

GEM MONTHLY

FEBRUARY 2017 EDITION

“And she said, I will surely go with you.”

Judges 4:9



WOMEN OF FAITH

Throughout the month of January, we have continued in our *Imago Dei* series, and have learned about two particular women in the bible: Deborah and Ruth. Being a girl myself, when pastor Josh first mentioned our new sub-series, I immediately thought, “*finally*”. Up until this point, women were usually portrayed as obedient wives, sinful prostitutes, or just not mentioned at all, so it was understandably really exciting.

Between Deborah and Ruth, it was Deborah’s story of her trust in God that left a big impact on me.

Deborah’s life story is so short – the only account is in Judges chapter 4 – yet the amount of confidence and trust that Deborah has in the LORD challenges me to also live a life that models her example.

Deborah trusted in God’s sovereignty, which pastor Josh explained as “God’s all-encompassing rule over everything”. Now sovereignty is a big word that I would occasionally hear, but could never really wrap my head around. How is God *actually* in charge of everything, when the world seems like such a mess?

As another month comes to an end, I am another month closer to graduating from high school, but in the midst of my excitement, a small part of me is scared of how greatly my life will be changed come September. January was so busy for me in terms of school and applications, and in the chaos of my life, it has been hard to sit still and be reminded of God’s sovereign presence.

Trusting in God is so hard in my everyday life, but it’s hard because it’s worth it and I believe that it’s our trust in God that eventually leads to our commitment and depend-

ency on Him, and Him alone.

I hope that the rest of our youth is also encouraged by these stories of women of faith just as I am, and I look forward to the other women we will be meeting in the weeks to come.

Esther Kim, grade 12

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JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

GRADE 10s OUTING

On January 7th, the grade 10s went ice skating and enjoyed a pizza lunch together for their winter outing.



PRAISE & WORSHIP NIGHT

Students of Grace Youth joined together on Friday, January 13th for a night of praise and prayer. They focused on praying through these areas: (1) what God taught them in 2016, (2) how they plan to spend more time with God in 2017, and (3) interceding for their friends, family, and many other people in their lives.

Join us again on Friday, February 10th! It will be happening regularly once a month.

MISSIONS FEST 2017

Students were encouraged to attend the Missions Fest Youth Rally with their small groups on Saturday, January 28th at Canada Place. They began the night with worship and heard from speakers William Graham and Brian McConaghy on the topic of "Justice and the Gospel".



JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D

MISSIONS FEST CONT'D

We asked a few students regarding their experience at this year's Missions Fest. Here are some of their responses:

"One of the speakers said that 'God's antidote is generosity; it is the cure for greed and selfishness'. That phrase sort of woke me up because it reminded me that we live in a society where it's all about ourselves. It gave me a reminder to be more aware of the people around me and to serve them with a purposeful, intentional heart to serve God and his children."

- Jocelyn Kim, grade 10

"It was a really cool experience, getting to see people from all over BC gathering to worship together."

- Josh Kwok, grade 10

"What stood out to me the most from William Graham's message was when he said, 'the church isn't perfect because we're in it'. Often times, I feel like the church is one of the places where division and brokenness is so evident. I think people have a preconceived notion that the church is supposed to be a perfect place, but the irony is, we are actually the ones who are preventing this from happening. I also really enjoyed looking at the booths and the many ways that God is using His people, just in Vancouver alone, to serve."

- Lydia Yoon, grade 12



"This year's Missions Fest was exciting. We worshipped with Jon Neufeld and his band. He shared about his experience with children suffering from poverty, and that touched my heart as he described them as if they were his own children. We also heard from Brian McConaghy who shared about his encounters with victims of human trafficking. He reminded us that even though we are full of sin and unworthy of God's love, He always loves us, cares for us, and uses us. Lastly, William Graham shared about Hannah in 1 Samuel. Despite being mistreated by her husband's second wife, Hannah went to God and gave her life to Him and in so doing God granted her a son. Through this we learn that God brings us justice when we turn to him first."

- Jessica So, grade 12



UPCOMING EVENTS for FEBRUARY

Friday, **Feb 10th**: Praise and Worship Night

Friday, **Feb 17th** : Beloved: Brothers & Sisters Appreciation Night

Please note that there is **no Friday Youth Night** on Friday, **Feb 24th**.

Please note that these scheduled events are subject to change. Be sure to keep up with the latest updates on Sundays or on our website!

WALKING MORE CLOSELY WITH GOD

In the month of January, students spent most of their time together sharing about their past year and about how they can walk more closely with God this year. They studied about Jesus' own walk with the Father, learning that becoming more like Jesus will help them to walk more closely with God in their own lives.

Below is an excerpt of what they studied together on Friday Youth Night.



Jesus' Humanity

We must remember that Jesus, although fully God, humbled himself and became like us: a human being.

Read the following verses and write down how Jesus was human just like us.

- Luke 2:7 _____
- John 4:6 _____
- John 19:28 _____
- Luke 2:52 _____
- Hebrews 5:7 _____
- Matthew 26:38 _____
- Luke 23:46 _____

What does Hebrews 4:15 say about Jesus? How was he *not* like us?



Stop Trying Harder, and Learn to Live Wiser

Many of us find ourselves trying very hard to live the life that Jesus teaches us to live. But rather than **trying harder**, what is really required of us is to **live wisely** according to God's wisdom. James tells us that this godly wisdom is "first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere." (James 3:17)

In order to grow through God's wisdom, we must examine the condition of our heart because our heart is the "wellspring of life" (Proverbs 4:23) - everything we do flows from our hearts.

So then, what are some areas in your own life that you need to arrange or re-arrange in order to live by God's wisdom and walk more closely with Him?

GRACE YOUTH IS ONLINE

Grace Youth newly launched a public website, accessible to anyone who would like to see Grace Youth's latest updates.

gccyouth.weebly.com

We encourage you to introduce this site to friends and visitors who are not able to access the content on the "GEM Youth - 520 Generation" and "GCC CLAY" Facebook page (which are only visible to members of the group).

If you would like to receive a copy of the monthly newsletter by email, visit the Monthly Newsletter page on gccyouth.weebly.com and submit your email address to subscribe.