

DECEMBER 2020

GRACE MONTHLY

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39



Just Sit and Listen

by Ashley Kim

For the past five months, ever since I did summer school, things haven't been going as smoothly or awesome as I thought it would. People around me would say, "Online school is so easy, just cheat!" or, "It's not hard; you're overreacting." Yes, school could be easier online than in real life, and I realize that these days we are able to use technology to do a lot of things digitally rather than in real life; not just school but also entertainment, social life and church life. I think a lot of you can relate with me on this, but sitting in front of a screen all day every day isn't easy. For me, because of everything being online I struggled to pay attention in class and even staying in touch with my friends. And something I had realized not too long ago was that I also had not been "staying in touch" with God.

This is a point in my life that I have been the most disconnected from God. I even reached the point of thinking that He wouldn't love me anymore. Then, one day, someone in my dream said to read Romans 8. One verse that stuck out to me was Romans 8:39: "Nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Honestly, after reading this verse I felt nothing. But a week later the thought of that verse just came in my mind and it was in my head all day. So I decided to just sit with it and listen for God's voice.

On the outside, people can make themselves look like "the perfect Christian" who reads the Bible and prays every day and therefore is always connected to God. But in reality, such a perfect Christian does not exist. The practice of just sitting with God has taught me not to treat reading the Bible or praying as daily tasks that need to be done in order to be a good Christian or for God to love you.

It has been about a month since this has happened and I am still struggling to "keep in touch" with God, but now I actually try to either read a chapter in the Bible or take time to listen to Him even if I don't do it everyday. As we learn to grow and walk with God in each day, God will shake us up from time to time. However, I want you to know that it's good when we get shaken up because it makes us stronger in our faith and leads us to grow closer to God.

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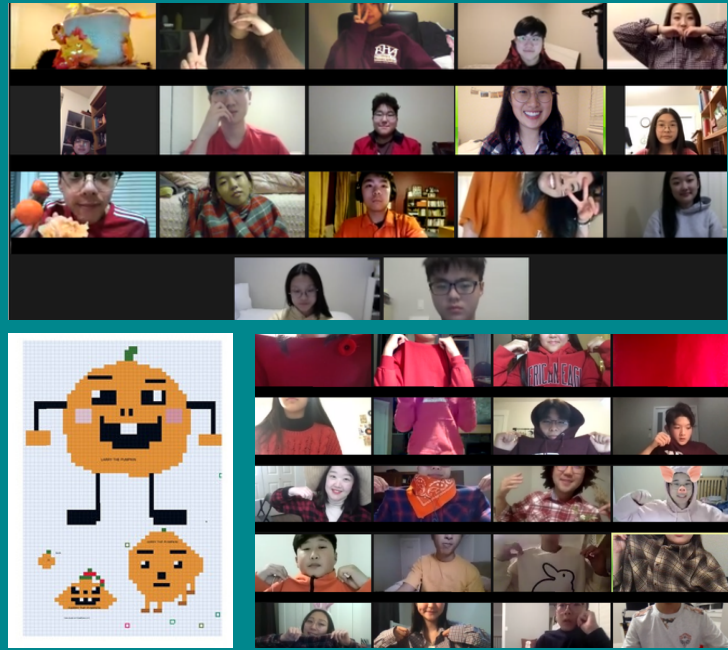
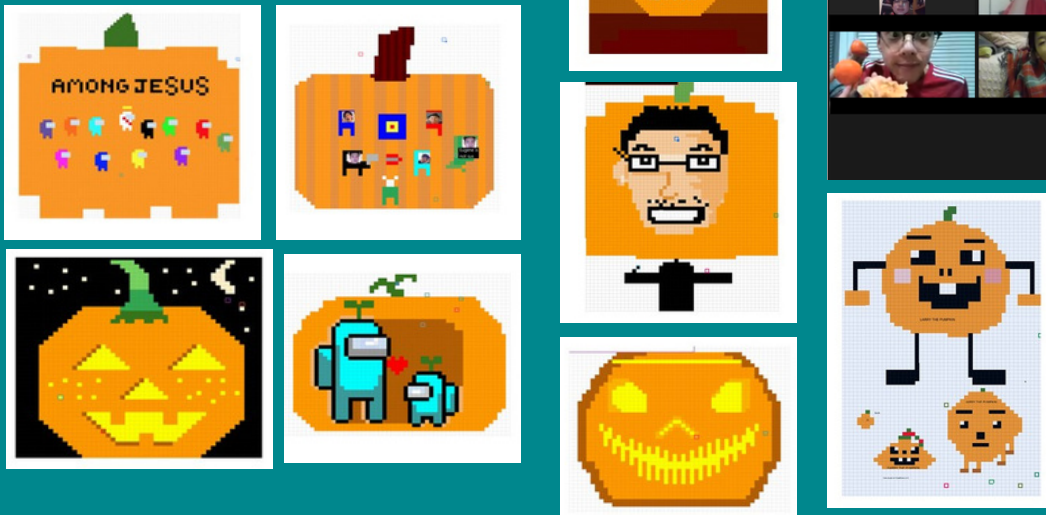
Advent Devotional

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

FALL FARM FUNDAY

On Friday, November 6th, GEM Youth held their Fall Farm Funday event. The grade 7-9 leaders prepared games consisting of a gradient screenshot showing off everyone's fall colours, guessing farm animal sounds and even a virtual pumpkin carving contest. Near the end of the event, there was a jamboard where everyone was able to write an 'attitude of gratitude'. This was a way for GEM students to recognize what little or big things they are grateful for such as our church community, small group leaders, health and even Zoom.

2020 Virtual Pumpkin Carving Contest



CLAY Youth held a special event on Friday, Nov 20th. Through a series of activities and a time of sharing in small groups, they spent some time learning about what it means to be a church.



07 Minwoo choi

Praise & Prayer

- **Praise** God for blessing us with healthcare professionals who, for the past eight months, have been sacrificing their lives and working endlessly to care for the sick. Please **pray** for their safety, and that God will provide their families with His comfort and peace.
- **Pray** that the new Covid-19 restrictions would not discourage us, but instead give us the time to appreciate and build deeper relationships with our families.
- Let us **praise** God for providing us with the basic necessities such as shelter and food. Let us also **pray** for God's provision for those who have limited access to these things, especially as the weather is getting colder.
- As Christmas is nearing, let us **praise** God for sending His Son, Jesus for us. **Pray** that we would remember His continuous blessings, including the overflowing hope, peace, joy, and love that is found in Christ!
- **Pray** that God will help us end the year on a hopeful note - there is always something to be thankful for. As we reflect on the past year of 2020, let's **praise** God for helping us overcome the hardships we experienced this year. Please **pray** that we would continuously seek His presence during our struggles and also **pray** that God will comfort those still experiencing hardships.
- **Praise** God for allowing us to have online worship service, but above all, **pray** for the church. **Pray** that we may have in-person gatherings soon, and let us hope for the future, which is in God's hands, with an eager and passionate heart for fellowship and worship.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

Friday, Dec 4th	(GEM) Friday Youth Night
Friday, Dec 11th	Christmas Event
Sunday, Dec 20th	Christmas Family Worship Service
Tuesday, Dec 29th	Kaleo

Events are subject to change. Make sure to keep up with our latest updates with your small group leader, on our website, Instagram, or Facebook!



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

ADVENT FOCUSING ON JESUS

For this year's Advent we'll be focusing on the hope, peace, love and joy of Christ Jesus. We will take one week to focus on each theme of Advent on our own as well as with our small group. Each week's devotional consists of a passage from the Bible to meditate on, a devotional thought to help us grow a deeper understanding the passage, personal reflection questions to help us personally connect with God's Word, a prayer to give to God, and an Advent activity to engage in with our small group. We hope you find this devotional to be helpful in understanding God's love for you through Jesus Christ, and that it will help deepen your personal walk with God through His Word.

The weekly devotionals will be posted on our Instagram and website.

WEEK 1

HOPE

"OUT OF DARKNESS,
LIGHT!"

PASSAGE: ISAIAH 9:2
NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 5

WEEK 2

PEACE

"PEACE ON EARTH!"

PASSAGE: LUKE 2:14
DECEMBER 6 - DECEMBER 12

WEEK 3

LOVE

"HOW MUCH DOES
JESUS LOVE US?"

PASSAGE: 1 JOHN 4:7-9
DECEMBER 13 - DECEMBER 19

WEEK 4

JOY

"ANTICIPATING THE
GOOD NEWS OF GOD!"

PASSAGE: LUKE 2:11
DECEMBER 20 - DECEMBER 25