



SEPTEMBER
2018
Elementary
Journal



Parent Letter

gK! Mission Statement:

Partnering with parents to help kids take their next steps towards Christ.

Dear Parents,

At Grace we believe that what happens at home is more important than what happens at church. Did you know that the average family spends more time together in a car in one month than they will spend attending programs in the church for entire year? It's true!

In fact, we have about 40 hours in a given year to minister to your child, whereas the average parent has 3,000! You are the primary influence over your kids in all of life, so it's also true that you are their primary spiritual influence too. Because of that, we believe that spiritual growth happens best when the church and the family are working together for your children.

Grace wants to partner with you as a parent to provide tools and solid Biblical truth both inside and outside the church.

One of the ways we would like to partner with you is through ParentCues. Parent Cues provide you with simple CUES throughout the week that remind you to pause and make the most of everyday moments. These are given to you each Sunday when you pick up your child. You can also find a digital copy on the Grace website (discovergrace.com).

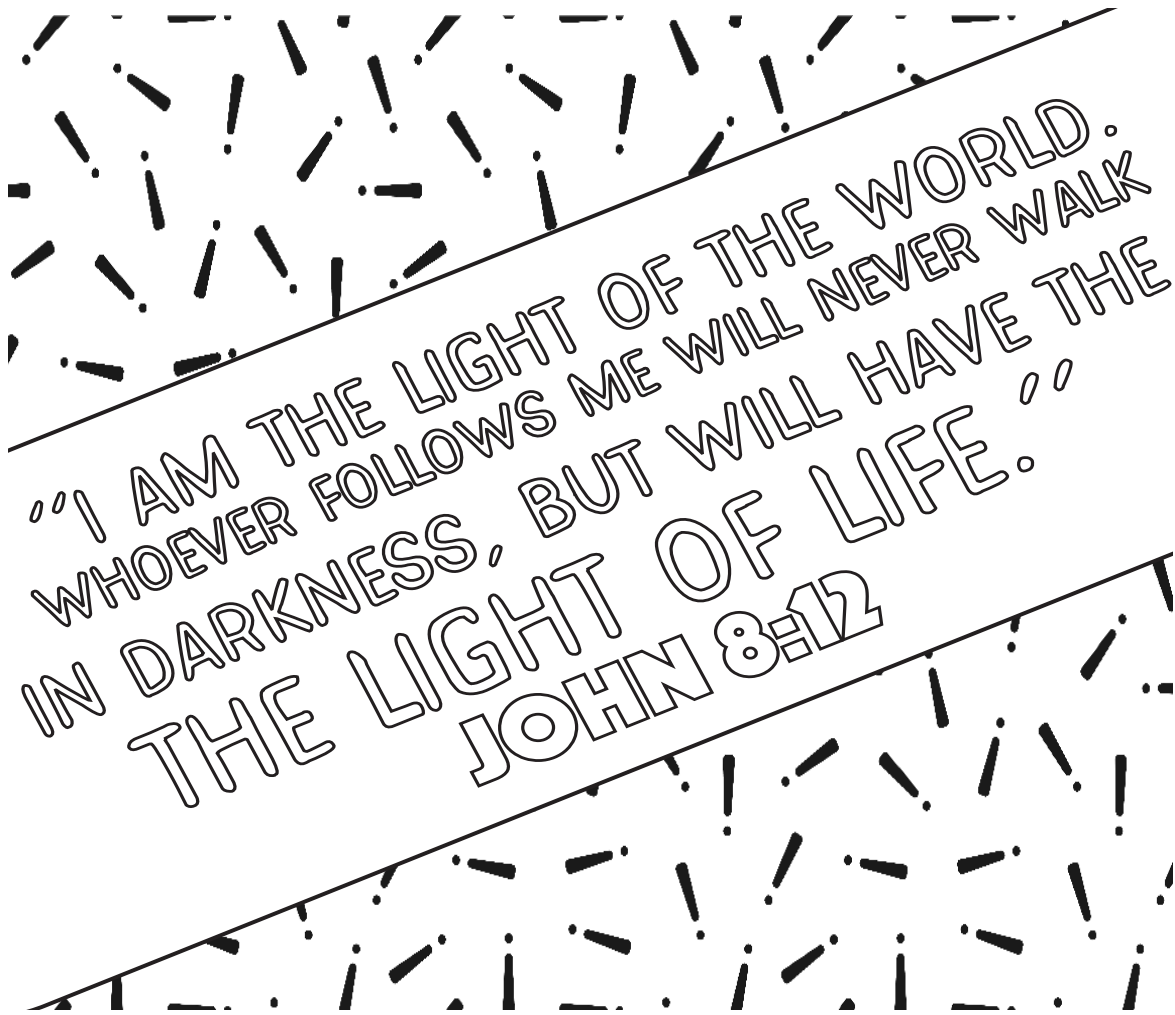
Another way we partner with you is through this journal. Each week we will be posting and emailing weekly devotions from the journal for kids to apply what they learned on Sunday and Faith Skill activities to help children learn and grow closer to God.

This year we will go through the New Testament with your kids. Every week, we will learn how Jesus is the Light of the World! He has the power to guide us and transform us! We'll learn about His life and the people that He met along the way. But most importantly, we will learn how He came to be our Great Rescuer!

-The gK! team



MEMORY VERSE



"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.
WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NEVER WALK
IN DARKNESS, BUT WILL HAVE THE
LIGHT OF LIFE."
JOHN 8:12

DAY 1

Read Isaiah 40:28

Grab the potted plant you made on Sunday and head out to your backyard. Sit in the grass and put a blade of grass or flower between your fingers and feel it. Look closely at the blade of grass or flower and imagine what it would take to make that

The potted plant you have in your hand will grow too. You'll need to put it in the sunshine, water it, and sing Disney songs to it (maybe not that last part, but it'll be more fun). Then, your plant will grow – just like the grass or flower you have in your hand.

**Now imagine how many planets exist on the entire earth.
And those are just a couple of the things God made!**

God also made you!

And he made you to grow –
physically, mentally, and spiritually

He made us to grow in our knowledge of him and to have a relationship with him.

The same God who made us—who made everything—knows SO much that we will never be able to imagine how great His knowledge is.

And that same God wants a relationship with us; He wants to share His knowledge with us!

Faith Skills

Faith Skills are spiritual disciplines that help us know and grow closer to Christ. These skills help kids own their faith and make it personal. graceKIDS! incorporates these skills into our weekly lessons and devotions found in this journal.



HEAR

LISTEN TO GOD THROUGH HIS WORD

If you want to know someone, what's one of the first things you do? You listen. And when you listen to God, it helps you learn to trust Him more.



PRAY

TALK TO GOD

God wants to hear from you. Because when you pray, it helps you connect with God.



TALK

SHARE YOUR FAITH

As you get to know God more, you find that you want to talk about Him more. And when you talk about Him and listen to others talk about Him, it will help you see God in new ways.



LIVE

HONOR GOD WITH YOUR LIFE

The more time you spend with God, the more you will want to honor God in big and small ways.

PRAY AND ASK GOD TO HELP YOU GROW CLOSER TO HIM

HEAR

Listening to God through His word

How often do you read your Bible? Do you know how to read the Bible? It's a big book. Here are some navigation tips (you may need a parent to help you).

BIBLE NAVIGATION TIPS:

- In the front of the Bible is a table of contents where you can find the page number for every book of the Bible
- The first number in the address is the chapter—the big number
- The second number in the address is the verse—the small number
- Old Testament: First part of the Bible (Before Jesus was Born)
- New Testament: Second part of the Bible (About Jesus and after he was born)
- Psalms and Proverbs are located in the middle of the Bible
- Genesis is the first book of the Bible and the first book of the Old Testament
- Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament
- Matthew is the first book of the New Testament
- Revelation is the last book of the New Testament and the last book of the Bible

Now that you have some tips, let's put them to use. Look up our Memory verse John 1:29

Here are some verses that are helpful. Grab some paper, markers/crayons, stickers, or glitter pens, and write them down. Hang them in your room, as a reminder to read God's word.

- Psalm 119:105
- Proverbs 13:20
- Timothy 3:16
- John 3:16
- Hebrews 11:1

God tells us to hide His word in our hearts. Here are some great verses to memorize and tips to learn them.

When we memorize scripture it helps us remember how Big God is, the truth, and helps us stay strong in all situations.

Top 10 Verses Every Kid Should Know (K-1, NIV)

1. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1
2. "Honor your father and your mother." Exodus 20:12a
3. "I call on you, O God, for you will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer." Psalm 17:6
4. "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalm 107:1
5. "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:14a
6. "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." Luke 2:52
7. "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31
8. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16
9. "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12
10. "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" Hebrews 13:6b

Ideas for Memorizing Verses

Set the verse to the tune of a favorite song.

Make it the screensaver on your computer.

Write the verse on two strips of paper, cut the words apart, and let family members race to put the words in order.

Print the verse on cardstock, cut it into puzzle shapes, and guide your child to put it together.

PRAY

Talk to God

Have you ever been friends with someone who you never talked to?

Didn't think so.

If you want to know someone, you talk with them. You say things and they listen. They say things and you listen. It's how we became friends.

The same is true when it comes to God. If you want to know God, pray to him. And here's the really great news—because of Jesus, you aren't just praying to some far-off, mysterious, unknown God. You're praying to someone who really understands

Here's something you might not know:

Before Jesus came to earth, the Israelites—people who loved God—would connect to God through priests. The priests would regularly offer things like animals to God to cover over the sins of the Israelites. Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would walk through a curtain into a very holy place in the temple and offer a sacrifice to God to cover all the sins of the people.

On the day that Jesus died, actually the exact moment Jesus died, that curtain—the one that separated the very holy place in the temple from the rest of the world—was torn. The separation between God and people was over.

**JESUS DEFEATED SIN
AND CHANGED THE WAY WE
CONNECT WITH GOD FROM THEN ON.**

CONTINUED 

PRAY

Talk to God

Now, Jesus is like our High Priest. The writer of Hebrews says it this way:

“We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” (Hebrews 4:15-16)

Isn't that incredible?

You connect to God through prayer because of Jesus.

And Jesus understands what it's like to...

...live on this planet.

...feel hurt.

...be tempted.

He understands. Not only because He's God and He knows everything. He understands because He has walked on this planet and experienced life in a human body. But He did not sin. Instead, He defeated sin.

That means you can come to Him.

Anytime. Anywhere. Boldly.

And because you know a little something about Jesus, you already know Who you are talking to.

PRAY TO GOD TODAY