

JUNE 2021

GRACE MONTHLY

"A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.

Matthew 8:2-3



A Missional Life

by Eugene Kwon

Not being able to go to Lummi last year felt weird. My annual routine of going to missions was suddenly broken. It felt like something was missing, and, more precisely, there appeared a gap in my "Christian resume" that I would update every year. You might have had a similar thought when you reflect on your spiritual life. It's clear that God wants us to live a missional life, but what does that look like? What is missional living?

In Matthew 8:1-4, we see Jesus healing a leper. If we simply stopped there, we could say that Jesus accomplished missionary work. But Jesus' work didn't end there; **Jesus shows us that ministry work extends to daily encounters**, as He travels throughout Galilee to teach, preach, and heal people. The same is for us; we are called to live missionally wherever we are, whether it's at school, home, church, or even online.

Now let's look closer at Jesus' encounter with the leper. Before healing him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him (v.3). This is what I think we forget the most when trying to live out a missional life: we miss the *relational* aspect of missions because of our desire to achieve an end goal (such as running a VBS program or completing a construction project.) Here is the bitter truth: sometimes missionary work will not show immediate fruit. It might take years before you see one person coming to faith in Christ. So here, I challenge you to think, who are you not stretching your hand out to? Who are you not willing to touch? When I ask who, think of everyone you encounter - yes, everyone. As we learn more about what it means to live missionally, let us participate in the work that Jesus started and reach out in love to those we encounter in our daily lives.

IN THIS ISSUE:

May Highlights

Praise Reports &
Prayer Requests

Upcoming Events for June

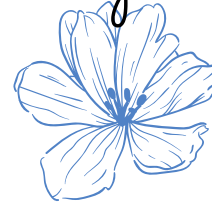
A Life of Significance:
Living in Light of Our God-
Given Identity

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

FAMILY WORSHIP

In light of family month, GCC held two family worship services in the month of May. The Sunday worship on May 2nd was led by Pastor Kevin, with a message from Matthew 5:7 titled, "Mercy!" The Friday Praise and Prayer Night was led by Pastor Josh with an extended time to pray for the children and students in our church community's Education Ministry.

Blessed are the
merciful,
for they will be shown
mercy.



MATTHEW 5:7



HIDDEN GEMS: STORIES OF OUR IDENTITY

On Friday, May 21st, MCs "Bosh" and "Jessie" aired the third episode of Hidden GEMS! They shared the stories from the students and leaders about their life experiences as Korean-Canadians and answered some questions related to the topic of bi-cultural identity. Also, there was a quiz time using Mentimeter to find out who knows the most about Korean and Canadian cultures. Throughout the podcast, the MCs took up some challenges which were suggested by the students. The full podcast is up on the GEM youth Youtube channel! [Click here](#) to watch.

CLAYDIO

CLAY Youth held a radio podcast event as well, titled, "Claydio" on Friday, May 28th. It was hosted by "DJ젠디" and "DJ류디" with guest "서간". They shared words of encouragement that the CLAY leaders had for the students, and read stories and responded to questions that students submitted. The hosts also played a few songs based on the stories that were submitted. In light of the pandemic and being unable to gather together, the podcast provided a space for students and leaders to be together and hear about the various thoughts and questions they had for each other.



Praise & Prayer

- Please **pray** for the summer events that are taking place between July and August. **Pray** that these will be meaningful times of spiritual growth, despite that the events will be mostly held online. Please also **pray** that God will provide strength, wisdom, and creativity for the church staff, pastors, and volunteers as they prepare. Although these events will be different from regular face-to-face summer events, please **pray** that students will be strengthened in their walk with God.
- **Praise** God for the vaccine rollout in Canada, as the first dose is now available to those between 12 and 17 years of age! Please continue to **pray** for protection and healing for those affected by the virus. At the same time, **pray** that people will continue to make wise decisions in this season.
- Let us **praise** God for our relationships with our family and our friends. As we celebrated Children's Day and Mother's day this past month and Father's Day this month, let us remember and appreciate our families and all the blessings that God has given us. Although COVID-19 has affected our daily lives, let's **praise** God for gifting us time to spend with our families. Please also **pray** that we would continue to strengthen these relationships in Christ and that we would continue to worship Him during this difficult season.
- We **praise** God for the learning opportunities that students have had during this pandemic. Please continue to **pray** for the students as the academic school year comes to an end. **Pray** that they would not be burdened by their stress, but instead would find comfort in God's presence. Please also **pray** that, despite their busy lives, they would be able to find personal time to be with Christ so that they can continue to grow deeper in Him each day.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JUNE

Friday, Jun 4th Student Discipleship
Friday, Jun 11th (GEM) Friday Youth Night
Friday, Jun 25th (To be announced)

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!

A Life of Significance: Living in Light of Our God-Given Identity

By Hannah Byun

In this world, we often define ourselves and find meaning in life by the things that we do. We feel like we must do something to make our lives special, or even, worthy. We essentially live our lives centered around ourselves, trying to gain recognition from others through the things we do. However, the perspective that we miss from living such a way is the inherent identity that we have in God. **Life is not made significant because of the things that we do, but because of the One who defines us.**

Jesus' sacrifice is a fundamental part of our identity as Christians. We must accept Jesus as our Saviour and believe in His crucifixion and resurrection to come to the Father. We find our true identity in Jesus because it is through Him that we received the right to become God's children, and it is in this truth that we find significance for our lives. As written in John 1:12, "to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." We have a place in God's kingdom because **through Jesus Christ we adopt an identity that cannot be taken away from us – that we are God's children.** As human beings it is natural that we want to be recognized by others and want to be seen as an important person, but is such recognition so important when God calls us His own? There is no need to search for meaning in what we can accomplish because we can find all that we long for in Jesus. To search for our needs apart from Christ is like searching for water in a desert. Our true significance in life can only be found through Jesus Christ who revealed to us that God is our heavenly Father.

But what is it about being a child of God that makes our life so significant? The fact is that, **as His children, we all bear God's image.** It is written in Genesis 1:27, "God created man in his own image," which reminds us God has created all of us in His likeness. This makes our lives valuable because we were not made by just anybody, but we were made by the God who rules the universe. For example, a painting done by Vincent Van Gogh is said to have high artistic value and is often sold at millions of dollars. If a painting by a human artist has such high value, then, surely, the value of something made by the Creator of all things would have even greater value. So, knowing that we are God's creation and that He made us with care is the greatest thing that can bring significance to our lives.

Going further, God made us in His likeness to ultimately glorify Him. In Isaiah 43:7 God says of us, "everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." We were not made to enjoy life simply for ourselves, but we were designed to glorify and praise God. It is through glorifying God that our lives become truly significant because Scripture also reminds us of the consequences that follow if we worship anything other than God: "They worshipped worthless idols only to become worthless themselves" (Jeremiah 2:5).

When we search for joy in things apart from God, we lose sight of our God-given identity; we forget that life itself is a precious gift from God and that it already comes with great value because He has made us in His own image. So let us not waste our lives endlessly searching for meaning in our self-centeredness, but rather find our significance in our identity as God's children and glorify Him by reflecting His image through all that we do.