

APRIL 2020

GRACE MONTHLY

*"As for me, I call to God, and the Lord saves me.
Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice."*

Psalms 55:16-17



An Unexpected Blessing

by Yireh Park

March came with a lot of unexpected hardships and changes for Grace Youth, our families and the whole world. I'm sure I don't have to explain why and I'm sure you're all tired of hearing about it. Social distancing and quarantining has been difficult for many of us as we have no clue how to pass time without our friends, extra-curriculars or school work to keep us busy and entertained. When Friday Youth Nights got cancelled, I found myself spending my Fridays binge-watching shows and scrolling through Instagram until dark. Sitting in my living room, watching our Sunday Service through a computer screen with my family was honestly just super awkward and soon, in a matter of days, I seemed to drift farther and farther away from God.

Before the pandemic, one of the biggest excuses I made for myself for not spending time with God was my lack of time. I didn't have the time to read a passage in the Bible or say a quick prayer before going to bed, but apparently had lots of room in my 'tight' schedule to watch Youtube videos until 3 in the morning. The excuse of having 'no time' obviously doesn't work anymore and never did.

This past month and in the month to come, we've been blessed with the time that we constantly complained of not having enough of. Spend this time reconnecting with God and working to rekindle the faith that may have been burning out. Read the Bible, start a prayer journal, or have a worship session with your siblings or on your own. Memorize your favourite verses or maybe go paint a portrait of Jesus. And as Grace Youth we are blessed to bless, so with the time we've been blessed with, let's also remember to bless others by praying for the health care workers, teachers, grocery store workers, victims and for the families of those that have passed.

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MARCH HIGHLIGHTS



ONLINE SUNDAY WORSHIP

For the first time ever, due to a global pandemic, we have been restricted from gathering at church together for corporate worship. All Sunday services have transitioned online since Sunday, March 15th. Through this season, we are reminded that our worship is not limited to what we do in a church building - we are meant to live a lifestyle of worship. So let us exercise our faith in our daily lives, fill our homes with praise,

and be grateful that we have the means to still worship together via live stream!

Stream Sunday services LIVE at
www.gracehanin.com/livetv

8:00 AM – Korean
10:00 AM – Bilingual
12:00 PM – Bilingual

Praise & Prayer

- **Praise** God for the technology! There are so many means available to help people remain connected during this COVID19 pandemic. Though we deeply miss interacting with our friends and loved ones in person, we can be grateful that there are ways to keep in touch with each other and endure this season together.
- **Pray** for the pastors and staff at GCC who are making various adjustments to their weekly programs to accommodate for a prolonged stay-home mandate. **Pray** that God would grant them creativity and wisdom for how to help children, students, and adults remain actively engaged with, and growing in, their faith life.
- **Praise** God for the opportunity to worship each week in our homes! **Pray** that each home will become a holy sanctuary, and that families will greatly cherish these times together.
- **Pray** for the people who may be suffering from loneliness. **Pray** that God will grant them peace that transcends all understanding, and that He will move people's hearts to reach out to these individuals to share words of encouragement.
- The number of positive cases of COVID19 are still increasing. **Pray** for quick recovery for those who have been affected, as well as for the safety of the healthcare workers and other caregivers who are exposed to them daily.

a reason to rejoice

Right now, we are living through a very rare life experience. COVID-19 has impacted our personal lives in ways that we probably thought would never happen to us. And because of everything that is going on, everyone is feeling a lot of different emotions. But the most common emotion that I believe is being felt during this crazy time is “uncertainty.”

Students are uncertain of what the rest of the school year is going to look like. Some were told that their current grade might be their final grade for the academic year (Certain students are probably happy about this, but I’m sure there are others who are freaking out about it. I would too!).

Uncertainty is an unwelcomed feeling. We don’t like the feeling

of not having control over our lives. This is why we saw so many people buying so much toilet paper! No one knew why they were buying it. But in an article in Time magazine, a psychologist referred to this “toilet hoarding” phenomenon as a primal need. People were buying it, because having it makes us feel like we’re in some sort of control, which brings us comfort.

But a time will come when things that happen to us will remind us that we are not in total control over our lives. There are things that we do not have any control over, and COVID-19 is a good example. In the bigger scope of things, we need something more certain and stable than just toilet paper or other basic human necessities.

We need something that will help us face our fears and not be overcome by them. We need something that will strengthen us to keep moving forward when we begin to feel tired or worn out. We need something that will keep our spirits grounded when the world around us seems to be falling apart. And the good news is, God gave us something that can never be thwarted or broken apart by the disasters that roam our world.

God gave us His “perfect, right, pure, true, precious, sweet and everlasting” Word! While everything else tends to fade over time, God promises us that



His Word will never pass away (Isaiah 40:8, Matt. 24:35). In a time of uncertainty, God promises to revive us with His Word. He also promises to give us a reason to rejoice. Even in times of suffering! A Christian can always smile when facing adversity, because when they remember God’s Word, they remember His promise: “So do not fear, for I am with you... I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10).

“In a time of uncertainty, God promises to revive us with His Word.”

This is why David proclaims in this psalm, that there is nothing more precious in this world than the Word of the Lord. I pray that we will learn to cherish God’s Word in the same way, as we do our best to show the world what it means to live in the love, joy, peace and hope of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Josh Kim

*The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple;*

*the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes;*

*the fear of the Lord is clean,
enduring forever;
the rules of the Lord are true,
and righteous altogether.*

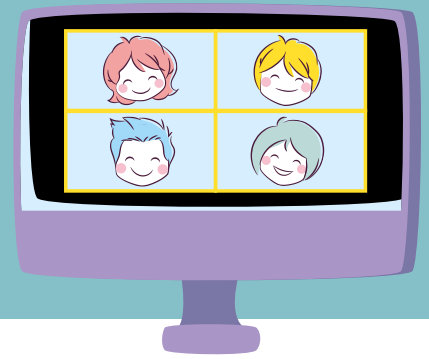
*More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.*

*Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.*

Psalm 19:7-11

YOUTH GROUP

ONLINE



Unique times call for unique measures!

During the time that we are unable to meet up physically, our desire is that you will continue to **grow** spiritually, **gather** with your small groups, and **glorify** God in your life. Grace Youth is providing various Bible study material and the space online for fellowship to help you remain engaged with your faith life and connected with the church community. Until we meet again... see you online!

DEVOTIONALS

1

Even after the Lent season, we will continue to post weekly devotionals for you to read and meditate on. Follow @gccyouth on Instagram to keep up with these!

SERMONS

2

Pastors Phil and Josh will be sharing a message with us each week via video. They will be posted weekly in the respective Facebook groups.

SMALL GROUPS

3

GEM Youth small groups will be meeting every Friday @ 7:00pm. CLAY Youth small groups will be meeting at varying times. Ask your small group leaders for the details!

HANGOUTS

4

CLAY Youth will be hosting a board game night every Tuesday @ 7:30pm. Joining instructions are posted in CLAY Youth's Facebook group.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL

Various meetups will be happening online at different times throughout the month.

Make sure to keep up with our latest updates on our website, Instagram, or Facebook!