

1 Youth Ministry Grades 7-12

November 20, 2021 Why should we defend our faith?



Sundays at 9:30 Why defend our faith?



Friday Dec 3rd 6:30pm



January 5th

The Chosen Official Trailer

Questions answered about The Chosen by the director

View the entire first two seasons here

Midweek Youth On break until January 5th

Join us every Wed. from 7-8pm for fellowship and prayer along with lessons applying Biblical principles to your life today and get answers to all your questions.

your questions.

Foster Care Teens Personal Care Items

We are still collecting "Personal Care Items" for 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



Wednesday Nights at 7:00pm On break until January 5th

Join us every Wednesday night from 7:00pm to 8:00pm for an exciting new series about seeing the "Thread" of the Gospel through the entire Bible.

Together, we will see that Jesus was God's word made in the flesh, as both messenger and the message of God's salvation for all and He can be seen throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and everywhere in between.

Sundays at 9:30am

DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

Bible verse of the week

1 Peter 3:15

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,



Why defend our faith?

Last week, we talked about why we should defend our faith. Over the past several lessons, we've been talking about how to defend our faith but why should we bother? We know the truth so why should we even care about what others say about Christians?

We said, as Christians, we are called to more than just believing in Jesus and sitting in Church every Sunday. In **Matthew 28:19-20** Jesus commands us to make disciples of all nations and to teach them to obey everything He has commanded. Well, that's all well and good but what does that have to do with just ignoring false statements and beliefs about Christians and Christianity?

We went through and discussed a "short" sample of just some of the misconceptions about Christians that we have heard such as: Christians are judgmental and intolerant, Christians are antiscience, Christians can't have a lot of money, Christians hate gay people, Christians are boring and aren't allowed to have fun, Christians feel they are better than everyone else, there are many ways to get to heaven, I can worship by myself at home, and the list goes on and on.

As Christians, we have been reborn and set apart from the world (in the world but not of the world). But, if we just ignore all the lies and misconceptions about God and Christianity, people will start to believe that Christians are really no different than anyone else 'of the world' so why should they bother believing in Jesus?

We said that if we are to "make disciples of all nations", we not only need to let others know the truth, we need to have them believe what we are saying is the truth.

We looked at **1 Peter 3:15** where Peter tells us to always be prepared to give an answer to everyone for the reason we have hope but to **do it with gentleness and respect**.

So, arguing, fighting, or threatening others in person or on social media or yelling on the street corners that they are all going to Hell unless they repent is certainly not the way Jesus did it and it is not the way that we should do it.

We said that engaging with non-believers requires patience and

understanding and we shouldn't expect non-Christians to think like or act like Christians because they're not. We then discussed several things to remember when defending our faith from non-believers.

First and most important is to just be yourself. Speak from your heart with love. The best way for non-believers to understand and become believers is to simply learn from your example as a Christian. Live your faith and others will naturally come to you looking for answers. When they do, be ready to answer them.

We also realized that not everyone who objects really cares about your answer. Some people just love to argue. If you find this to be the case, answer directly but briefly and don't get drawn into an argument. Remember that others are watching how you behave.

We said that understanding why we should defend our faith is at least as important as defending it. Our goal is always to bring glory to God in everything we do so that others may see His glory through us and be led to His saving grace.

This weeks question: The Bible says that money is evil.

We looked at the one verse they used (I Timothy 6:10) to prove their point and found that they not only took one verse out of context but also misquoted what the verse even says.

We looked at the verse, in context, and found that Paul never said that money was evil but it is the LOVE of money that leads us to evil/sin. Much like Jesus said in the story of the Rich Young Ruler that we talked about a few weeks ago, in **Matthew 19:16-26**, Paul is not saying that having money is bad. He is warning Timothy that putting our identity in our wealth and tying ourselves to money can keep us from worshiping God which can lead us to sin.

We talked about some of the insanely "rich" people in the Bible, like Abraham, David, and Solomon, whom God still loved regardless of their wealth and concluded that indeed the money is not evil and even having money is not evil but our LOVE of money (over God) can lead us to do sinful or evil things.

Upcoming Events

First Friday Youth Movie Night

Join us at LWA on <u>December 3rd</u>, at 6:30pm for Youth Movie Night!



The movie will be the 1983 comedy classic, "A Christmas Story". For youth, grades 7-12, friends and families.

Rated PG

Growing up in the 1940s, a young 9-year old boy named Ralphie attempts to convince his parents, his teacher and Santa that a 200 shot Red Ryder BB gun really is the perfect Christmas gift. When he mentions it at the dinner table, his mother's immediate reaction is that he'll shoot his eye out. He then decides on a perfect theme for his school paper but his teacher's reaction is like his mother's. He even gets the same reaction from Santa. He fantasizes about what it would be like to be Red Ryder and catch the bad guys. When the big day arrives he gets lots of presents under the tree including a lovely gift from his aunt that his mother just adores. But what about the BB gun?

See Trailer Here

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