



*by Kristi  
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Youth Director*

**YOP MISSION: The goal of our student ministry is to reveal the truth to teenagers about God's love, equip them to have a Christ-like wisdom and offer themselves in service, in order to magnify God's holy name.**

2015 Summer fun begins---school is out!

I'm so pleased with our youth kids. It has been a great 2014-2015 year. They have such hearts of gold and are willing to help whenever needed. We are in contact with Steve Oakman as to when and how we can help with the Deshler flood cleanup. Our prayers go out especially to our youth kids, Anthony and Ethan. What troopers they are....making the best of their situations. God is with them!

We missed our last youth night and lock-in because of the storm. We will be having a bonfire at the Duensing farm, but not until July sometime. The kids are so busy in June with the band and Europe trips. May God be with you and give you safe travels, lots of learning experiences and of course.....FUN! What memories you will make!

As I wondered about what to write in these newsletters, God always has a way of giving me clues! So, yesterday when I was listening to a "10 Commandments" commentary on the radio, I thought it would be a good subject to review and think about. Exodus 20:1-2 says:

1. "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me."
2. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

When we think of idols, we think of the golden calf or similar images. But really, what are the idols in our lives today? Wow, when I re-read these 2 verses, thoughts came rushing through; how much I am letting Jesus down by not spending more time with him instead of my "earthly idols"? More emphasis should be put on God than ANY other earthly idol. Many things can become our idols; perhaps our self image, music, movies, videos, family and grandkids. What about how we spend our money? Idols come in many forms and we need to be aware of how Jesus wants us to handle them. I love the saying that was so popular years ago "What would Jesus do?". It puts everything back into perspective. By looking forward to what God has planned for us rather than our idols of "stuff" (that we think makes us happy) our lives can be changed. God loves us so much that we cannot even comprehend it. His ten commandments are proof. He wants the VERY BEST for us. We are so blessed.

Blessed to be a blessing!

Kristi Duensing, Youth Leader

