

MARCH 2019

GRACE MONTHLY

*"For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."
Proverbs 2:6*



Looking to God

by *Emma Kim*

As we wrap up the month of February, I couldn't help but reflect back on our Sunday sermon series that we've been going through, called, "A Framework for the Mind," where we learned about wisdom, where it comes from, and how it should shape our lives as God's children.

One particular thing that stood out to me during this series was that wisdom is not the only voice calling out to us. In this day and age, there are often times where we find ourselves distracted by all the other things that call out to us - whether it may be school, work, or even friends - that our eyes are fixed upon anything other than God. To be honest, I end up in this very position at times, and I find myself stuck, not knowing which direction to go. I am left feeling hopeless and confused, but during these times I also begin to realize the importance of simply looking to God and taking time to attentively listen for His voice.

If you find yourself in that position right now, remember that it's perfectly normal to feel stuck. It's normal to feel confused. We all go through those times where we don't know what to do, and that's okay. However, we also need to remember that, it's **how we choose to respond** to those situations we're placed in, where we learn how to fix our eyes to Jesus again. Whatever circumstance you may be in at the moment, whether you are in a dry or fruitful season, I encourage you to **look to God** and God alone. I hope and pray that we will always look to Him, seek after His wisdom, and also not lose hope because God is there, right by our side every step of the way.

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FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

PRAISE & PRAYER NIGHT

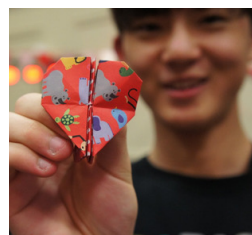
GEM Youth had a Praise & Prayer Night on Friday, February 8th. The focus for the night was "listening". After a time of praise, students were paired up and spent time listening to God for a particular prayer that He was placing on their heart to pray for the other person, and took the time to also share and listen to one another's prayer requests.

MOVIE NIGHT

2월8일 금요모임에선 같이 게임하며 영화를 봤습니다. 우리 감정들에 대한 영화를 봤는데 모든 감정들은 하나님께서 주시고 허락하셨다는거에 대해 나눴습니다. 우리가 평상시 안좋게 생각하는 분을 내는것 (anger) 또한 하나님께서 허락하신 감정이라는건 알고있지만 에베소서 4장26절에 "분을 내어도 죄를 짓지 말며 해가 지도록 분을 품지 말고" 라고 나온 말씀에는 그 감정을 통해 죄는 짓지말라고 하십니다. 자신의 감정으로 인해 죄를 지을것 같으면 그걸 하나님 앞에 솔직하게 말하고 하나님께 도와달라고 기도하는 친구들이 되길 기도해주세요!

"AGAPE LOVE" : BROTHERS & SISTERS APPRECIATION NIGHT

On Friday, February 15th, GEM Youth held their annual Brothers and Sisters Appreciation Night. It is an event where, through various activities, we practice what it means to love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. The theme for this year's event was "Agape Love", placing a focus on how it is God's unconditional love for us that should drives us to love each other in a deeper, meaningful way. For the main activity, there were four crafts that students could choose from: origami box, tissue flower bouquet, greeting card, and drawing. Each student was given a name of another student and made one of the four crafts for that individual. The evening closed with a short time of praise and prayer.



FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS cont'd

LEADERS RETREAT

The Grace Youth leaders of CLAY and GEM had their leaders retreat this year from February 17-18th and 22-23rd, respectively. The CLAY leaders meditated on 1 Corinthians 4:1, reflecting on how they are called to be servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. The GEM leaders focused on what it means to rely on God, meditating on Jeremiah 17:7-8. It was a valuable time for leaders to refocus and also connect with one other as leaders.



Praise & Prayer

- **Praise** God for a fruitful time that the leaders had at the Leaders Retreats! They were encouraged in their time together as they spent time in fellowship, sharing, and praying together.
- Please **pray** for the GEM and CLAY Student Discipleship Retreats that will be taking place in March. **Pray** that God would work in the hearts of the discipleship students to mature spiritually, and to grow in their desire to live a life that is pleasing to God.
- The Vancouver Youth KOSTA is happening March 18-20. **Pray** for the students attending the conference that through the seminars, small group discussions, and time of praise they will seek to establish God's Kingdom here as it is in heaven. **Pray** also for a powerful anointing of the Holy Spirit on each of the speakers who will be sharing the Word of God throughout the conference.
- **Praise** God for new life! Pastor Phil's second son, Leon, was born on February 4th. **Pray** for their family as they adjust to and care for their newest member!



Sending Out Our Roots

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
He is like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit."

Jeremiah 17:7-8

The GEM Youth leaders spent a morning together at the leaders retreat meditating on Grace Youth's theme passage, Jeremiah 17:7-8. Leader Chris shares his reflection with us...

One habit I have developed over the years of reading different works is to pay close attention to the verbs that are present in what is written. Verbs are action words, and as readers, we naturally try to find the action words in any sentence to try and understand what it is saying.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 declares that the man who puts his trust in God is like a tree, planted by water. When we focus on the description of the tree in verse 8, what are the action words that are present? In particular, what actions are being **actively performed by the tree**, rather than being passively achieved?

The tree "not fear[ing]" and "not [being] anxious" have less to do with specific actions, but describe the emotions of the tree, so we can rule those out. Likewise, when the verse says that the tree's "leaves remain green" and "it does not cease to bear fruit," these are not necessarily actively performed actions. A tree's leaves being green, and its ability to bear fruit, are things that happen naturally when the tree has access to water, nutrients, and sunlight. They are, in a way, automatic.

The only action that the tree takes is to send out its roots by the stream.

I think as Christians, we spend so much time focusing on the wrong things. We might take great care to make sure that our leaves appear as green as possible to those around us, even to the point of wearing masks that don't represent who we really are. Or we might focus our energies entirely on bearing lots of fruit, committing everything we have to achieving something we consider meaningful at church, at school, in our relationships.

God reminded me through this passage that, first and foremost, we need to focus on sending our roots out to the water. Our first priority should be to reach for Him, to desire to drink from His fountain, to receive His grace and His mercy. When we do this, we will no longer fear the heat, because we know the water from His living fountain will keep our leaves green. We will no longer be anxious in the time of drought, because we know that **we will continue to bear fruit as long as we remain in Him** (John 15:5).

Let's shift our priorities back to what really matters.

Like that blessed tree by the water, let's send out our roots by the stream.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH

Friday, Mar 1st Friday Youth Night
(GEM) Newcomers Welcome Event

Friday, Mar 8th Praise & Prayer Night

Friday, Mar 15th Friday Youth Night

Friday, Mar 29th Friday Youth Night (GEM only)

*There is **no** Friday Youth Night on **Friday, March 22nd.***

CLAY Youth has no Friday Youth Night on Friday, March 29th.

*Events are subject to change. Make sure to keep up with our latest updates on our **website** or join our **Kakaotalk open chatroom.***