

DECEMBER 2019

# GRACE MONTHLY

*"You search out my path and laying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it all together."*

*Psalm 139:3*



## The Stem that Upholds the Plant

by Amy Nam

When I got baptized this fall, I received a succulent as a gift from GEM Youth. Being honest, I was not consistent with keeping my succulent hydrated at all. The first few weeks were right-on, but after a while, watering the plant was the last thing on my mind, because I would be too tired and weary from my school and social life.

One day, I woke up and it suddenly occurred to me that I needed to water my plant right away, or, it was going to be too late. When I picked it up, all I saw at first was the yellow, shriveled, crisp petals that had dried up on all the flowers. My heart sank, thinking that I was too late to save it. Then I saw it as a whole; the stem that was holding all the petals together had grown almost twice its height since I had first received it, and small green petals have been growing on them, too! It was then that I understood what God had been trying to remind me that week.

In Psalm 139:3, the Living Word says, "You search out my path and laying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it all together." Every Christian will experience dry seasons in their faith. However, that doesn't mean we aren't growing. Our God is active and He knows us deeply; He is intentional in how He works in each of our lives, whether or not we understand how He works. I realize that it is when we become so focused on our difficulties and struggles that God truly shows Himself to us; even though our leaves are becoming dry, God reminds us of the Holy Spirit in us, who is like the stem that is deeply rooted in the soil and doesn't cease to grow.

So I encourage you to grow as followers of Christ, looking past your dry, shriveled leaves to see the deep-rooted stem that continues to help you grow. Then, I believe that you will come to see an everlasting hope arise in your life!

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# NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



## NEWCOMERS EVENT

On Friday, November 1 the GEM Youth Care discipleship students hosted a Newcomers Event for students who joined GEM since the summer. It was an opportunity for newcomers to connect with a group of peers, and learn more about Grace Youth and how to get involved. Welcome, and thanks for joining us!

## GEM OLYMPICS

The grades 7-9 leaders of GEM Youth prepared a fun evening for the grades 7-9 students on Friday, November 22nd. Themed, "GEM Olympics", 6 teams competed for the ranks through many rounds of assorted mini games. Teams sent their best representatives to compete in each mini game, which ranged from using their taste buds to their minds, as well as testing their luck.

Read on to find out what some of these students were competing in!

## FAITH BEYOND...

CLAY Youth held an overnight retreat from November 8-9th, themed "Faith Beyond..." In their time together, they shared a meal, played games, had a time of praise and worship as well as sharing in small groups. Pastor Andy Hong joined them as a guest speaker and shared a message from Hebrews 11:1.

1. *So you love to sit... but how long can you wall sit?*



2. *Sung-jin uses the squinty eyes technique for the staring contest.*



3. *Eunwoo savours the puree to guess its ingredients.*



4. *These boys are the dream team for the onion ring pass!*



5. *Send your smartest players... It's a race to correctly solve two math questions!*





## GRADE 10-12 FRIDAY YOUTH NIGHT

The grade 10-12 students also had their own fellowship night on Friday, November 29th. The students versed each other by grade, playing games such as relay charades. They closed the night with a short time of praise and prayer.



1. Pass the motion down to your last team mate as accurate as possible, so they can guess the word correctly!

2. Are you witty enough to avoid doing the same action as Chris?

3. Strike a pose! Your whole team must strike the same pose to get a point. The first one was great - what happened the second time?



## Praise & Prayer

- **Praise** God for Jesus! As we enter into the Christmas season, **pray** that students will take time to reflect on the true reason for Christmas. We give thanks to God for the love and grace that He poured out unto us by sending His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world!
- **Pray** for the Kaleo outreach project taking place on December 27th. As students do outreach in the community, **pray** for safety as well as for fruitful interactions with the people they encounter.
- **Praise** God for the year 2019! The year is quickly coming to a close, and we look forward to the year 2020. **Praise** God and give Him thanks for blessing us this past year with valuable memories, for helping us persevere through challenges, and for providing all of our needs even before we asked.
- **Pray** for the leaders of Grace Youth, that they will be well rested from their busy year-end activities. **Pray** that they will constantly depend on God for strength and wisdom as they journey alongside the youth students in their Christian faith walk.

# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

**Friday, Dec 6th** NO Friday Youth Night

**Friday, Dec 13th** Christmas Banquet

**Friday, Dec 20th** Christmas Family Worship Night

**Friday, Dec 27th** Kaleo

*Events are subject to change. Make sure to keep up with our latest updates on our **website** or join our **Kakaotalk open chatroom**.*



## Advent

*Remembering Jesus.*

Advent is a season of anticipation. Like the wise men who travelled miles and days to meet baby Jesus, today we journey 40 days leading up to Christmas day to meet that same Jesus, through the stories that are told of Him in the gospels and throughout the Bible. Journey with us in our **daily devotionals** to remember Jesus, our true *hope, peace, joy, and love*.

WEEK 1 : DEC 1-6    Remembering Jesus, our *hope*  
WEEK 2 : DEC 8-13    Remembering Jesus, our *peace*  
WEEK 3 : DEC 15-20    Remembering Jesus, our *joy*  
WEEK 4 : DEC 22-24    Remembering Jesus, our *love*

*To keep up with the daily devotionals and participate in our Advent Instagram challenge, **follow @gccyouth on Instagram.***

*"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the *Messiah*, the Lord."*

Luke 2:10-11

