



# DON'T FALL FOR IT

Throughout my experience, I have encountered children displaying behavioral issues, anger, and disrespect. They have spoken negatively about me when disciplined, and shown defiance. In these situations, it is crucial for me to maintain a Kingdom mindset. While the temptation may arise to react in anger, it is essential to address the underlying issues with compassion. By establishing consistency and trust, the children feel comfortable expressing their emotions, and I always reassure them of my unconditional love. A touching moment is when, as I drop them off at home, they eagerly want to share something important, revealing concerns that require our prayers.

**Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15**

Witnessing fights and outbursts of anger often reveals deep-seated pain and fear disguised by a tough exterior. Despite their tough facades, these children possess tender hearts that yearn for understanding. It saddens me to see the aftermath of their emotional turmoil and the hidden tears they shed. Unresolved emotions can have lasting impacts if not addressed promptly, which most of us have experienced sometime in our lives.

Imagine if people shunned you for your mistakes or emotional outbursts; we would all be abandoned, as we are all flawed. Just as Jesus never gives up on us, we should extend the same grace to others. Next time you encounter someone with a tough front, remember Jesus died for them too and there is hidden hurt that only love can mend. Praise God that we have a model to follow...JESUS!

**For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? Matthew 5:46**

Shift your mindset... What would Jesus do? - Andrea Jones

*Our mission is to empower young people to embrace their God-given potential and fulfill their divine calling. We are passionate about helping them discover their identity in Christ and realize the greatness that lies within them. This is achieved through fostering relationships and guiding them to understand the heart of Christ.*



**MATTHEW 18:10**

..... ❖ .....

### OUR TEAM

**Board of Advisors:**

- Bryan Jones (President)
- Bryan Ponsell (Vice President)
- Alexi Markou (Evangelism)
- Mandy Brakefield (Evangelism)
- Kassie Ponsell
- Debbie Gaines
- Ainsley Markou
- Andrea Greer Jones (Founder)

**PRAYER WARRIORS**

- Stephanie Jones
- Nicki Adams
- Laura Fields
- Mickie Jones

# HIGHLIGHTS

- During our June outreach, we discussed the emotions of being neglected by the person we care about the most, drawing a parallel to how Jesus might feel when we neglect spending time with Him. Additionally, we explored the concept of "wearing masks" to hide emotional pain. We provided prayer support for those in need.
- We organized friendly competitions between girls and boys, along with a craft contest.
- Summer has been filled with exciting outings! The two girls who attended summer camp had a fantastic time and are eager to return.
- Our SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE began on July 1 and will run until August 30. Your assistance in providing school supplies for children in need is greatly appreciated. Visit [nelayouth.org](http://nelayouth.org) to view our Amazon wishlist.



# AUGUST DEVO

In Matthew 13:24-30, the plant mentioned is identified as the darnel seed, resembling wheat in its early stages but later revealing itself as a weed that can choke the wheat. Just as wheat bows as it matures, we too, when we grow spiritually and understand God's heart, will bow before Him.

Jesus referred to the church as the Kingdom of Heaven. The genuine believers are represented by the good seed, but among them are false believers, the children of the devil. It can be challenging to distinguish between the two, as true believers may exhibit ungodly behavior and false believers may appear devout. However, it is not our role to separate them, as only God knows the true intentions of the heart.

Jesus himself acknowledged that one of his chosen disciples, Judas, was a devil (Jn 6:70-71). Despite being among the twelve, Judas' true nature was only revealed at the end. The coexistence of non-believers with believers should not be unexpected.

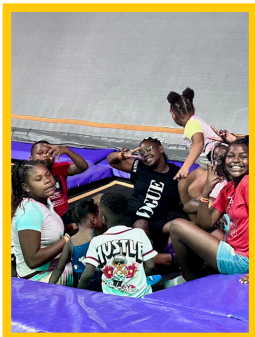
A day will come when the Lord will separate the righteous from the wicked. At the end of time, His angels will make this division. The good seed will shine in the Father's Kingdom, while the bad seed will face judgment.

## PRAYER:

Dear Lord, You are a loving Father! I repent for any impure things I have watched, heard, or spoken. I declare in Jesus' name that anything not of You shall be removed. Purge me of unfruitful aspects and cleanse my heart and mind according to Your ways. Fill me anew with Your abundant love, overflowing to those around me. In the powerful name of Jesus!

Excerpt from "No Middle Ground" by FaithBW.com.

## HAPPY AUG BIRTHDAY Jeremiah, Minyah & JaNiyah



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- PRAYER FOR THE KIDS
- Pizza (10-12) donation for our 1st Sat. outreach
- Financial donations

## NELAYOUTH.ORG



NELA YOUTH, INC, PO Box 3095, West Monroe, LA 71294  
318.267.8221 [nelayouth@gmail.com](mailto:nelayouth@gmail.com)