

MAY 2019

# GRACE MONTHLY

*"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express."*

*Romans 8:26*



## Dad, We Need to Talk

by Grace Choi

Communication is an essential part of our lives. Efficiently or with struggle, we express our heart and mind in various ways. We interact with various people to gain information, wisdom and encouragement. However, do we also do likewise with God? Are we efficient in expressing our heart with God, or do we struggle to even say a word? Do we offer our time and respond to His voice?

As we mature, we learn the importance of listening, perceiving, interpreting as well as demonstrating our understanding of a conversation. However, it is noteworthy to point out that we often overlook the essential components of communication in our interaction with God: talking and listening. How can we talk and listen to God in a way that helps us interact with Him meaningfully?

*First, talking to God must be **genuine**.* Come **honestly** before Him and pour out your heart. We can cry out, "Abba, Father", or whisper to Him. Don't hide away, but run to Him with confidence, knowing that there is "no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom 8:1). And when we don't know what to pray for, there is a helper, the Holy Spirit who "helps us in our weaknesses", "intercedes for us" and "searches our hearts" (Rom 8:26-28). Through the Holy Spirit, God allows us to be truthful and shows us what we truly need.

*Second, listening to God requires **discipline**.* When God reveals Himself, we want to be ready. In order for us to listen for His calling and understand His wisdom, we must **train** ourselves to continuously run to God and to recognize His voice. The flock recognizes the shepherd's voice because they've heard it repeatedly. Likewise, we pinpoint God's voice when we repeat the process of coming before God, and allowing the Holy Spirit to search our hearts.

God longs to communicate with us. He wants to spend time with us and is ready to respond. As a friend, He listens to everything we bring, comforting and encouraging us. As the perfect Father, He listens to our worries and questions and gives us unflawed wisdom. Finally, being the Sovereign Ruler, He exchanges our struggles for "peace at all times and in every way" (2 Thes 3:16) and "gives strength to the weary" (Isa 40:29). God is fully capable and is completely prepared to handle every conversation. So, if you don't know where to begin, repeat after me: "Dad, we need to talk."

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# APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

## ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A GEM LEADER?

For GEM Youth, Friday, Apr 5th was a Friday Youth Night just for students in grades 7-9. Students played various team games such as "So You Think You Can Worship Dance" and "Are You Smarter Than a GEM Leader?". Indeed, we found that many students are smarter than a GEM leader! It was overall a fun evening, and because there was a smaller number of students, many were able to meet and interact with new people.



## GRADES 10-12 FELLOWSHIP

On Friday, April 12th the grade 10-12 students also had a separate event. They played a couple of renditions of charades, a true-or-false quiz, and a round of Jeopardy.



# APRIL HIGHLIGHTS cont'd

## EASTER BAPTISM

20 Grace Youth students got baptized and/or confirmed on Easter Sunday, April 21st, Congratulations!

They were presented with their certificate and gifts in their respective ministries on the following Sunday, April 28th.



## FUN & GAMES AND AN OUTING

In the month of April, CLAY Youth also took some intentional time on Friday Youth Nights to build relationships through various fellowship events. On Friday, April 12th they had a board game night, through which students who usually wouldn't get the chance to hang out were able to bond by playing group games. On April 26th, they went out on an outing.

## Trek

GEM Youth started a new Friday Youth Night study material for **grades 7 and 8** students, titled, "*Trek: His Love*". Students are provided their own workbook, which they will be expected to bring with them each Friday.



## Praise & Prayer

- **Praise** God for the students who got baptized and/or confirmed this Easter! As we celebrate our resurrected King, we also celebrate the life that these students have found in Jesus Christ. Please **pray** that the students will be faithful in living by God's Word personally as well as in community with a family of believers.
- Please continue to **pray** for the leaders serving at Grace Youth. For the few months remaining of the education year, **pray** that they will faithfully persevere to serve with joy and love.
- Summer is quickly approaching! Please **pray** that the summer events and mission trips will be meaningful times of spiritual growth and fellowship for both the participants as well as for those we will be reaching out to.

Why a

# succulent?

In GEM Youth, students who are baptized or confirmed are gifted a succulent. Succulents normally live in environments that are prone to drought, so its roots and leaves adapt to conserve water in order to withstand the drought. The succulent, therefore, is a reminder of **resilience** because even in the driest seasons of the year, it remains firmly grounded and continues to grow and thrive. In the same way, students are reminded to stay **rooted** in the Truth and remain **filled** with the Spirit so that they can endure even through the driest season of their spiritual journey.

*"Count it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness."*

*James 1:2 - 3*

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MAY

- Friday, May 3rd** Family Worship Night
- Friday, May 10th** Friday Youth Night
- Friday, May 17th** Friday Youth Night
- Friday, May 24th** (GEM) Friday Youth Night  
(CLAY) Invite-Your-Friends Event
- Friday, May 31st** (GEM) Praise & Prayer Night  
(CLAY) Friday Youth Night

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