

1 Youth Ministry

Grades 7-12

ONE
FATHER
SON
SPIRIT
OF
GOD

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Bible Verse

Luke 6:41-42

41 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?
42 How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Community Service

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

Living Word Ahwatukee 1 Youth Update for the week of 10/9/15

Greetings!



This week we started by discussing various labels we put on people, labels they put on us, and even labels we put on ourselves. We talked about how these labels make us feel and how they affect what we believe about others and about ourselves.

We talked about how we can easily misjudge people we don't even know without knowing anything about them. We can even misjudge people we do know without knowing their "story" or taking time to understand them.

This week, we looked at Jesus teaching to look at the world through God's eyes while extending grace & understanding to each other. Specifically, we looked at **Luke 6:41-42** where Jesus asks "why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?"

We said that the point Jesus was making is that we should be more aware of our own sin than the sins of others. He uses such a ridiculous illustration because it is just as ridiculous for us to point out the sins of others when we have our own sin.

Specifically, He was speaking about the self-righteous Jewish leaders but it is really a message for all of us. We noted that Jesus didn't say "if" you have a plank in your eye. That's because no matter how "good" we may think we are, we all have sin and are all in need of being saved by the grace of God through Jesus Christ.

So, the first step to understanding others and extending grace

On the 3rd Saturday of each month we meet at **10:00am** at the DCS offices located at 1201 South Alma School Road (on the SE corner of Alma School and Southern Ave.

We typically spend about an hour or so cleaning the family visitation rooms and 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.



Life Skills Class

Our Youth Life Skills class with Tom is every Wednesday night at 7pm for all Youth grades 7-12.

Don't miss these great lessons that you can immediately apply to your own every day life.

to others is realizing that we're all sinners on the same journey and we are all loved by God who extended His grace to us so we can extend that same grace to each other.

Once we understand our own sinfulness and how much we have been forgiven of it makes it easier for us to understand other people's issues that they may be having. It allows us to not automatically jump to conclusions without knowing their story.

The next step is extending the same grace to them as God has extended to us. Grace is basically getting what we don't deserve. So, when we respond to a mean person with kindness instead of anger or when we are quick to forgive others, we are extending grace.

We made sure to point out that grace does not accept or condone wrongdoing. Grace loves despite wrongdoing and considers the person above what they have done.

We were reminded in **Romans 5:8** that God showed us His love and extended His grace to us while we were still sinners. We should therefore not point out faults in others but seek to extend that same love and grace to others despite their sin and let God take care of "fixing" their heart.

We finished up with a **challenge** to identify a person who we may have incorrectly labeled, judged, been critical of, who has let us down, or maybe somebody that we simply just don't like very much. The next time we see that person, talk to them. Find out more about them and let them know more about you. Extend God's love and grace to them despite any shortcomings they may have. You'll find it may not only change their lives but can change your own life as well.

When we see others and see ourselves the way that God sees us we can look past all of the labels that the world uses and focus on the only label that matters. We are all a **"Child of God"**.

The movie that we're going to see on the 28th, **"I'm Not Ashamed"**, is a great example of what happens to the world when just one teenager extends God's love and grace to those around her. Join us on the 28th to see the true story of a real teenager extending God's love and grace in action.

Upcoming Events!

Only 2 spots left!

Winter Jam 2016!!!

Join us for an awesome concert featuring 10 of your favorite Christian artists. This year's artists are shown below along with a promo video. We will be going VIP again which let's us enter at 4:30 (1-1/2 hours before general admission) so we can get the best seats. Plus you receive a collectable VIP pass and lanyard and can participate in a special Q&A session with the artists.

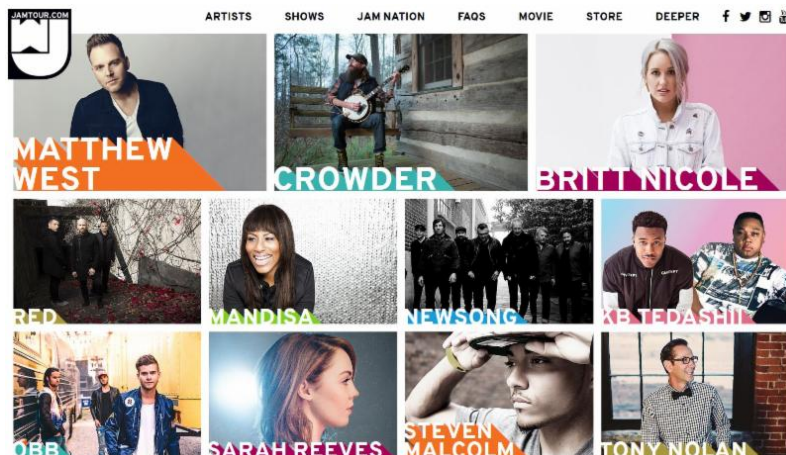
All for just \$35 each!

We will meet on Friday, November 11th and leave LWA at 2:30pm then carpool together to the Glendale Arena. Concert is typically over by 11PM.

Please pay Chris or Michelle as soon as possible!



Winter Jam 2016

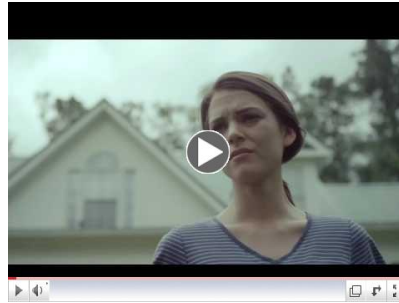


1 Youth Movie Night
I'm Not Ashamed

October 28th

Join us for our next movie night when we are going to go see this really great new movie about a young High School girl's real-life spiritual journey and all the lives she touches along the way. See God's love and grace in action.

The true story from the personal journals of Rachel Joy Scott, the first student killed during the Columbine High School massacre in 1999. We will meet and leave LWA together at 6:pm. The movie is PG-13 and the cost will be about \$10 for tickets.



Personal Care Items Drive:

1 Youth is again collecting "Personal Care Items" for the teens in foster care. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the two bins 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 bins.

Help share God's love by letting these teens know that somebody really does care about them.

Bible verses referenced in this lesson: Luke 6:41-42, Romans 5:8

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller
1 Youth Ministry