

# GEM MONTHLY

NOVEMBER 2016 EDITION

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."*

*Genesis 1:26 - 27*



## IMAGO DEI

A few months ago I went to visit my home town, Las Vegas. And whenever somebody from the Full Gospel Las Vegas church sees me, they say that I'm a lot like my dad. Why? Because I'm his son. My fiancé even told me,

"A lot of people kept mentioning how much you're like your dad. Though he's not with us right now, I'm so glad that I can get to know him more and more through you. You really reflect his image and his character a lot."

This, I believe, is what it means to be made in the image of God.

If you read Genesis 1:26-28, there is a particular characteristic that God put on mankind as He made them in His

image. That characteristic is "responsibility".

God's nature is shown through His responsibility in His relationship with His creation as our Creator. In the same way, since we are made in the image of God, we must be responsible in caring for the people and the things that we have a relationship with. In other words,

- We must take *responsibility* in our relationship to the Earth and everyone in it.

However, there is a problem with being made in the image and likeness of God: we think that we can choose what or who we want to be responsible for.

The serpent tempted Adam

and Eve into thinking that they can become the god of their own lives. This led them to forget that they were created in the image of God and disregard their responsibility to take care of the earth and one another. This temptation is still relevant to us today.

We must remember we are only made in the *image* and *likeness* of God; we can be god-like, but we will never be a god. For example, no matter how hard I try to be like my dad, I will never be him; he is who he is, and I am who I am. In the same way, God is God, and we are His creation.

- We're made to be *like* God, not to become the god of our own lives.

In order for us to grow in the

likeness of God, we, as Christians, must strive to be like Christ because "He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15).

We are constantly being broken down by the sin and the temptation in our lives to be our own god. The good news is, in Christ, God is constantly working in us to build us back up into His image and likeness.

- Pastor Josh Kim

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# OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

## BAPTISM SUNDAY

Catherine Shin (gr. 12), Angela Jang (gr. 12), Lydia Yoon (gr. 12) and Kaylee Kim (gr. 11) got baptized on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 9th. Congratulations!

*"I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."  
Galatians 2:20*



## WHY A CACTUS?

In GEM Youth, students who are baptized are gifted a cactus. Cacti normally live in environments that are prone to drought, so its roots adapt to conserve water in order to withstand the drought. The cactus, therefore, is a reminder of **resilience** because even in the driest seasons of the year, it remains firmly grounded and continues to grow and thrive. In the same way, students are reminded to stay rooted in Truth and remain filled with the Spirit so that they can endure even through the driest season of their spiritual journey.

*"Count it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness."*

*James 1:2 - 3*





# OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D



## FALL FESTIVAL

On Friday, October 28th, GEM & CLAY youth brothers and sisters enjoyed a night of fellowship with one another through games and activities. The theme this year was "Fall Harvest".



## UPCOMING EVENTS for NOVEMBER

Friday, **Nov 4th** : GCC Praise Celebration

Friday, **Nov 18th** : Friday Youth Night

Friday, **Nov 11th** : Missions Night with ABLE

Friday, **Nov 25th** : Friday Youth Night | Choir Rehearsal

*Please note that these scheduled events are subject to change. Be sure to keep up with the latest updates on Sundays or on the "GEM Youth—520 Generation" facebook page!*

## IT'S A NEW SEASON

During our Friday Youth Nights, we spent some time reflecting on our past few months and also thinking about the months to come. We asked some of the students to share with us some of the things that God has been speaking into their lives so far.

### Q. How did God lead you through the summer season?

Through the summer retreat, He was trying to teach me things through Steve [the guest speaker]. I feel that God was trying to get me to understand that He has plans for me.

- Jeremy Yoon, Grade 8

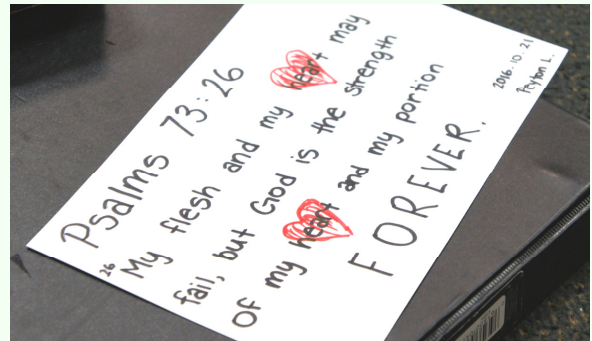
He led me through the summer season by the retreat. I think the passion from the retreat sparked my fire to take my faith seriously.

- Joseph Lee, grade 11

He taught me to dig deeper for Him and get more involved in the church. I feel this way because I think my walk with God was become stronger over the summer.

- Grade 11 student

### Q. What Bible verse does God want you to focus on this year?



*"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."*

**Psalm 73:26**

I chose this verse because I have been experiencing grief in the past few months, and it reminds me that God will always strengthen me even when I am going through difficult times.

- Peyton Lee, grade 9

### Q. What is your greatest goal for this year...

#### ... spiritually?

Knowing my gift and showing Christ to others.

#### ... relationally?

To have a better relationship with my brothers, because we don't really get along.

- Grade 7 student



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