

A Parents' Guide to Youth Lectures

"Mom and dad, I've got to go Dallas. Everybody is going to Youth Lectures and I want go too!"

"Dallas!?! YOUTH LECTURES? What is that?"

At this time of year this scenario is repeated in homes all over Texas and surrounding states. Every year the Westside church of Christ's Youth Lectures attract more and more young people (and families) with the result that more and more kids hear about what a great event it is. Unfortunately, sometimes parents are not quite as "filled in" about the Lectures and may even be reluctant to let their children attend. That is why we created this **Parent's Guide to Youth Lectures!**

Youth Lectures? What is it?

The easiest way to describe Lectures is as a weekend Gospel meeting. It is no different from most Friday-Saturday-Sunday meetings that congregations have all the time, except that we have two speakers on Friday and two speakers on Saturday.

That means that Youth Lectures is a biblically authorized effort on the part of the Westside church of Christ to proclaim the Gospel in accord with Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Thessalonians 1:8 and a host of other verses that command the church to preach and teach God's Word.

Our schedule for the weekend is simple. On Friday night there will be a half hour of singing beginning at 7:00 p.m., followed by preaching on that year's Lecture theme at 7:30 p.m. Our second preacher will begin his lesson right after the first speaker, at approximately 8:15 p.m.

On Saturday afternoon we will have the same kind of service: a half hour of singing and then two sermons. We do have an period of singing for any who wish to remain after that afternoon service. Since services begin at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday that means those who stay for the singing get out around 4:15-4:30 p.m.

On Sunday morning we will finish Lectures with a sermon during our 9:00 a.m. worship hour, and then have special Bible class opportunities for all ages (with guest speakers for our junior high, high school and college students), and then our preacher, Mark Roberts, will preach during the 10:40 worship hour. That service concludes the Lectures and is usually over by noon.

In less than three days your child (and you too, if you come) will sing for almost three hours and hear more than six hours of Gospel preaching! It is an incredible weekend because it packs so much spiritual edification, worship and Bible study into a short time.

Is this some sort of social gospel event with fun and games?

Absolutely not. The Westside church takes a very strong stand against liberalism regarding the

church's God-given work. We do not believe it is the function of the New Testament church to provide social and recreational opportunities for young people and we have no intention of ever doing that kind of thing. Youth Lectures is about building up people in the Word of God as Paul commanded in Acts 20:32.

With that said, some of the kids will arrange *on their own* to visit and socialize before and after services at various restaurants and in homes. That is, of course, their prerogative and is something that can and should be done by *individual Christians*. But again, the point of Lectures is to help young people learn from God's Word. It is not a church sponsored social by any stretch of the imagination. It is a Gospel meeting that targets its teaching to young people, but that is so structured so that any and all who love the Lord and His Word can and will benefit.

Sounds like a great weekend. Can parents come?

Absolutely! We would love for you to attend. Many, many parents, and even Christians without kids in the audience, will come to worship and hear powerful preaching. Please come along!

Where do the kids who come from out of town stay?

Most kids stay with friends in private homes. Some elect to stay in hotels. If you do not know anyone to stay with and need housing we have several families here who would be glad to house you and your family. **Please let us know well in advance, however, so that we can make proper arrangements.**

If you wish to stay in a hotel the Hawthorne Suites is the hotel located directly across the street from the church building. Their address is 2323 Imperial Drive in Irving. Their phone number is (972) 257-5400 Often they offer a special rate for Youth Lectures so you might ask for the "Westside rate" when you make reservations. Other close hotels include the Hampton Inn, Amerisuites, LaQuinta Inn and Holiday Inn. If you are looking on the Internet for reservations look for hotels on the **south** end of DFW Airport in Irving that are close to Beltline or Esters Road on Hwy 183 (the Airport Freeway).

Where is the Westside church of Christ located?

We are right in the heart of the DFW Metroplex, in Irving. The building is right off the main artery, Highway 183. See our website or the flyer for a more detailed map.

Who should I contact for more information?

Check our website, www.justChristians.com, for more information or call the building at 972-986-9131.

We hope that you will seriously consider allowing your child to attend the Lectures, and even coming along yourself, perhaps with a group of kids. Be assured that it is a wonderful weekend that is one of the highlights of the year for young people all over Texas. Come and see!