

DECEMBER 2021

# GRACE MONTHLY

*"the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.'"*

*Luke 10:41-42*



## The Most Precious Thing

by Sungah Lee

Trying to find a time of day that I could dedicate to spending time with God is something I've always struggled with because I feel like I'm always busy. Personally, I was really stressed and overwhelmed by the amount of assignments and tests I had lately. When Pastor Jane came to speak at GEM I think her sermon was exactly what I needed to hear and what God wanted me to hear. She said that, "You can be busy and have a busy life, but you can still feel that overwhelming sense of peace that comes from having faith in God." Like Pastor Jane said, if we start with the one most important thing, everything else will follow. As long as we intentionally choose to spend time with God, like Mary did in Luke 10:38-42, we can all feel this sense of peace. **This peace that only comes from knowing that you are a child of God** and that there is someone far greater watching over you is something I believe is worth seeking.

I feel like right now, for a lot of people, our lives are really busy. Especially for grade 12s who have just finished early applications for universities and also for everyone else who is juggling school, work, relationships, faith, and more. However, **learning that this profound and deep sense of peace could not be taken away from me brought me a lot of reassurance.** This allowed me to not put so much pressure on myself to have a QT every single day, but rather to allocate a time once or twice a week to spend time with God and to be more mindful of how I live out the rest of my life. I can truly say that I felt much more peace within myself and surrounding my life after meditating on this message and I hope others can feel this sense of peace as well.

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# NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

## "DISCOVER" SEMINAR



On Friday November 19 a "Discover" Seminar was held for the Grade 11 and 12's where they listened and learned about how their leaders balance their walk with God and their work/personal life. During the seminars students learned how some of their leaders in various career fields (IT, Art, Pharmacy, Education and Office work) grew alongside God throughout their high school years and even now They shared around a few major takeaways such as:

- *A career path should not define who you are. God made you with a purpose much larger than societal roles.*
- *If God closes a door, he always opens another one. Understanding that everything that God does is with purpose.*
- *How to practice walking with God no matter what career path you may choose.*

At the end of the seminar, there was a Q&A session led by Pastor Bessie, Pastor Alex and the youth leaders. Although many questions were silly, many important questions were asked and answered as the seminar came to an end.

## CHRISTMAS ORCHESTRA & CHOIR

Tis the season to make music... Because on November 19th, Grace Youth's Christmas choir and orchestra practices have begun! Huge thanks and encouragement to all of the students who signed up, as well as to teacher 윤영희 and Sylvia Nam for leading the groups! The performance is for the Christmas Family Worship Night on Friday, December 24th. Good luck everyone, and let's enjoy praising God!



## SMALL GROUP OUTINGS

The two grade 9 girls small groups in GEM Youth had an outing in November. One group had a paint night at church, and another group played three rounds of laser tag at Planet Lazer!



# Praise & Prayer

- Consistent, heavy rains have caused a lot of flooding and damage to homes and agriculture in the Lower Mainland over the last few weeks. **Pray** for safer weather conditions throughout BC and for the safety of those affected by the flooding disasters.
- **Praise** God for His continuous blessings and the hope, peace, joy and love that can be found in Him. Let us remember Jesus Christ as we reflect on Him this Advent season. **Praise** God for sending His Son Jesus Christ for us!
- **Praise** God for the Christmas Orchestra & Choir and for all the students that are participating! **Pray** that they will be filled with excitement and joy to celebrate Christ.
- As we enter the Christmas season and winter break, **pray** that families will have a blessed and restful time spent with loved ones.



## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

- Fridays, Dec 3rd & 10th** Orchestra & Choir Practice
- Friday, Dec 17th** Christmas Fundraising Event
- Friday, Dec 24th** Christmas Family Worship Night
- Friday, Dec 31st** New Year's Eve Service

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 DEVOTIONALS

As Christians, Advent is a time of celebration where we remember the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Advent is derived from its Latin word *aventus*, which simply means "the arriving or coming of," and throughout this season we remember His birth but also keep in mind His return. Until this day, God has blessed us with everlasting hope, peace, and joy which is only found in Christ Jesus.

This year, the weekly devotionals consist of a passage from the Bible, a devotional thoughts to help our understanding of the passage, personal reflection questions and a prayer item. You can find each weekly devotional posted on our website.

*The weekly devotionals are selections from John Piper's "The Dawning of Indestructible Joy."*

## Week 1

**Nov 29** "The Search-and Save Mission" (Luke 19:10)

**Dec 1** "What Advent is All About" (Mark 10:45)

**Dec 3** "God's Passion for God at Christmas" (John 12:27-28)

## Week 2

**Dec 6** "He Comes to Bless Us" (Acts 3:22-26)

**Dec 8** "What Christmas Came to Destroy" (1 John 3:8)

**Dec 10** "The Glory of the Word Made Flesh" (John 1:1)

## Week 3

**Dec 13** "The Mercy He Promises" (Romans 15:8-9)

**Dec 15** "Freed to be Part of God's Family" (Mark 10:45)

**Dec 17** "The Gift You Cannot Buy" (Acts 17:24-25)

## Week 4

**Dec 20** "Receive His Reconciliation" (Romans 5:11)

**Dec 22** "Something Worth Singing About" (Hebrews 8:4-10)

**Dec 24** "Grace: The Dominant Note of Christmas" (John 6:51)