

SUMMER 2022

GRACE MONTHLY

*"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."
Matthew 6:33*



Our Greatest Help in Our Greatest Helplessness

by Jimin Choi

A passage I have been reflecting on or relying on lately is Matthew 6:33. It says, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Lately, I have been trying to achieve things and gain things by myself with no help from others, in the aspects of academics, relationships, health, etc. Yet some of these things require others to guide me and help me along my journey, so by trying to attain these things on my own, I have been left in a state of helplessness and demotivation. Then, this passage came up when I was searching for help, and it really did aid me in my situation. I realized that I can't keep chasing after these things while also distancing myself from the greatest help that is available, which is God. My helplessness and demotivation can be cured if I rely on God and His grace.

As the school year ends, I have become more busy and stressed and I've been trying to deal with those things in a way that the world would see as justifiable, but God wouldn't prefer. I haven't been praying and spending time with God when I feel down, which is what I would usually do in the past. With this verse, my eyes have been opened to the fact that God doesn't care about what state I'm in and that He just wants to help me and talk to me all the time. I am trying to have this thought and verse locked into my mind so that I don't completely shut down when things get tough. I also have to realize that this short span of stress and hardships will not last forever and that, in the end, all of the things that I cannot control are also part of God's plan for my life. God's plan for me will include many obstacles and challenges, but staying true to Him and trusting Him wholeheartedly will help me overcome those obstacles.

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MAY HIGHLIGHTS



FAMILY BRUNCH

On Saturday, May 7th our church held a family event called "Family Brunch." Many families in our church came to eat brunch together and had such a great time. There was so many delicious food and desserts, including rice cakes, soups, and sandwiches. There were also two photo booth stations and a time for games in the main chapel. The games played were family bingo and a quiz using Mentimeter where families could win prizes! The education pastors also danced to the VBS song, "I have decided to follow Jesus" and incorporated a game where, whenever the the lyrics said, "No turning back" they would turn around revealing their names on the back of their t-shirts and whoever could remember all of their names by the end of the song won this year's VBS CD! After playing fun games, Pastor Lauren gave a sermon and led a time of prayer.



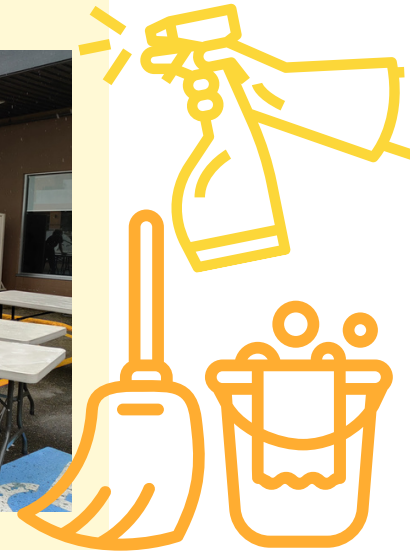
YEAR-END PICNIC

The school year is finally ending, and to celebrate, on May 27th, GEM and CLAY youth came together and had a Year-end Picnic for the first time in three years! We all gathered at Vision Hall and had bulgogi dupbap (불고기 덮밥) and played some ice-breaker games where we picked sides on what we think is right. Then walked to A.H.P Matthew Elementary to have fellowship and play sports and games with our peers. Multiple sports and games were happening, such as soccer, basketball, volleyball, football, California kickball, and MT 게임. Let us continue to pray for the summer so we can enjoy the upcoming Summer Hi-Five events!



CHURCH CLEANING

On Saturday, May 28th Grace Youth participated in our church's annual church cleaning day! While the adults did the gardening and pressure-washing the building's exterior, Grace Youth students scrubbed down all of the folding tables and cleaned the glass and windows.



Praise & Prayer

- **Praise** God for blessing us with the opportunity to have brunch with our families at the church! As we slowly settle back into our normal everyday lives, **praise** God for keeping all of us safe, allowing us to enjoy each other's presence.
- Let's praise God for allowing us to have an amazing Year-end Picnic! At first, it seemed as if the weather was not going to hold back, but let's praise Him for the amazing weather. Let us always thank God for the wonderful opportunities He gives for us to fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- As we enter the summer season let us **pray** for great weather and that we may glorify God in all of the summer events. **Pray** that we may encounter God even whilst having fun fellowship with one another.
- As the grade 12s graduate and prepare to enter a new stage in their lives, **pray** that they would live with God at their center. **Pray** for safety of those who are leaving the province, **Pray** also that, as they continue to grow and mature, they would continue to stay steadfast in their faith and shine God's light, no matter where they are.

SUMMER HI-FIVE

Summer is here! For the months of June to August, Grace Youth takes a break from regular Friday Youth Night gatherings. Instead, join us at our Summer Events to have a wonderful Summer!

JUNE 24
SUMMER
KICK-OFF
EVENT

JULY 23
CHURCH
CLEANING

TBD
MISSIONS
PROJECT

AUGUST 6
LOCAL
OUTREACH
PROJECT

AUGUST 15-18
SUMMER
RETREAT



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