

FEBRUARY 2022

GRACE MONTHLY

*"But if from there you seek the Lord your God,
you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul."*

Deuteronomy 4:29



A Hunger for God's Word

by *Chris Lee*

Nowadays, due to the coronavirus many of us spend a lot of time by ourselves at home and I believe it's a blessing for me in itself as it has given me a lot of time to think and meditate on God's Word and reflect on what kind of life I have been living. Recently, I've been dealing with a problem that is very prevalent among many Christians' lives today - that of putting worldly things above God. This issue and habit has taken a toll on my Christian lifestyle and has weakened my spiritual relationship with God because instead of reading God's Word, I would drift off into worldly, addicting distractions. In order to keep God at the center of my life and improve my Christian faith life, I have decided to make and implement a habit of praying and reading the Bible once a day. Additionally, with the help of SD meetings and communion in small groups during FYN, I have been kept accountable and have been hungrier than ever for the Word of God.

Staying hungry for the Word of God is important as we, fallen souls, need constant spiritual direction in our faith, knowledge, and wisdom. Losing hunger for the Word of God can be concerning for our inner spiritual life as it might indicate we are not truly born again, or that our relationship with God may not be like what it seems on the outside. We need to read the Bible to grow our faith (Romans 10:17) and feed our soul spiritual bread/food. Though listening to sermons and going to FYN meetings certainly help us live a healthy Christian life, it is pivotal for us to also sacrifice our own time to spend alone with God. Though it may be hard to put aside worldly distractions at first, committing time for God everyday provides us with a feeling of contentment and helps our spirits thrive and stay refreshed.

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Though it may be momentarily enjoyable to live a life without an awareness of God outside of church, you may feel a sense of conviction poking through your conscience because you know that God can be sought outside of your time at church as well. If your relationship with God is backsliding out of control or whatever circumstance you may be in, know that God is patient and always waits for you with open arms (Luke 15:11-32). He desires you to be in a close relationship with Him and He will be found if you seek Him (Deuteronomy 4:29). If you're struggling to put God first in your life, I challenge you today to start by reading the Bible and praying to God at least once a day. Good luck and God bless you!

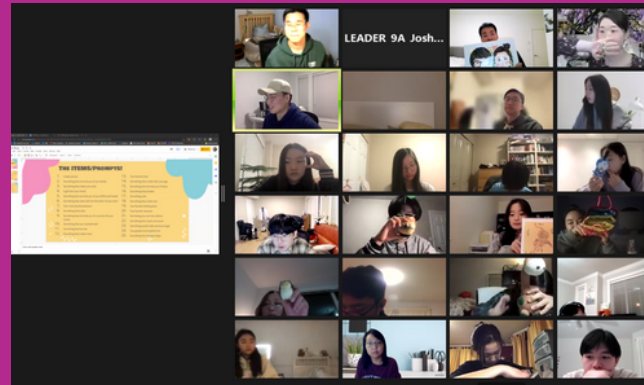
“When we put God first, all other things fall into their proper place.” - Pres Ezra Taft Benson



JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY YOUTH NIGHT

For the month of January, GEM Youth held their FYNs on Zoom due to Covid restrictions. Pastor Bessie led a 2-week Bible study based on the “Worship” sermon series, where the first week was a discussion on “Bringing God Glory in All You Do.” Through observing different styles of worship such as contemplative, naturalist, and intellectual, students and leaders learned how worshipping God with all their lives is possible. The second week focused on the “Community in Christ.” We learned that the church community is different from other communities that we are a part of because it is a community that is joined together through Christ, it becomes a living declaration of the gospel and helps Christians experience a relationship that they’re intended for - a relationship with God.



Acts 2:42-47	Romans 12:9-21	Ephesians 4:25-32
sacrificed their own necessities		It tells us to love one another
learned from the apostles	be joyful	hold fast what is good
prayed together	Do not let the evil go inside you, instead practice hospitality and kindness and love to one another	Be kind to one another and forgive one another
break bread together (eat together)	love one another	be cool and not a fool
went to the temple (church) together		Control your feelings and try to be kind to one another
They were kind to others and gave people needs to people who need it most	Live in HARMONY(peace)	Speak words that build up
People have all things in common		



MY LITTLE CLAY

On Friday, January 28th CLAY Youth held a fellowship event on Zoom titled, "My Little CLAY." Students had the option to attend a breakout room of their choice, which ranged from a game room to a Q&A room. It was a casual night for students and leaders to interact and connect with one another.



Praise & Prayer

- Despite the large amount snow and ice that had piled up in the last month, **praise** God for the better weather conditions we have been getting!
- **Praise** the Lord for the reopening of Friday Youth Nights where we can have fellowship and deepen our faith. **Pray** that we would cherish our time spent together in-person as the Body of Christ and never take it for granted.
- **Praise** God for allowing us to worship Him during this covid season online as many of us cannot come in person to church.
- **Pray** for our Grace Youth leaders who are going on a retreat in the month of February. **Pray** for their health and safety and for them to be blessed in time of fellowship with one another as well as their time with God.
- As a new semester has started and students begin returning to school, **pray** for their health and safety as the Omicron virus continues to spread, largely affecting families and friends.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

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|-------------------------|--|
| Friday, Feb 4th | (CLAY) Friday Youth Night
(GEM) No Friday Youth Night |
| Friday, Feb 11th | (GEM) Bro & Sis Appreciation Night
(CLAY) Winter Olympics |
| Friday, Feb 18th | Friday Youth Night |
| Friday, Feb 25th | Friday Youth Night |

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