

Living Word Lutheran Church LCMS

**May 2006
Newsletter**

"Communicating the Love of Jesus"



**Traditional Worship : 8:00 a.m.
Christian Growth Hour: 9:15 a.m.
Contemporary Worship: 10:30 a.m.**

Living Word Lutheran Church

Located on the West of Spicer on Cty Rd 10
in old Prairie Meadows building
PO Box 242, New London, MN 56273
Phone: 320-796-0742
Website: www.livingwordlutheran.net

Questions FROM Pastor...



With confirmation coming up this month (7th) I thought this might be a good time to repeat some of the questions the confirmands have on their final test. **If you're not sure of an answer - check our website www.livingwordlutheran.net**

*T or F: The Bible's main purpose is to show us God's rules for life.
(see Jn 20:31)

*The Bible...

- a) is God's word. (*entirely* reflects what God wants us to know)
- b) contains God's word. (*only some* of it reflects what God wants us to know)
- c) is partially God's word and partially man's word. (So some is reliable and some not)

*Of the four Gospel books, _____ deals mostly with the spiritual purpose of Jesus' ministry, while the other three focus mainly on the physical details of his ministry.

*The period of instruction leading up to the rite of Confirmation is necessary

- a) because you have to know the 10 Commandments, Apostles Creed and Lord's Prayer, (among many other things) in order to be saved.
- b) because you have to pass a test in order to be a part of God's Church
- c) as a follow-up to Christ's command to "make disciples by baptizing & teaching"

*In the Lord's Supper we receive...

- a) bread and wine only
- b) Christ's body and blood only
- c) bread and wine and Christ's body and blood

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*In order to partake of the Lord's Supper, one must first...

- a) understand how bread and wine *could be* the body and blood of Jesus
- b) simply believe that we receive Jesus' body and blood in the bread and wine even though we don't understand how it happens.

*Which of the following is not a benefit God brings to us in baptism:

- a) forgiveness of sin
- b) The Holy Spirit
- c) the perfect righteousness purchased by Jesus' life and death
- d) automatic entrance to heaven

*T or F: Christians worship the same God as Muslims and Hindus

*Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer (check all that apply)

- ☐ because we need to repeat it word-for-word in each worship service to please God
- ☐ as a model of the things we should pray about
- ☐ using the exact same words both times he said it in the Bible
- ☐ as an example of the attitudes we should have when we pray

*T or F: The apostles left us very precise details for how to worship Jesus.

*T or F: we know there is a God is that he's written his laws on everyone's conscience.

*What gives God the right to ask you to put him first in your life ?

*God's Word can sometimes seem like pieces of a puzzle that don't fit together until you know that _____ is the "piece" that is the heart and center of what the Bible is all about.

The rite of Confirmation is ...

- a) a Biblical requirement for eternal life
- b) a Biblical requirement for joining the Lord's Supper
- c) is necessary to finish off what God started in your baptism
- d) a chance to publicly show you're "not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus"

*What do you show others (and God) when you don't make time to worship him?

*Whenever God asks someone in the Bible to do something for him, and they are afraid of doing it, what God always says "Do not be afraid, because... I am _____."

*Have you ever broken the fifth commandment? (explain your answer)

*The *only* question to ask when tempted to have sex is:

- a) Do I love this person?
- b) Does this feel right?
- c) Am I married to this person?

*T or F A homosexual relationship is ok with God as long as the couple is committed

*Confirmation Day is like (choose one) marriage / graduation because...

*Tell how God's Word is like a diary...

*Paul writes: "It is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is a _____ from God. It is not by your works, so that no one can boast [that they earned their way to heaven]."

*As with any gift, you need to send a "Thank You note." You send a thank you note to God for the gift of eternal life by...

*Did Jesus ever claim to be God?

*The Lord's Prayer is an example of attitudes we should have when we pray. List some:

*Write out 1 John 5:13

*_____ chapter _____ is where you'll read "nothing can separate you from God's love"

*God's number one purpose for you is to be _____

*The number one thing the Spirit works through to help you become more like Jesus is: _____

*T or F: The way to be saved in the Old Testament is different from that in the New Testament

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*If you died tonight are you sure you would go to heaven? Is it possible to be sure?

*If you did die tonight and are standing before God and he says, "Why should I let you in to my heaven?" how would you answer?

*A friend asks you "What exactly is the 'Gospel message' you Christians talk about all the time?" What would you tell them?

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net

New Member Bios...

The Block family: Ryan, Shelli, Cole and Jamison

About us (by Ryan):

Shelli and I each grew up in the New London - Spicer area. We were married in January of 2000. We have two boys, Cole, 14 and Jamison, 4. We live on Mud Lake northwest of New London. Shelli is a stay-at-home mom and I will graduate from the U of M - Crookston this spring with a Natural Resources degree. This summer I will be employed at the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center. Cole will be doing the CIT program at Mary Point Boy Scout Camp for five weeks in June.

Favorite Bible Passages:

RYAN: The account of how David took on and defeated Goliath is a favorite of mine. David's boldness in the face of those who ridiculed his God is something we all need to model. I am impressed by how David put his faith into action. He wasn't the biggest or strongest and wasn't even a soldier, but he knew God. He knew God's power to help him. He simply acted on what he knew God was calling him to do - and God did the rest.

SHELLI: I've received great healing from the last chapter of the book of Jonah.

When Jonah was feeling sorry for himself, because things weren't going the way he wanted, God came and provided a blessing in the form of a vine that provided shade from the scorching heat. But when the vine died Jonah was more angry than ever. God reminded him that the vine was of little consequence in the grand scheme of things. God pointed out that what Jonah should be concerned about are the 120,000 people in Ninevah who don't know God and will be eternally lost unless they come to repent and believe in Him.

I'd focused on my paralysis like Jonah focused on his vine. I got angry just like Jonah. This passage reminded me that just as God provided the vine for Jonah's blessing, He also provided my paralysis to be a blessing to me and as a way for me to help me bring others to Him. People say that I'm an inspiration because of my paralysis. I'm not. God is the inspiration. My paralysis is simply a tool that God provided to draw me closer to Him. And I want people to see that their ailments are things God uses to draw them closer to Him too.

COLE: I like the account of how God used a very reluctant guy named Gideon to lead just 300 men in defeating an army of over 100,000. It just shows us how powerful God is. The victory doesn't come, because we are great, but because God is great!

GOD'S BLESSINGS !

Wendy and Lonny Robbin	- married April 29
Banny Ngan	- baptized Easter Sunday
Alicia Willer	- baptized April 30.
Eli Sharp	- baptized April 30

Living Word Concert...

At the site of our future home... Along County Road 9 just north of the New London Township hall (about 1 mile south of the intersection of County Road 40 and County Road 9).

On July 2nd, 2006 at 5:00 pm

With Jason Gray

Jason writes music for the heart, mind, and spirit. Crafting powerful metaphors that lead the listener to discover how marriage is a dance, how God's word is a love letter, and how hope is like a small town off the beaten path, he writes unforgettable and intimate songs that are at once simple and profound. His love for music of all kinds is evident as he moves from pop to folk to rock to soul, letting disparate elements mingle and make a unique and unified whole – all anchored to his expressive guitar and voice. "When you think of the best Christian singer/songwriters, which names come to mind?" Crosswalk.com writes. "Jennifer Knapp. Bebo Norman. Sara Groves. And Jason Gray... Gray's work is strong enough to garner mention alongside some of Christian music's finest."

Listen to some of Jason's music at
<http://www.jasongrayonline.com/>

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Upcoming Events...

Confirmation

Sunday, May 7 @ 10:30

Please join these young people in celebrating the commitment they are making to have Jesus be the center of their lives for the rest of their lives.

*Anthony Dauk
*Cole Erickson
*Allan Fuglie
*Vince Mische
*Amanda Olson
*Alicia Willer

Annual Outdoor Worship Service

Sunday, May 14 @ 10:30 (weather permitting)

Worship overlooking the apple trees in bloom at Jimmy Appleseed Orchard (MN Highway 23 between New London and Spicer)

Bring a chair and a friend. Note: We will not have picnic lunch after worship this year. It's Mothers' Day. Take mom out to eat.
(8:00 worship will still be at church that day)

"Old - Fashioned Church Picnic"

Sunday, May 21

After 10:30 worship - behind the church. Picnic, Softball, volleyball, cake walk, gunny sack races, etc. Bring a friend and a dish to pass.

Garage Sale

Saturday, May 13th

Ron and Kim Wothe will host it at their garage at the Apple Orchard. Be planning on things you would like to donate. I would ask that either no clothes or only a few gently used items be brought. All proceeds will be used for the Building Fund. Drop off times at the ORCHARD will be announced later. Please DO NOT bring items to the church as we do not have the space to keep them here.

If you would like to help, please contact Tammy Miller @ 354-4161.

Summer Worship Schedule Change

Begins Sunday, May 28 We change to one worship service @ 9:00 a.m. for summer

Alyssa Wachter would like to invite her church family to help celebrate her high school graduation at an open house on June 3rd, 2006 from 1 pm to 4 pm at the former Prairie Meadows School (location of Living Word Lutheran Church).

Mission & Ministry Team Mtg...

April 20, 2006

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed the written report and what our available balance was. (2,063.93)

Went over outstanding bills. Decided which ones we could pay. \$700 of 1 Concordia Health Plan, Missions, Insurance, and other miss.

Moved on to filling the Ballot for Administrative officers. Need Christian Growth and Stewardship positions filled.

Land Up-date: Purchase agreement signed April 9th and \$5,000 down payment. Board Reports:

Education: VBS has been set for July 29th. The Sunday School and Congregational Picnic will be held May 21. Some concerns from the Sunday School are the low attendance and coming late. Are planning ahead for next year. Needs more structure and parents made known what to expect and maybe make a schedule.

Elders: Duane wanted to emphasize the importance of the Stewardship position and to also communicate to the congregation how we are doing financially.

Outreach: Tammy Fuglie told us that she had been in touch with Redeemer about the Fair booth. Tammy will attend one of their meetings.

Tammy Miller informed us of the Garage Sale to be held May 13 at Jimmy Appleseed.

Also the monetary amount given the day of "Bryson Wachter Day" was well given. And the concert by "Jason Gay" out next to the land purchased will be held July 2 at 5:00 p.m.

Went over the agenda for the Spring Voter's Meeting scheduled for April 30, 2006 at 9:15 a.m.

New Business: Sinage for the Land purchased. Will ask 3-5 people with youth involvement.

Parish Report: Will have fellowship after the 9:00 Summer service. Finishing the "Battle Cry for Generation" Study. Will incorporate a few of the ideas presented:

Mentoring program, intergeneration programs, sporting events, parents praying for students, etc.

Kevin also mentioned that the youth need to take responsibility on getting assignments and sermon notes done, in order to go on outings and trips. The kids feel they still can attend without completing their work.

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Opportunities to "Share the Love of Jesus in Practical ways"...

Help Us Clean Up Our Section of Highway 23

We'll meet at 6:00 at the Country Stop, Wed. May 17.

Make some cookies OR Take some cookies

We would like to say "Thanks" to those who visit us by taking them a box of cookies. If you can serve the Lord by making the cookies or delivering them, please talk to Pastor David or Tammy Fuglie

Help Provide A Scholarship for a Student to Attend Camp at Lutheran Island Camp

Families with children and youth received a brochure of all the camps available at Lutheran Island Camp again this year. If you can help provide money for scholarships to help them with cost please contact Bonnie Hansen.

Thanks for your help!

"The Ministry Machine" is on the move.



What is the Ministry Machine...
and where is it moving?

The Ministry Machine is the name we've given to Pastor's big old blue and white van - the one we use to haul youth to events and activities. (It may not be blue and white for much longer - but it still will be big and old).

It's on the move on Sunday mornings. Youth director Ryan Block will be using it to pick up kids and youth who need rides to Sunday School and Sunday morning youth study.

Please call Ryan @ 354-2594 if you need to schedule a ride.

Help create a Church Directory

- + A Photographer
- + Appointment scheduler
- + Someone to turn the photos and information into a directory.

Please talk to Pastor David if you'd like to help with this.

Bryson Wachter would like to thank everyone again for participating in "Bryson Wachter Day" and for the tremendous support that has been shown from his church family in his journey to the seminary.

May Living Word Lutheran Church - Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 30 8:00 - Traditional Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 9:15 - SPRING VOTERS' ASSEMBLY 10:30 - Contemporary Worship Led by Youth	May 1 11:00 Women's Study	2 9:30 - Bible Study - @ Agape	3 6:00 Meal 6:30 + All Stars 4 Jesus + 7-8th Confirm'n + 9th Confirmation	4 6:00 Elders' Team	5	6 CONFIRMATION TOMORROW Anthony Dauk Cole Erickson Allan Fuglie Vince Mische Amanda Olson Alicia Willer
7 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 8:00 - Traditional Worship w/ Lord's Supper 9:15 - Sunday School 9:15 - Youth Study 9:15 - Bible Study 10:30 - Contemporary Worship w/ CONFIRMATION	8 11:00 Women's Study D I S T R I C T	9 9:30 - Bible Study - @ Agape C O N V E N T I O N	10 6:30 "The A Team" Abstinence Education for parents and teens	11	12	13 Garage Sale
14 MOTHERS' DAY 8:00 - Traditional Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 9:15 - Youth Study 9:15 - Bible Study 10:30 - Contemporary Worship OUTDOORS @ Jimmy Appleseed Orchard	15 11:00 Women's Study	16 9:30 - Bible Study - @ Agape	17 6:00 Road Ditch Clean Up meet @ Country Stop	18 6:00 Sunday School Teachers 7:00 Mission & Ministry Team	19	20
21 8:00 - Traditional Worship w/ Lord's Supper 9:15 - Sunday School 9:15 - Adult Study 10:30 - Contemporary Worship w/ Lord's Supper 11:45 "Old Fashioned Sunday School Picnic"	22 11:00 Women's Study	23 9:30 - Bible Study - @ Agape	24	25	26	27
28 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS 9:00 Combined Worship 10:15 Fellowship	29 MEMORIAL DAY	30 9:30 - Bible Study - @ Agape	31 7:00 Baccalaureate @ High School Gym	June 1	June 2	June 3

May 5-Minutes-a-day Devotional Reading

NEW READING PROGRAM BEGINS MAY 8: Questions Asked of Jesus - And His Answers

April 30 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

May 1 1 John 5:13-16 _____

May 2 Jude 17-23 _____

May 3 Psalm 145 _____

May 4 Rev. 21:1-22:5 _____

May 5 Rev. 22:6-21 _____

May 6 Sum up the Bible based on your readings these past months.

May 7 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

May 8 Mark 9:17-29 _____

May 9 Acts 1:6-8 _____

May 10 Acts 16:22-35 _____

May 11 Matthew 19:3-9 _____

May 12 Matthew 19:16-22 _____

May 13 Matthew 19:23-26 _____

May 14 : Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

May 15 Matthew 9:10-14 _____

May 16 Matthew 22:15-22 _____

May 17 Matthew 22:34-40 _____

May 18 Matthew 24:3-27 _____

May 19 John 2:13-22 _____

May 20 John 3:3-21 _____

May 21 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

May 22 John 6:32-40 _____

May 23 John 6:28-29 _____

May 24 John 7:14-18 _____

May 25 John 9:1-7 _____

May 26 John 9:35-38 _____

May 27 John 10:22-30 _____

May 28 Use the time today to worship and catch up on any readings you missed

May 29 John 21:18-25 _____

May 30 John 19:6-11 _____

May 31 John 18:33-37 _____

June 1 John 18:19-24 _____

June 2 John 16:17-24 _____

June 3 John 14:1-7 _____

REMINDER: Go to www.livingwordlutheran.net

Click on "Pastor's Notes" for Pastor David's comments on the daily Bible readings. You can add your own insights by clicking on "comments" below Pastor's comment

A Minute for Parents...

TEACHING THE FAITH - PART 9

God put you in your kids' lives to BE A PARENT (not a buddy).

A parent's #1 duty is to "parent." That involves training, setting rules and guidelines and dealing out consequences. That's all part of parenting. And part of loving. And that's not always easy. Sometimes your kids won't like you for what you do. But remember this situation: The toddler who has just had the butter knife snatched from his hands as he headed for the electrical outlet probably didn't like the parent who snatched it from his hand either. But when your kids are headed for danger, you do what's needed to protect them. You do that even when they don't understand - or like - what you do at that moment. Sometimes being a parent requires "drastic measures."

Here are three essential "drastic measures" from our "Battle Cry for a Generation" study:

Drastic Measure #1: Limit and monitor (or totally prohibit) "screen-viewing" time. (That means TV, video, gaming and computer time). Satan dishes out lies by the thousands on TV, in videos and video games and via the Internet. Our tendency to use TV or videos to "babysit" our kids harms them more than we know. Set clear boundaries. You are the parent. You try to make sure that they have a healthy diet going into their mouths. Take equal precautions to ensure that what goes into their eyes and ears is just as healthy.

Drastic Measure # 2: Keep teen bedrooms media-free. When you allow TV and computer into your teen's (or pre-teen's) room you are inviting disaster. Supervision is key! We can't totally shut down the anti-God influence of MTV and Hollywood in our kids' lives, but we don't have to give them a free pass to our kid's rooms.

Drastic Measure # 3: Make a firm, family decision about who we you are going to be: A media-centered family or a relationship-centered family? If you choose what most of America is choosing (even Christians) we will choose the former and our lives will be run by what's on TV or in theaters or on the internet.

As Ron Luce, author of "Battle Cry for a Generation" remind us that our kids spend a majority of each day "under the influence" of the virtue-terrorists [who promote violence, free sex, disrespect for all authority, etc...]. And we help by "inviting these virtue terrorists into our homes and paying them to corrupt our kids" every time we turn on the TV or give the kids money to go see a movie.

Where do you need to "be a parent"? Ask your heavenly Father's help.

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A Minute for Men...

Lessons From Bible Guys: Thomas

What usually comes to mind when you hear about Thomas? That infamous statement he made after hearing the other disciples tell him that Jesus was risen from the dead: *"Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."*

That's not necessarily a bad example. God tells us in 1 John to "test the spirits to see whether they are from God." i.e. "Don't believe everything you hear. Check it out to see if it is from God." When we question something we hear God does want us to seek the answer from Him.

But the example I want to highlight from Thomas is found in this verse:

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. John 20:26

The example is this: **Thomas came back.**

The previous week Thomas wasn't with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them. We don't know why he had separated himself from the group. The Bible doesn't tell us. But one of the great temptations when things don't go the way you want (like a tragic loss), is to blame God and separate yourself from your fellow believers. i.e. Quit coming to church.

That's the absolute wrong thing to do. Thomas missed out on seeing the Lord, because he had separated from the group. He also missed out on the encouragement of his brothers and sisters in Christ.

But when you wake up one day and discover that you have become separated from church (for whatever reason), remember Thomas' example. He came back. And what was the result? He experienced the very presence of God. His doubts were turned into "blessed assurance."

Don't let tough times separate you from your fellow believers. But if Satan ever is successful in getting you separated from the group - don't be afraid to come back. You'll find the same results as Thomas.

May Discipleship Verse...

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."
Luke 9:23

Spring Voter's Meeting...

APRIL 30 2006 9:15 A.M.

***Land up-date:** The purchase agreement was signed April 9, 2006 with Charlie Koch. Motion m/s/p to accept the proposal which was 7.35 acres for \$60,000 w/ 1.35 acres donated. \$5,000 down at signing w/\$25,000 at the end of 2006 and \$30,000 at the end of 2007.

No building can be built until land is paid off. Signage will go up as soon as committee is formed.

***Election of Officers:** 2 Positions open: Stewardship and Christian Growth.

Ryan and Shelli will continue to fill this position as long as they are here or until someone steps forward.

Janet Towner came forward during the meeting to fill the Stewardship position. The ballot that was accepted is:

Chairman: Dan Miller

Elders: Duane Hansen and Ron Wothe

Congregational Outreach: Tammy Fuglie

Christian Growth: Open

Trustee: Randy Nissen

Stewardship: Janet Towner

Positions take effect July 1, 2006

***Financial Report:** Dan went over the Treasurer's Report. Dan also wanted to inform us that right now we are receiving Subsidy from District (\$945) per month and that by 2008 District will have us off and we will be self-supporting.

Membership stands at: Communicate Members: 116
Baptized Members: 183

***Summer Worship Schedule:** Motion m/s/p to accept the 9:00 A.M. worship time to begin May 28 and run through Sept. 3. There will be no Monday Night Service.

New Business:

***Building up-date:** Kevin Welsh informed us that we will need an architect to draw a blue print or Jerry Rierson from Perkin Lumber could design something and then have an architect sign-off on it. Will be looking at the floor plans of 3 local churches on May 13.

Tammy Miller let us know that the "Jason Gay" Concert is scheduled for July 2 at 5:00p.m. and that we do have permission from the New London Township to hold the concert on their land.

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Tammy Miller will contact the local paper to do an article on the purchasing of the Land.

***Parish Report:** There are 6 confirmands this year scheduled for May 6.

*3 Baptisms-

*1 wedding- Wendy and Lonny Robbin

April 29th Outdoor worship will be held May 14th at Jimmy Apple Orchard at 10:30 service.

"Battle Cry for A Generation"

The study is over, now we head into the battle.....

**When you "signed on" to follow Jesus
did you do it as a soldier or as a club member ?**

SOLDIERS

Sign their lives over to the control
of the Commander-in-Chief

Pursue a common mission.

Dedicate their whole lives to
the mission.

Interested in winning battles

Know that the battle requires
sacrifice and hardship

Seek an assignment

CLUB MEMBERS

Control what they do and when

Pursue a common interest.

Go to the club when they feel like it

Interested in having a good time.

Complain about trivial inconveniences

Often have to be bribed into getting
involved and begged into coming back.

Remember Jesus is looking for "soldiers" not "club members" :

*If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself
and take up his cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23*

Assignments that need to be filled (for those who enlisted as soldiers)

- Mentor Program Planning Committee
- Mentors
- Secret Prayer-Partner Planning Committee
- Secret Prayer-Partners
- Wednesday-Evening-Activity Planning Committee
- Wednesday-Evening-Activity Hosts
- Sunday Night Youth Worship Planning Committee
- Post-Confirmation-Youth Planning Committee
- Mission Trip Chaperones
- Event Chaperones

(Remember, the assignments will not always be easy,
and they will take some time..... but the result is always worth it!)

What assignment can you fill in the battle for a generation?

TEENS & PARENTS

You Are Invited

(Required for Confirmation students - including 9th Grade.
Highly Recommended for everyone else)

When: **May 10, 2006**
Where: Living Word Lutheran Church, Spicer
(Prairie Meadows Gym)
Time: 6:30 p.m.
RSVP: Shelli Block 354-2594

"THE A TEAM"

Abstinence Education
of Central Minnesota

www.worththewait.info

Mission: Educate and motivate young people
to postpone sexual activity until marriage

Vision: Every teen in Central Minnesota needs
to hear the message that abstinence until
marriage is the healthiest choice

Supportive products available to parents

GET THE FACTS

Central MN Freedom Advocates Program
(Grades 7-12)

really good *consequences of sex * funny *free stuff * the people * it's the truth, you made it funny while telling the truth * the steps leading up to sex * it was interesting * you were young and realistic *you related to us *the real dangers of sex. * explained a lot of things without making it awkward * how they explained things that are really out there in the world and what can happen * it wasn't fake * how to have a strong marriage * showed me why I need goals

One thing I learned:

* must sacrifice things to have a good relationship *having sex can hurt your future relationship with your spouse * we have value * that I'm worth it and valuable *to wait * sex can be dangerous and it's not a game * when you are drunk your more likely to have sex * emotional consequences * what can happen * to abstain * best to save self for spouse * how important it is to wait until marriage *how to wait to have sex * what premarital sex can do to your life

Church

Program: This 60-90 minute interactive presentation educates students about the damages of pre-marital sex physically, emotionally and spiritually. The A-Team provides sound scriptural advice encouraging teens trying to commit to an abstinent lifestyle while living in a sex-saturated society.

Student Comments

The things I liked best about the program:

*the whole thing was fun *they made sense *the rose * the stories * the ladder * they talked to us like they were us *everything, it was

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The Director

Jessi Brinkman has a passion for youth, and she devotes this passion to developing educational and motivational presentations, speaking to groups, and directing the abstinence center.. Jessi has spent the past three years mentoring teenagers, motivating them to reach their potential, and encouraging them to seek their identity beyond the negative peer pressure so often voiced by the world around them.

Jessi has shared her story with thousands of teens. After having come out of a life-style of drinking, drugs, almost flunking out of college, and a near gang rape incident, she talks frankly with teens about her decisions, and about how forgiveness changed her life. Her hope is that teens will see how valuable they are, how important their decisions are, and how the choices they make today will affect their tomorrows.

The next time you feel like GOD can't use you, just remember...

- + Abraham was getting close to 100
- + Isaac was a daydreamer
- + Jacob was a liar and a cheat
- + Leah was not pretty
- + Joseph was abused and spent a lot of time in prison
- + Moses couldn't speak well and also killed a person
- + Gideon was "chicken"
- + Samson had long hair and was a womanizer
- + Rahab was a prostitute
- + Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
- + David had an affair
- + Elijah was suicidal
- + Isaiah preached naked
- + Jonah ran from God
- + Naomi was a widow
- + Job went bankrupt
- + John the Baptist ate bugs
- + Peter denied Christ
- + The Disciples fell asleep while praying
- + Martha worried about everything
- + The Samaritan woman was divorced - several times
- + Zaccheus was too small
- + Paul was too religious
- + Timothy had an ulcer...AND
- + Lazarus was dead!

No more excuses now. God can use you to your full potential. Besides you aren't the message, you are just the messenger.