



THE STATE — OF THE — YOUTH

APRIL 2024

412 LATELY

Happy Easter!

We can officially say that now that the season of Lent is over and we are now in the time of the year where we celebrate our risen Savior! March was such a good month in the 412 student ministry, and I truly could feel our group grow in a knowledge and love for the season of Lent.

As I discussed in the March edition, we went through a series called “Dust to Dust”. In this five week series we looked at some of the aspects of our humanity and our need for a savior. This is what the Lent season is all about, looking inward and remember why Jesus had to come and die on the cross. We looked at topics like our mortality, our finitude, the importance of repentance, and how we can have strength in weakness. The teenagers have responded very well to these topics and the discussion was fantastic! Excited to see what April hold for us.

In addition to teaching, we also had a blast during a first of it’s kind AfterLife we called “Content Night”. This stemmed from a need I have been working on to revamp our social media presence. As I look more at the landscape of social media and how teenagers use it, I’ve noticed that they know how to do it far better than I. That wasn’t much of a realization as I already knew that, but the conclusion I have come to is that they could run our youth groups social media also better than I could. Therefore, this night was the first of many steps I am going to



-The teenagers playing a game during AXIS.



-The guys playing some video games before AXIS.

begin taking in empowering *them* to make content for our ministry. Instead of me trying to make content *for* them, why don't I try to make content *with* them? I really think this new approach and mindset could be the key in really reaching the young people in our community as well as giving our church and it's youth ministries a stronger presence in the world of social media. So be on the lookout for new things to come!

AN EASTER PRAYER FOR YOUR FAMILY

As we round out the season of Lent and we move into perhaps the busiest time of the year for most young families, I want to offer you a word of encouragement in the form of a prayer for you and you family this Spring and Summer. This prayer is an adaptation of Paul's prayer for the Colossians in Colossians 1:9-12. What I love about this prayer is the emphasis that Paul gives to the everyday. The mundane. The nine-five coming and going and leading a family. I believe his hopes for them are still useful for us today.

Since the day I met you I have not stopped praying for you. I continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way. That you may bear fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened by him in his glorious might so that you will have the necessary grace and patience in hard times. I give thanks in joy to

GEN Z LINGO

“4 + 4”; verb. - Someone did something really cool and very well.

As usual, context is key here. This phrase stems from a previous phrase of about six months prior “ate”, as in “They ate that”. These two phrases have the exact same meaning yet “4 + 4” is a shorter, cooler way of saying the same thing. Why? Because $4 + 4 = ate$.

Example: *Stephen does something really cool*

Noah: “Oh dang, 4 + 4!”

the Father, who has brought to our church family as we share together in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. May God bless you and your family. Amen.

Following His Lead,

Stephen Yates

Associate Pastor of Students and Young Adults

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Yates', written in a cursive style.

THEOLOGY 101

Resurrection– The power of God to bring a person back to life. Because humans all die, we do not have the power on our own to come back to life, but God gives us this power when we have faith in His Son, Jesus. Jesus is the only person to have come back to life after death because he is also God.

Isaiah 25:8; Luke 24:6-7; Romans 10:9

Memory Verse: John 11:25-26