this is going to be something that they had never experienced before.

Jesus starts off His teaching with a list of blessings or **The Beatitudes**. We read through the Beatitudes in **Matthew 5:3-12** but before we went into what each blessing meant we said we should probably go over what it means to be blessed in the first place.

We first looked at the dictionary definition which said a blessing was God's favor and protection. We then looked at the Biblical definition and found that it depends a lot on the specific Hebrew or Greek word being used and sometimes even in the context that it is being used in.

We found a blessing could mean a favor or gift bestowed by God bringing great joy. It could be to be made Holy, set apart, consecrated, or made righteous. A blessing could be to receive God's divine favor, happiness, joy, fulfillment, contentment, or peace. But, even with all the different meanings we found we could safely say that being blessed is definitely an amazingly good thing.

We looked at the Greek word used in the Beatitudes, Makarios, which refers to the elite or wealthy or people who's riches and power put them above the normal cares and worries of the lesser folks.

Being blessed could also be the results of righteous living having more and better things than just ordinary people, full of joy and divine happiness. Throughout the various

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

Proverbs 18:2

2 Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions.

meanings it was always understood that it was something reserved only for powerful and righteous people. Common people were not blessed.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus is not actually blessing the Disciples or even telling them what they need to do to be blessed. He was not giving them practical advice for successful living. Jesus was making prophetic declarations about life in the Kingdom of God.

The Beatitudes are not about Earthly material things or honor of men like the Disciples had been taught but are about their spiritual character in God's Kingdom. He's telling them the values that are blessed in God's eyes. The 8 blessings He gives were not even about 8 different types of people who are blessed. They are not a list of rules to follow as the Pharisees would give. Jesus is describing the spiritual values and character traits of those in God's Kingdom, of those who believe and follow Him.

We asked why Jesus would start His teaching this way. We said His Disciples were born and raised in the Jewish religion and culture where to be blessed you needed to follow God's Law and do good works. They knew that the Pharisees, Priests, and Rabbis were most certainly very blessed.

The Disciples were just common men, not religious scholars, probably not great at following God's Law. Based on their knowledge of blessings, they certainly didn't feel they were blessed and most likely didn't believe they were even worthy of being blessed.

Before He could teach them what they needed to learn, Jesus needed to let them know what it means in God's eyes to be blessed and to give them the good news that even they were blessed in God's eyes.

Jesus turned everything they have been taught upside down and backwards which must have been mind blowing for them to hear. Jesus is not telling His Disciples what they need to do to be blessed. He was giving them the good news that they **ARE** blessed.

So, Jesus starts His first lesson telling His Disciples that practically everything that they have learned was not the way God's Kingdom works and He lets them know what they were about to experience was more amazing than they could ever possibly imagine.

We said that Jesus always has a reason for every word He said and exactly how He said it. We'll spend the next few weeks going through each of the Beatitudes individually to see what each of them means to the Disciples and to us.

Upcoming Events

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

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed day,
Chris & Michelle Miller
1 Youth Ministry