

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

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

Proverbs 13:20

20 Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

December 11 - Christmas Party Wagner Home

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

See you there!

Who's in your space?



A few weeks ago, we started talking about what some people are calling the "**New Normal**" and said that there is absolutely nothing normal about God's children being isolated from each other and hiding our faces behind masks.

Right from the beginning, in **Genesis 2:18**, God said that it is not good for us to be alone and all through the Bible we see the importance of relationships not only with God but also with each other.

Jesus told us that the two most important commandments are to Love God and to Love Each Other. We also saw that not only is it important to have friends, it is even more important to have the **right friends**.

Today, with social media, it seems that when it comes to friends, sometimes Quantity beats Quality but the quality of your friends is even more important because **friends influence friends**, for better or for worse, so it is important to use God's wisdom when choosing who to allow into your friend space.

We said what better place to find God's wisdom than in the "book of wisdom", **Proverbs**. We looked at several verses related to friends/relationships with others to see examples of using God's wisdom in choosing who to allow into our space and who to avoid.

We talked about other ways that we could use wisdom in choosing our friends such as talking with our parents or Church leaders and of course, praying. The Holy Spirit will always guide you in the right way to go. All you need to do is

ask, and then more importantly, listen.

We talked about how our need for relationships can sometimes work against us when we make choices based on our own desire for friends rather than on God's wisdom.

Like it or not, for good or bad, we are influenced by the people we spend the most time with, our friends. Just like **Proverbs 13:20** tells us, if our friends are people who make wise decisions then we're more likely to also make wise decisions but if our friends are those who make foolish decisions then we are likely to make foolish decisions.

We talked about our own friends and looked at how they influence our lives and how we also influence theirs. We talked about how we choose our friends.

God wants us to have friends who will help build us up and encourage us to draw us closer to Him but that doesn't mean we should completely avoid everyone else.

To be the "**Light of the World**" and bring unbelievers to Jesus requires us to also use our influence to help bring others to Him. But, we said that we need to be careful because it is much easier to pull someone down than it is to pull them up.

We said that for now, be intentional with regards to friendships and examine our relationships and just become aware of who we have in our space and how they are affecting our lives.

Next time we will look at the different levels of friends/relationships and the corresponding influence they each have as well as the need for these different levels of friends/relationships.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed day,

Chris & Michelle Miller

1 Youth Ministry