

Life in the LIGHT

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. (Psalm 100:1-2)



Youth Praise and Testimony Time

Every month, our church hosts an evangelical meeting where we sing praises and share testimonies of God's work in our lives. This month, the youth group led the event, and below, we share our thoughts and reflections. K.I. shares the testimony she gave during the evangelical meeting.

I want to share how I've taken a step toward my dream job. Ever since I was little, I wanted to become a chef. I can say that it's a blessing that God guided me to study culinary arts at community college, and after I graduated, God prepared a perfect place for me to work as a chef. I only applied to my current job, and I was able to get in on my first try. This opportunity came at the right time and reminds me that what God has prepared for me is greater than I could have imagined.

This experience has strengthened my faith and taught me the importance of trusting Him no matter what happens in my life. There is a well-known scripture from Jeremiah 29:11 that says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." I pray that this verse brings you hope as it has brought hope to me. I thank God for all the plans he prepared for me, and God bless you!! -K.I.

Leading this event, I realized how much preparation is required: you have to think of the date and schedule, make flyers and slides, and bring refreshments. Most importantly, I learned that I need to ask God what His will is in every aspect of the planning (what the right songs are for newcomers, who will give testimony, etc.). It made me understand why I need to pray. I also realized my lack of faith; I must always remind myself what the purpose of this event is and prepare accordingly with the belief that people will come. -K.T.





Through this evangelical meeting, I have learned the importance of praise and how it differs from just singing. I am thankful for the specific guidance and encouragement from Masami-san. -A.N.



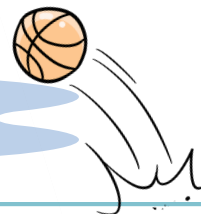
I learned that when you talk with others about the good things God did for you, it is important to share specific details. During the evangelical meeting, I was one of the youth group members who shared what I've been doing for God in my daily life. After I shared, our pastor's wife, Masami-sensei, suggested that it's always best to share exact, specific examples of how God has helped us when we talk to others. -S.K.

I learned that having seriousness between God and myself is important. Through Masami sensei's teachings, I learned that having unity is important, but having individual practice is also essential to growing more. -E.N.

I thought that having these Praise Time gatherings was a good opportunity for the youth, like having a meeting to decide praise songs and practicing guitar every week over FaceTime. There are many things I've learned through this, such as the importance of knowing what we have set as a goal, with more improvements moving forward. -H.N.



Junior Section: Summer School



This year, I had summer school during summer break. My favorite class is Lab Rats. In this class, we learned about animals and how to dissect them. My favorite dissection was the clam because opening the clam's shell is easy, and its insides don't look as weird as the other dissections. It is also very easy to find the clam's body parts. I also learned how to use a scalpel properly in this class. Overall, it was a very fun class and I am looking forward to joining it next year too. -E.M.

This summer, I went to summer school. I learned about how foods decompose and can turn into compost as time passes. It was weird and amazing how God created compost so that nothing that we use goes to waste at all. This compost can help other plants grow when they were plants themselves. God created insects to help decompose the greens and browns. I saw maggots, spiders, flies, and a lot of ants helping the decomposing transition. He made air so that these tiny workers could breathe and water to keep them alive. He showed us how to reuse to help sustain the earth. The process was long, and it was stinky at first, but then it turned into a coffee smell because compost smells like what you put in, and lots of coffee grounds were in it. I learned a lot from this experience, and I had a great time being there. -Y.S.

This year at summer school, I had three classes: Documentary Filmmaking, Art, and Basketball. I liked the basketball class the most because basketball is my favorite sport. It was also a class where I knew most of the people there, which made me feel more comfortable at that summer school. I feel excited to be in this class next year because I had a lot of fun there. I also learned about editing and recording with cameras in that class, so I want to thank God for teaching me more interesting things in that area. -J.M.

July 4th Church Activity

It was nice to gather together with more people, including youth and adults who can't usually attend these events. One activity that I really enjoyed was ultimate frisbee. Cooperating with teammates to score and playing in sprinkling rain made it a great time. We even saw a rainbow during the activity, which reminded me of scripture. -H.N.
"Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." (Genesis 9:16)

I thought it was nice and fun how the youth and junior groups played various sports together, such as ultimate frisbee and soccer, especially since it had been a while since we last played. -S.K.

Although it was organized on short notice, I am thankful that God made this event happen through Masami-san. Without her, this whole thing would have been canceled. Something that I have been learning from her is how she always knows what's best for everyone, and it's because she is always asking God what His will is. Because she is seriously thinking about what's best for others, God reveals His will to her.

On this day, I felt that the youth had unity and worked well together as a group. This is because God has taught us, through her, to see each other as His family. I wish to be able to know His will in the way that she does so that I can do it without uncertainty. -K.T.

I thought it was great timing when we found a sport that was fun and exciting to play with everyone during July 4th. It was called ultimate frisbee. I liked how we could be competitive and need team work to score a goal. I also had a chance to start passing out the piano concert flyers with everyone, and it was a great opportunity to share them with passersby. -K.I.

The best part about the July 4th activity was that we were able to spend time in fellowship with many of the church members, those not in the youth group. This made me more excited for the upcoming Bible camp, spending time with everyone, praising God, and enjoying it together. -A.N.



Join Us!

Sunday worship:

Japanese Service: 9 AM - 11 AM

English Service: 11 AM - 1 PM

Address: 2031 E Villa St, Pasadena, CA 91107

Email: davaryouthgroup@gmail.com

Instagram: @dkgyouth

Website: 2.davarkg.com

