

OCTOBER 2022

GRACE MONTHLY

"But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord."

Jeremiah 1:7-8



Listening for God's Calling in our Daily Lives

by Yukyeom Jang

As we return into the rhythm of a new school year, our lives will become busier with schoolwork. This also means that God will want to work in many new ways using us as His vessels. However, many people may shy away from obeying God's commands for them to do His work. There may be a plethora of reasons, such as doubting our abilities because we are young or pushing our responsibilities onto others.

In the first chapter of the book of Jeremiah, God appoints Jeremiah as a prophet to speak God's words to the kingdom of Judah about their sins. However, upon hearing God's voice telling him that he was to prophesy, Jeremiah tells God that he does "not know how to speak" and is "too young" (Jer 1:6). However, in verses 7 to 8, God says to Jeremiah, "Do not say, 'I am too young'" and, "do not be afraid." God tells Jeremiah that his weaknesses are nothing because He is "with [Jeremiah] and will rescue [him]" (Jer 1:8). That is, it's not about what Jeremiah had or didn't have the capability of doing; it's about what God wanted and what God had the power to do.

Likewise, in each of our lives, we have all made excuses to tell God why we can't do what He tells us to do. These verses, to me, serve as a reminder that God works in ways that we can't understand; He doesn't choose the wealthy or the powerful, but works through the broken. No matter how many blemishes we have, God will still use us because His power and glory covers those scars. Therefore, as we start off another school year, I hope that we will keep seeking out what God wants us to do by praying and meditating on the Word of God. And when God tells us what to do, let us surrender ourselves to God and obey His command, knowing that the Father's glory will cover our imperfections. As such, let's all be wide awake to hear God's voice and do what He commands us to do to the best of our ability, while relying on God to do the rest!

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SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

NEWCOMERS WELCOME EVENT

New students, their friends, and the GEM Youth Care Team had a great time at the newcomer's party, which featured food, fellowship, and friendships! They started off the night by splitting off into smaller groups and playing ice breakers, so everyone could know each other a bit better. Then, everyone looked so forward to the delicious dinner of pizza and sushi that they almost forgot to pray for the meal. Afterwards, MCs Kiun and Sung-Jin led "Silent Lineup" and "Scattegories", which was a lot of chaotic fun. Lastly, Jason and Sharon shared Grace Youth ministry's identity and annual events. The newcomer's party was a highlight for the Care Team and we hope the same for all the new students that attended!

WELCOME

COUNTERCULTURE: SANCTIFIED BY TRUTH 2022 SUMMER RETREAT

From August 15-18th, Grace Youth was able to have their first in-person summer retreat in a while. This year's theme was titled, "Counterculture: Sanctified by Truth." The central passage for this year's retreat came from John 17:17-19 and the focus this year was to help students realize and embrace the "counterculture" values, character, and lifestyle that Jesus calls his followers to have while living in this world.

GEM held their retreat at Trinity Western University, and CLAY held theirs at Charis Camp. Through activities, worship, and small group times the students and leaders were able to encounter God as well as meet many new people. Pastors Chris Ko and Joey Cho were the main guest speakers who spoke about the gospel and discipleship, and there were also 3 seminars that dealt with topics of mental health, sexuality, and worship. Through the sermons and seminars, students discussed and learned about living as a Christian in this world.

Each night of worship was followed by a powerful time of prayer and response. Many students reflected on their own commitment to Jesus and what it would mean to let go of some of the things in their lives to live for God. This retreat was truly a blessing and helped students to grow more deeper in Christ. As we continue to live and grow as Christians, let us remember the "counterculture" life that we have been called to live, and understand the ways in which God sanctifies us with His truth to transform us to become more like Him.



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

To start off the new year, GEM and CLAY Youth had their annual Back to School Bash on Friday, Sept 30! For GEM, this year's concept was to find four culprits that stole Pastor Bessie's calendar for the upcoming FYN and events! They first started with pizza for snacks, then got split into teams to find the leaders that stole the calendar. There were five different stations: English, Science, PE, Art, and Drama, and played various games relating to each class. In the end, the four culprits were leaders Michelle, Jeff, Sean, and Hayley. Moreover, team 7 was lucky and found all four of them!

CLAY Youth's event was based on the stock market. Through various missions and activities, students got clues to invest in the companies that was predicted for the best outcome. There was a lot of excitement (as well as disappointment!) whenever each year's results were revealed!

It was an eventful day having our first Friday Youth Night with the new grade sevens and leaders. We look forward to seeing everyone joining us every Friday from 7:30-9:30pm for the weekly FYN!



Praise & Prayer

- **Praise** God for the new education year! **Pray** that the students would connect with one another and bless one another as they build relationships throughout the year. **Pray** also for the grade 7s, that they may transition well into youth group.
- **Praise** God for the 47 leaders who will be serving in Grace Youth this year! **Pray** for the leaders, that God would strengthen them and give godly wisdom to journey with the students in their faith walk.
- **Pray** that students would root their faith deeper in God's Word and live out their faith in their everyday life.
- **Pray** for the students who are getting baptized or confirmed this Thanksgiving Sunday, that their commitment and devotion to God will grow stronger.
- **Praise** God for the sunny weather we've been having for the past few weeks! **Pray** that as the weather gets colder, God would protect us and keep us healthy.



GRACE YOUTH



blessed to bless

who we are

Grace Youth is the name of our Youth Ministry at Grace Hanin Community Church. We consist of two student ministries: **GEM** (our English-speaking youth ministry) and **CLAY** (our Korean-speaking youth ministry). Both ministries are for students between **grades 7-12**. In addition to our weekly Sunday services, we meet regularly on Fridays throughout the year. Our Friday Youth Night events vary from small group discussions to game nights, outreach and praise & prayer nights. Through these various events, our prayer is to see the youth **grow to be like Jesus** in heart, thought, word, and action.

our vision

Our vision at Grace Youth comes from **Jeremiah 17:7-8**. The aim of our youth ministry is to help our students find their true identity and greater calling in Jesus Christ; to see that they were made to be **blessed by God**, so that they can grow in Christ, bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit, to become a **blessing to others** all around the world. Our hope is to see the youth grow into spiritually mature **disciples of Jesus Christ**. We believe that God has a unique purpose for each student. And so here at Grace Youth, we are striving to provide ways for the youth to grow in Christ, through the Word, in prayer, fellowship, and student discipleship.



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

- Friday, Oct 7** Friday Youth Night
- Friday, Oct 14** Friday Youth Night
- Friday, Oct 21** Friday Youth Night
- Friday, Oct 28th** CLAY & GEM Joint Event

Events are subject to change. Make sure to keep up with our latest updates with your small group leader, on our website, or Instagram!