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Youth Group Review: Agape Meal - Way of Love

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BLOG

8/26/2018 by Joel Martinez



Greetings,

I would like to start off by saying thank you to everyone who helped to make our teen agape meal a success! The food was amazing, and there was more than enough to go around. Each youth participant was asked to bring an item that was a favorite of theirs or a dish that was meaningful to them. For a meal themed around "bring a dish you love", the food went really well together!



Too many people to fit into one picture!

We followed a traditional path for our agape meal since most of the kids hadn't participated before. We talked a little about "what really is a Christian love feast?", and a bit about its history. We opened with a prayer, followed by Psalm 133. Nicole followed by reading Matthew 22:34-40. Then we had two sets of youth volunteers to help "set the table." The first set lit candles while saying, "A candle, to remind us of the way, "I am the light of the world; whoever follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." The second set of youth volunteers passed out our bread while saying, "Bread, symbol to remind us of God's love, "I am the bread of life. The bread that I shall give is myself for the life of the world." Before proceeding to our meal and the topic of the day, Scott led us in song - "Let Us Break Bread."





After spending time building friendship, and having a great meal, we took time to discuss the **Way of Love**. More specifically, what does it mean for me?! We reinforced the practices for a Jesus-Centered Life: "Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest." Here is what the group came up with:

Turn (Pause, listen, and choose to follow Jesus)

What: Read scripture, set aside time for God every day, intentionally help others, pray and reflect.

How: Choose a specific time to pray-before bed, in the morning. Get parents involved for help/support.

Who: Parents, self, Mom, Youth Group

Learn (Reflect on Scripture each day, especially on Jesus' life and teachings)

What: Lectio Divina, go to church and listen to the sermon (yes, your kids pay attention!), "Google" it, journal about it, watch Veggie Tales, use our daily devotional (Conversations with Jesus)

When: At night before bed, in the morning to set the tone for the day

Who: My parents, friends, social media (Facebook, Twitter)

Pray (Dwell Intentionally with God daily)

What: The Daily Examen, meditate (Centering Prayer), praying before meals, performing good deeds for others, spend time to reflect on why you did good things: For God, others, self

How: Before meals, before bed, when you need to talk to God, in the morning-even while showering!, between classes

Who: Youth Group, parents, God, friends, my dog

Worship (Gather in community weekly to thank, praise, and dwell with God)

What: By singing, playing music, confession, listening to the sermon

How: Go to church, participate in Youth Group

Who: Parents, Youth Group, friends

Bless (Share faith and unselfishly give and serve)

What: Sierra Service Project, be nice to someone who is difficult, help a fellow classmate, listen to a friend-be someone to lean on

How: Set goals to do good deeds during the week, make time to be with others

Who: My friends, family, Youth Group

Go (Cross boundaries, listen deeply and live like Jesus)

What: Sierra Service Project, Rotating Homeless Shelter, school, sports, take a class that you normally wouldn't, coach/mentor a new player

How: Journal, seek out community with others

Who: My family, Youth Group, friends

Rest (Receive the gift of God's grace, peace, and restoration)

What: listen to music, play music, draw, play with friends, swim, play with dog, care for pets

How: Dedicate a specific day/time

Who: Youth Group, parents, friends, family, Mom!

I am impressed with the thought that the youth put into this discussion. We are going to be focusing on this during our program year, and I am excited to see how this unfolds in your children's lives. In order to support this, we are going to be sending the youth home with a printed version of "**Faith at Home**" each week. I'd like to call this "**Faith on the car ride Home.**" This will give you the opportunity to discuss and support your child's spiritual walk in an easy manner. My hope is that this will further your child's exploration of their faith, and help them on discerning God's call for their lives. Please reach out to me with any questions that you may have.

If you are interested in having your child join Saint Andrew's Youth Group, or simply have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me. I am always happy to discuss our program and upcoming events.

Your Friend in God's Love,

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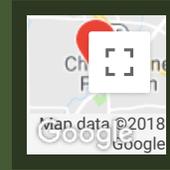
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