

MATTHEW 18:10



April 2025



MINDSET OF NEGLECT

This past month brought unexpected challenges, reminding us of the fragility of life and the power of perception. After being away due to medical issues for a week, I learned that the kids thought I had chosen not to come for them. Their quickness to assume neglect struck me deeply, highlighting the wounds many carry from experiences of abandonment. It's a heart-wrenching reminder of how easily our minds can spiral into feelings of unworthiness when we have faced neglect.

In these moments, we must remember the profound truth of our identity in Christ. We are not merely followers; we are intricately woven into the fabric of His love as His body and His bride. This connection is not just a title but a testament to our worth and belonging. The God of the universe desires to claim us as His own, and we are His precious inheritance.

In John 17, Jesus shares His heart in a powerful way, praying not for the world but for us—those given to Him by the Father. **"I am praying for them... for they are yours"** (John 17:9). This declaration speaks volumes about our value in His eyes. We are not lost in the crowd; we are cherished individuals, treasured by Christ.

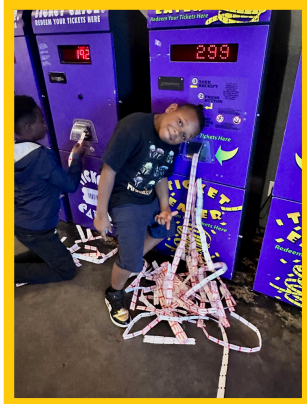
Furthermore, Jesus reassures us of His commitment: **"While I was with them, I kept them in your name... and none of them has been lost"** (John 17:12). This promise serves as a reminder that we are safeguarded by His love. Just as a bride and groom are united in a sacred covenant, we are eternally bound to Christ, who cannot bear to be apart from us.

As we navigate our own struggles and the struggles of those around us, let us lean into the truth of our belonging. In moments of doubt, let us run into the Father's arms, remembering that we are never alone. Embrace your identity as His beloved, and encourage others to see the worth they hold in Christ. For in understanding our connection to Him, we can begin to heal the wounds of neglect and foster a community rooted in love and acceptance.

All for His glory!! Andrea G. Jones

HIGHLIGHTS

- In March, we gave out awards for the Fruit Rewards Program. Congrats to Fatman, George, Dekedia, Minyah, Caiden and Dmo. We celebrated our outing at Excalibur and had a blast! We also gave our awards to those who have been exceptional in behavior and kindness. Congrats to Jinyah, Willow, Dad, Malaysia, McKenzie B, McKenzie S, Caiden, Jaylen & Messiah. After awards we talked about the Woman at the Well and how God will use the most unlikely.
- Congrats to our Spring scholarships: Boxing - Fatman, George, Dmo & Caiden. Soccer - Jaylen
- We received a grant for \$500 of promo items for the kids. We are excited to receive sling bags for the kids to use on our outings!



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY McKenzie & Nahla



PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Your Spirit that enables us to bear fruit in our lives. Help us to remember that the fruit we produce is not for our own consumption but is meant to bless others. Give us the wisdom and courage to disciple those around us, sharing the love and knowledge we have received from You. May our lives reflect Your glory and draw others closer to You. Amen.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- PRAYER FOR THE KIDS
- Volunteer at our monthly outreach meetings
- Pizza (10-12) donation for our 1st Sat. outreach
- Snack size chips & drinks for outings
- Financial donations
- NELA YOUTH BIGGEST NEED: 15 passenger van to transport kids

Our mission is to inspire young individuals to recognize and embrace their God-given potential while fulfilling their divine purpose. We are dedicated to helping them uncover their identity in Christ and tap into the greatness within themselves. This is accomplished through building meaningful relationships and guiding them to understand the essence of Christ's heart.

NELAYOUTH.ORG



NELA YOUTH, INC, PO Box 3095, West Monroe, LA 71294
318.267.8221 nelayouth@gmail.com