

FEBRUARY 2023

GRACE MONTHLY

*"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."
Proverbs 16:9*



How to Meet God's Expectations

by Trisha Jeong

As I was reading through Exodus, there was one phrase that repeatedly came up, and it really stood out to me: "The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he was not willing to let them go." Yes. Pharaoh didn't harden his own heart, but God did, the same God who wanted to take the Israelites out of Egypt. At first, I could only ask "Why?" However, as I continued reading, I realized that this wasn't simply for God to give the Israelites a hard time, but he wanted to see how big their faith was and if they would continue to follow Him even in hardships. When God found out that the Israelites worship other gods, He says in Exodus 33:2-3 "So I will send an angel to go before you... So go to the land filled with many good things, but I will not go with you. You people are very stubborn. If I go with you, I might destroy you along the way." Once He saw that the Israelites lost faith and doubted God, He left them alone and let them do whatever they wanted.

God never forces us in the direction that He planned for us because He gave us the freedom to choose. Even though He brings us to difficult situations, He is also the one that brings us out of them, so we must keep faith in Him and wait for His help. He will make sure we are willing to get out of the situation through Him and that we believe that God is still faithful and loving. Proverbs 16:9 says "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." God will bring us to the place that we need, but we are the ones that have to take to the first step and show God if we really want it. When so many other temptations call our names, it is really hard to go to God, but soon, we will realize that it is worth it, more than anything.

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JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS



NEWCOMER WELCOME PARTY

On January 27th, the Care Team hosted the first Newcomer's Welcome Event of the year! They organized a fun party to warmly welcome new GEM members with some delicious sushi and pizza. They also played games to get to know one another and build relationships. The Care Team ended the night off by sharing some information about Grace Youth ministry - who we are, what we do - along with a little bit of praying to bless one another.

To any newcomers potentially reading this, we really encourage and welcome you to attend our next welcoming event next season!!



LUNAR NEW YEAR GAME NIGHT

In light of the Lunar New Year, CLAY Youth had a fellowship night to play "yut-nori." The game pieces were hand-made in large sizes, and the pawns were the players themselves. It was a high-tension event with fun competition!



Praise & Prayer

- **Praise** God for our blessed brothers and sisters in Grace Youth! **Pray** that we can continually keep one another accountable and bear each other's burdens together as one body in Christ. Through our prayers for one another, may God remind us that He is with us and that He will never leave us when times get rough.
- **Pray** for the leaders who are attending their leader's retreat this month. Pray that it will be a time to renew their hearts for serving in Grace Youth.
- **Praise** God for the growing and deepening of relationships that leaders and students are experiencing with one another! Please **pray** that they will continue to encourage one another to live out God's Word as they spend time learning, praying, and worshipping together.
- Many of the students have entered a new semester at the beginning of this month and settled into their new classes. Let us **pray** that they may finish this semester strong until the end of the school year while balancing various extra-curricular activities and assignments.
- **Pray** for our brothers and sisters who are feeling sick. Let's **pray** for God's healing hand to bring recovery soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

- Friday, Feb 3rd** (CLAY) Friday Youth Night
(GEM) No Friday Youth Night
- Friday, Feb 10th** Friday Youth Night
- Friday, Feb 17th** (GEM) Bro & Sis Appreciation Night
(CLAY) No Friday Youth Night
- Friday, Feb 24th** 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!