



It looks like this year is getting off to a good start! In January we had a game night until midnight where several teens got together for games and had a great time hanging out. Early in February we got together again for a Super Bowl party at the Armstrong's house. The game was great, but so was all the laughing, wrestling, yelling, and joking that went on. It seems like whenever we get together I can't tell if it was me or the teens who had more fun! It has been great seeing so many of them come together with us for some fun times.

Our regular Sunday meeting times have been going well, too. The High School students have been studying right along with the adult Sunday school classes on Sunday mornings. We have been traveling along through the Forty Day Adventure along with the adults and learning what God has to say to us about discipleship and His purpose and mission for the Church. Sunday nights we have been exploring the book of Acts, digging into the way the early Church lived out Christ's mission for them. Thursday nights have also been great. Students take turns leading the studies. It is awesome to see them take the role of teaching others and also it is great to see them learning and growing together. There have been several who have been growing in their faith rapidly and have risen quickly to become leaders amongst their peers.

While I look forward to seeing all the teens at our regular meeting times and at our fun events I am also reminded that there are several teens who are not connected with us at all. If you have a child or grandchild who isn't involved with the Youth Group at all I would like to encourage you to urge them to check us out. It is true that attending Youth Group and participating in Youth events isn't a prerequisite to Heaven. It is also true, though, that developing relationships with other teens that share your faith and values is critical to cultivating a healthy faith. The youth ministry here at New Life aims to be an extension of the overall ministry of the Church that assists parents in discipling their children to help them become contagious disciples who are on fire for Jesus Christ. We hope to be a tool for parents, helping with the extremely challenging task of raising children. It is true that we can never replace the parent's role in their child's spiritual develop- we have no intention of ever trying to do that! What we can do, though, is provide a context where students can build relationships, learn the truth of God's word, and be given opportunities to serve that can help students live out the faith you as parents are hoping to instill in them. If you have children who disconnected from the other teens in the Church, I want to extend an invitation to them to come and share with us. We share your passion to see their salvation and growth in the Lord and want you to know we are serious about discipleship in the lives of our teens.

Thank you and God Bless,

Kyle