

MARCH 2021

# GRACE MONTHLY

*"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you"*

*Psalm 56:3*



## Humanity's Greatest Need

by Hannah Byun

Recently, I came across a poem titled, "The Beaks of Eagles" written by a poet named Robinson Jeffers. This poem is essentially about the kind of life humans live, in comparison to the life of eagles. He points out that people's dreams in life constantly change, while eagles have continued to live the same kind of life no matter the environmental, and physical changes they have experienced. At the end of his poem, however, Jeffers writes that the essential needs of humanity have not actually changed any more than it did for the eagle.

As I reflected upon this poem, I realized just how unstable we are as human beings. In the midst of our constantly changing circumstances, we are always looking for different things - which we label as "necessities" - to fill up our empty lives. We worry about so many things in life, and are constantly looking for something to place our hopes in; something so stable that we know for sure is worth putting our trust in, whether it be in our jobs, grades, or social media.

In reality, from the day we were born to the day we die, the one whom we really need is God. **The experience of being human** - that is, the kind of life we live as humans - **might have changed a lot overtime, but our true need has always stayed the same.** God is the only one who can help us escape from this never-ending search for stability.

What I find interesting is that even the disciples of Jesus Christ, who have lived alongside Him, have worried about life. To me, this just shows how much more actively we need to seek God because nowadays, there are so many more distractions that lure us into thinking that they will bring stability to our lives. It is written in Psalms 56:3, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you." The instability of our lives is made stable by God alone, and our task is to allow Him into our lives so that He may fill it with His overflowing peace and joy. As the psalmist writes, we need to put our trust in Him.

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow, we need God. We must place our absolute trust in Him alone and wholeheartedly seek Him out. It is only then that we will remain spiritually anchored even in spite of how unstable our lives are on this planet.

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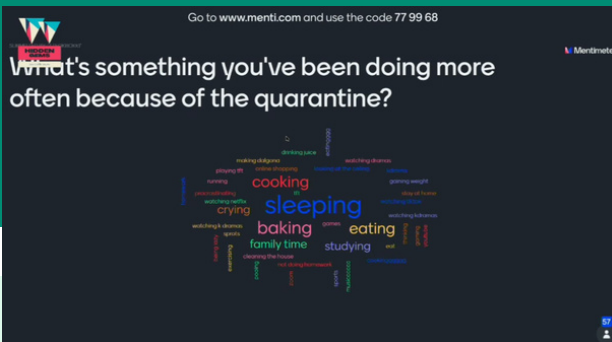
Lent 2021

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# FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

## HIDDEN GEMS: STORIES OF THE PANDEMIC

On Friday, February 5th, GEM Youth had their very first Hidden GEMs event. It was a live podcast led by MCs "Bosh" and "Jessie", who shared stories from students about what they have been experiencing in their new pandemic lifestyle, as well as praise songs that have been helping them cope throughout the season. They also used Mentimeter surveys to engage the audience and drew raffle prizes. This podcast was a way for students to share some of their "hidden" stories and to recognize how important it is to share life with their brothers or sisters in Christ for accountability. Many of the students closely resonated with the shared stories and found comfort in knowing that they are not alone in feeling the way that they do.




## BROTHERS & SISTERS APPRECIATION

On Sunday, February 14th GEM Youth did a "brothers and sisters appreciation" activity during their Sunday's drive-service gathering. By using Google Jamboard, students and leaders posted messages on sticky notes to show their appreciation for one another. Here are some of the messages that they posted!





## Praise & Prayer

- GEM Youth is having their Student Discipleship Retreat later this month. Due to the pandemic, many students have expressed that it has become harder and harder to keep themselves accountable for their own faith. **Pray** that the students would take the time at this year's SD retreat to grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus. **Pray** that each of them would seek God in all aspects of their lives and encounter Him in new ways.
  - As we near the last few months of the school year, **pray** that God would graciously surround the students with His presence and His blessings. The past year has been an academically challenging year for many students. **Pray** that they would all finish off the school year well and glorify God through their studies.
  - **Praise** God for the leaders who continue to meet and guide the students virtually through this season. **Pray** that God would strengthen them and that they would not grow weary in providing spiritual care to the students. **Pray** that we as a church community would remain firmly grounded in God and steadfast in our faith.
  - With the pandemic continuing to prolong, it has been difficult to be excited for each new day. **Pray** that God would refresh us and fill us with His Spirit for each day. **Praise** God for always staying by our side; may we trust that He is guiding us in His most wonderful ways.
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## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH

**Friday, Mar 5th** (CLAY & GEM) Student Discipleship

**Friday, Mar 12th** (CLAY) Student Discipleship  
(GEM) Friday Youth Night

**Fri-Sat, Mar 19-20th** (GEM) Student Discipleship Retreat

**Friday, Mar 26th** (CLAY) Prayer Meeting  
(GEM) Hidden GEMs: Spring Edition

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!



The page is decorated with several green leaves and three black and white butterflies. The leaves are scattered around the page, with some larger ones on the left and right sides. The butterflies are positioned at the top right, middle right, and bottom left. The title 'Lent 2021' is written in a large, black, cursive font, centered at the top of the page. It is framed by a thin, gold-colored rectangular border. The text is arranged in three paragraphs, each centered within the border. The overall design is clean and elegant, with a focus on natural elements.

# Lent 2021

Lent comes from the Old English word "lenten," which means "spring," and it was used to describe the new life of spring that was coming as the days started to get longer again. And this became a season where Christians would prepare themselves for Easter Sunday as they remembered Christ's sacrifice for their sin, and celebrated the victory of His resurrection over all darkness, sin and death.

This season calls us to repent of our sinfulness and to fix our eyes back on Jesus, the Suffering Servant who knows and sympathizes with all our human weaknesses.

This year's Lent is from February 17th to April 3rd. CLAY Youth is reading about Jesus' life through the book of Matthew and fasting from a different item each week. GEM Youth will be "walking with Jesus" through prayer, and hosting bi-weekly meetups for any students who would like to do the devotionals together.

Week 1 (Feb 17-20)

- Matthew 1:18-25
- Shopping for Non-Essentials
- Prayer of Confession

*passage (clay)*  
*fasting (clay)*  
*devotional\* (gem)*

Week 2 (Feb 21-27)

- Matthew 3:1-17
- Sweets & Treats
- Prayer of Seeking

Week 3 (Feb 28-Mar 6)

- Matthew 4:1-11
- Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.)
- Prayer of Thirst

Week 4 (Mar 7- 13)

- Matthew 8:1-13
- Games
- Prayer of Rest

Week 5 (Mar 14-20)

- Matthew 21:1-27
- Sleep (Attending Early-morning Prayer)
- Prayer for the World

Week 6 (Mar 21-27)

- Matthew 26:17-35
- Media (Youtube, Netflix, etc.)
- Prayer for the King

Week 7 (Mar 28-Apr 3)

- Matthew 26:36-75
- Food/Meal
- Prayer for Security

\*the devotionals for GEM Youth can be found on  
[gccyouth.weebly.com/lent](http://gccyouth.weebly.com/lent)