



YTH

Encounter God ~ Experience Community ~ Equip for Destiny

at | **home**™
W E E K L Y

678

Parents!

All YTH students are invited to AKYC!

What is AKYC?

Alaska Youth Conference is a middle school and high school conference that seeks to empower, equip and send students into their communities to make a positive difference.

Where is Alaska Youth Conference?

ChangePoint Church 6689 ChangePoint Drive Anchorage, AK 99518

Who can attend AKYC? AKYC is designed for middle school (6th-8th grade), high school (9th-12th grade) students, and youth leaders from True North!

When do we leave? October 26 at 7:45am

When do we arrive home? October 28 by 9pm

When will we receive more information?

Students have received on Wednesdays and Sundays a card with the complete schedule and breakdown of cost. This will also be in an email sent out at the beginning of October!

Do I need to pay all upfront? Not at all! If you are needing to pay in increments OR need some time to raise the funds, REGISTER ANYWAY and pay when able!

We're beginning a new series in *Psalms*! Our prayer for you as you begin to study the book of Psalms with your child is that you seek and respond to God in worship. May you experience the freedom through the Holy Spirit to feel what you feel, no matter how raw. May you engage with the living God in every emotion and every situation of your life.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED IN THIS SERIES

God is worthy, therefore we:

- *Worship* in response to God revealing Himself (Psalm 33)
- *Thank* Him in all circumstances (Psalm 116)
- *Trust* Him as our Savior (Psalm 62)
- *Confess* our imperfections (Psalm 51)
- *Lament* in times of tension (Psalm 89)
- *Rage* when we see injustice (Psalm 7)

- *Praise* Him for creation (Psalm 98)

The last week in this series, your child will take the time to look back to **Remember & Celebrate** all that God has done through these lessons.

SERIES CHALLENGES

For the Psalms series, we've provided five challenges that can spur your child on toward deeper faith formation at home. As a family, commit to one (or more) of the five challenges below.

Read five Psalms a week. Commit to reading psalms at home as a family. Not only will this bring you through much of God's glorious poetry, it will help you discover more of who God is and how we can worship in response.

Preview the upcoming Psalm and discuss. Since you are your child's primary instructor, take the lead by reading the upcoming psalm with your child and discuss it *before* youth group. This will prepare and excite your child to learn more about it at church and come back eager to share what he's learned.

Remember Psalm 23. Psalm 23 (*Fire Bible: Student Edition*, pages 701–703) is one of the most cherished psalms in the entire Bible. We're shown that God is our great shepherd (v. 1) who provides for all our needs (vv. 1–2) as He lovingly guides us (v. 3) through the darkest of days (vv. 4–5) because of His goodness and love (v. 6). We invite you to join the rest of the youth group and, as a family, commit all of Psalm 23 to memory.

Practice hospitality. Invite your child's leader over for a meal in the course of the next two months. Not only is this a great chance to practice hospitality (Romans 12:13), it will also help to build the leader's relationship with your child. See that leader as your ally in raising your child to love Jesus, and look for ways to encourage and invest in him.

Replay the message. Challenge your child to come home each week from youth group and teach the rest of the family what he learned. Have him open to the psalm, read it, and give a short explanation of what it teaches and what it means for his life. Be quick to encourage and slow to criticize!

WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT TIME

GOD IS WORTHY: Psalm 33

Over the next several weeks, your child will see how the writers of each of the psalms bring their worship to God in the midst of uncertainty, sin, heartbreak, anger, thanksgiving and praise. Worship is not merely singing for an hour on Sundays. It's the natural outflow of our hearts and minds when we see God's true worthiness. Through studying Psalm 33 (*Fire Bible: Student Edition*, pages 708–709), we'll discover how the all-powerful, all-

knowing God of the universe is intimately involved in each of our hearts, caring about our feelings and the mundane details of our lives. He alone has provided salvation for us. As we continue to lean into who He is and what He has done, inviting him further into our lives, our worship will take on depth, and His Spirit will transform our hearts.

CONNECT AS A FAMILY: SHARE & ASK

Faith flourishes in the context of healthy and intentional relationships. Start by sharing your life and then asking your child about his. Without judgment, model honesty and let him know you want to hear what's going on in his life.

Share: Sometimes we move too fast. Between jobs, school, and extracurricular activities, we can fail to pause and give thanks to God. Gather your family for an intentional meal this week. During the meal, share with each member of your family why you thank God for them.

Ask: At the end of the meal, pray together as a family. Invite family members to share one thing they're thankful for during the prayer. Open the time of prayer, and after each person has given thanks, close by thanking God and asking Him to help your family live out of thankfulness this week.

CONNECT WITH YOUR CHILD'S LEADER

In this section, we we'll provide you with creative ways to inspire, equip, and support the leader who is intentionally pouring into your child, guiding her to a closer relationship with Jesus. Your child's leader should be leading with your encouragement and input.

Ask your child what it is about her leader that she's most thankful. Push beyond the surface and try to hear qualities, stories, and meaningful moments she has shared with her leader. Share those experiences and qualities with your child's leader face-to-face as a way of letting them know how thankful you are for investing in the life of your child.

FAMILY FOCUS VERSES

During this series, we challenge your family to commit Psalm 23 to memory. Consider how your family will celebrate learning an entire psalm together.

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalm 23:1–6)

WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT TIME

GOD IS WORTHY of Our Thanksgiving: Psalm 116

The Psalms are a model for authentic worship. Psalm 116 (**Fire Bible: Student Edition*, page 770) shows us how we can give thanks as we engage with the living, rescuing, holy, and gracious God revealed in the story of Scripture. The psalms of thanksgiving show what it looks like to give thanks in a way that helps us to live the reality of what God has done in our lives. Giving thanks is the way we learn (and show others) that God is involved in our world and in our lives. When we fail to thank God, we miss an opportunity to worship Him. In the thanksgiving psalms, the psalmist gives thanks that God has heard his prayer and acted. Sometimes God's response isn't immediate or even what we specifically asked. Only one thing is certain: however long it took, it was undoubtedly God who answered in accordance with His character and will. God is worthy of our thankfulness.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS often have a hard time with the posture of gratitude. They're developmentally somewhere between being children, with parents taking care of most of their needs, to being young adults with increasing amounts of responsibility. They may feel the good things they have are deserved. Often, it isn't until something of theirs is lost that they truly appreciate its worth. Modeling an attitude of thankfulness, not just for mind-blowing gifts, but for the simple day-to-day blessings we often take for granted, can craft a spirit of gratitude within them.

BLESSING

A blessing can be a spoken prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words of encouragement and guidance over your child. For more information about blessing your child, see the Blessing section in HomeFront Magazine: A Spiritual Parenting Resource (www.HomeFrontMag.com).

(Child's name), may you understand the greatness of God. He is worthy of our worship. May you find freedom to bring everything in your life to Him. He cares deeply for you.

Parents!

We are super excited about how many of your students have started coming to YTH 678!

There is an exciting opportunity that we would like to available to you, the parents! Every Sunday we are hoping to provide breakfast items for the students to enjoy.

If you are interested in helping meet this need, please contact Stephanie Gho by text at 907-687-5511 or email: ghohome.ak@gmail.com. Thank you for your consideration!

Pastor Andrew