



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).

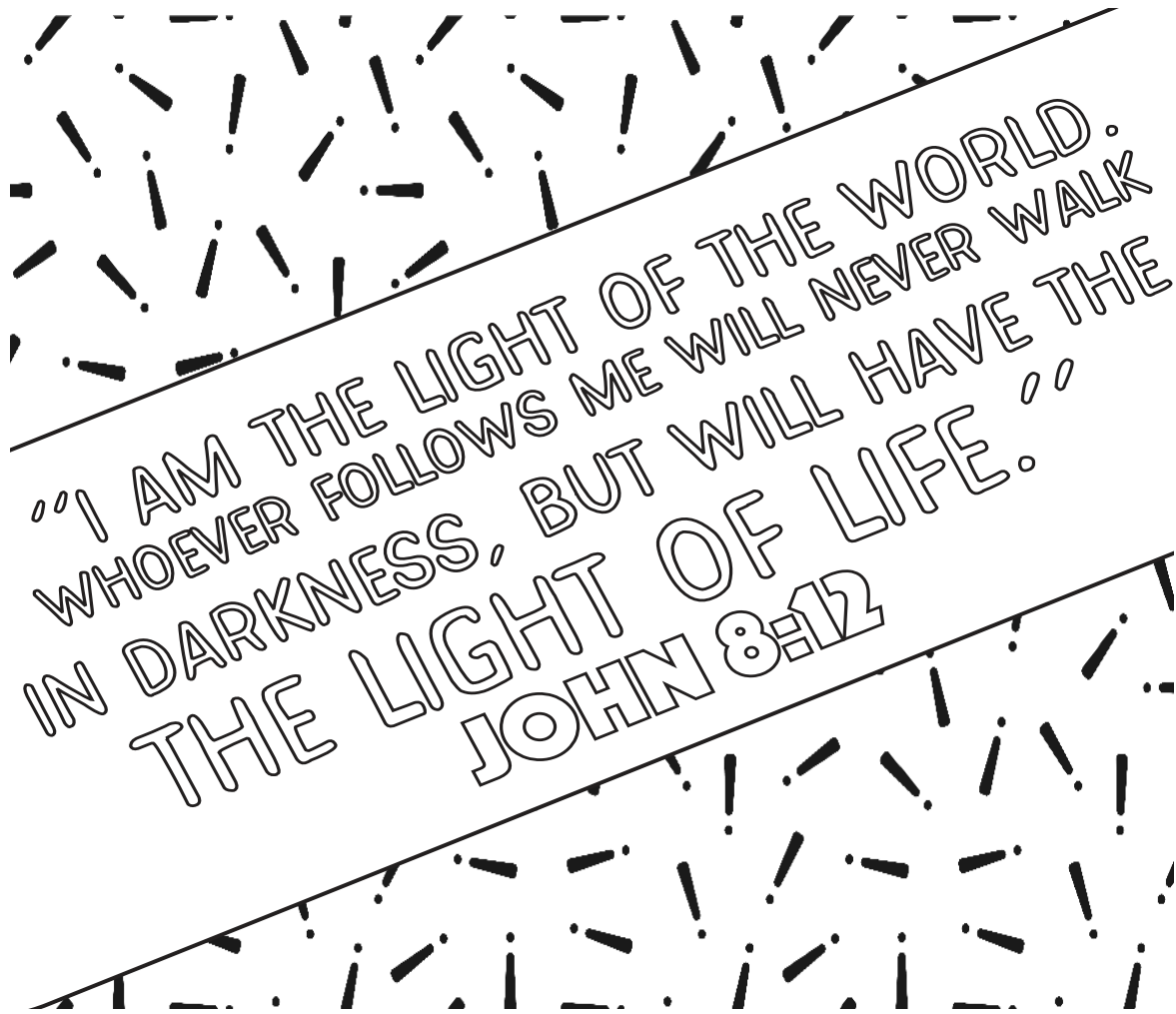
Another way we partner with you is through this journal. Each week we will be posting and emailing weekly devotions from the journal for kids to apply what they learned on Sunday and Faith Skill activities to help children learn and grow closer to God.

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

SEPTEMBER 9

THE
WISE
MEN

BOTTOM LINE:
FOLLOW THE LIGHT
THAT IS JESUS

DAY 1

Have you ever been stuck in a dark place?

Maybe you were camping and all the lights were out for the night. Maybe you've lost power at your house. Or maybe you left a movie to go to the bathroom and when you entered back in, it was so dark that you had a hard time finding your seat.

The dark can be a scary place. But the light is fun! When it's light outside, you're allowed to go out and play! Or when it's dark, it's fun to play with a flashlight or lantern!

I don't think, I've ever met anyone that just likes to sit in the dark...except maybe a bat.

Sometimes our world can be a dark place. There are things that make us sad or mad. Bad things happened.

This is what it felt like for the Israelites. They had been living in darkness. They were waiting for The Great Rescuer who would come and take away their sins!!!

Jesus is our Great Rescuer! He came to this world, lived a perfect life, took the punishment of our sin by dying on the cross, and conquered death by rising from the grave three days later!

Take a look at our memory verse this month, John 8:12.

Write it down on a piece of paper and hang it up as a reminder. Whenever you are sad or feel like you're in the dark. Just be reminded that Jesus is our light!

**KNOW THAT JESUS IS THE
LIGHT OF THE WORLD!**

HOW DO I KNOW JESUS?

That's the next logical question right? Jesus promised to be with us all of the time, but we can't see Him like we see our friends. Jesus isn't exactly sending you a text or uploading pictures to Instagram. So, how are you supposed to get to know him?

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW JESUS, READ HIS STORY.

In case you missed that, Jesus' story is the Bible. Maybe you have a Bible that someone gave you a long time ago, or maybe you have a fancy app on your phone that lets you do a "search" so you can find a funny verse about donkeys. Other than looking up a verse or answering a question at church, what do you really know about the Bible?

You may not know this, but the Bible is not a book. Sure, it looks like a book. You can flip through it like a book. But it's really not just one book.

It's 66 books

Written by over 40 authors

Over 1,600 years.

And it all comes together to tell

ONE BIG STORY!

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CONTINUED

IT'S NOT JUST ANY STORY.

IT'S A STORY ABOUT:

A really BIG GOD who loved
sinful people
SO MUCH
He became a human—Jesus

Jesus

Lived,

Died,

And rose again...

So WE could

Be Forgiven

Redeemed

And live with Him forever!

This is the story that helps us get to know Jesus.

THIS IS THE STORY THAT HELPS US UNDERSTAND

EVERYTHING WE KNOW ABOUT GOD.

Here are a few
things we know
about God
because of His
story:

- We know God is good because God created a magnificent Paradise
- We know bad things will happen because when people broke God's rule, the world was broken.
- We know that God won't abandon us because we see how God pursued disobedient and sinful people over thousands of years.
- We know we can trust God to keep His promises because He already kept the greatest promise by sending His Son, Jesus.
- We know we can be forgiven because Jesus died for us and already took on all the punishment for our sin.

DAY
3

READ:

READ ROMANS 5:6-9

For hundreds of years, God's people had been enslaved by different nations. After suffering constantly, they were tired, frustrated, and worn out. They begged God to send them a rescuer!

Finally, Jesus, the Great Rescuer had arrived! But He hadn't come to rescue them from other nations. He came to rescue them and us from our sin! He came to give us peace

But peace is only possible because of God. Instead of making us pay for all the wrongs things we've done, God sent His only son, Jesus, to pay the price for our sins. Sin covers everything from disobeying your parents, to telling a lie, to thinking mean thoughts about someone that hurts you. And the REALLY bad thing about sin is that it makes us an enemy of God.

But God doesn't expect us to clean ourselves up or to stop sinning before we can have a relationship with Him. He knew that even if we tried really hard, we could never be perfect and fix that relationship ourselves. While we were still enemies of God, He made a way for peace.

Think through your day yesterday and write down or draw every wrong thing you did, even times when you thought something unkind or disrespectful, in the space below.

Now take a moment and read through it. Doesn't make you feel good about yourself does it? Probably not, but it does help you understand why you need Jesus. What's awesome is that when we believe in Jesus, God wipes all of that away and forgives us. Jesus died for all those things you listed to make peace with God

**THANK GOD FOR SENDING JESUS,
OUR GREAT RESCUER.**

READ:**READ COLOSSIAN 1:20-22**

God loves us so much that He wants a relationship with us. But because God is perfect, only perfect people can be with Him. Our sin—remember all of those things we listed yesterday?—separates us from Him. In order to fix this big problem, God sent Jesus—who is perfect—to pay the price for our sin. When God sent us Jesus, He proved He cared for us.

Let's do a little science experiment. Gather the following: a small soft drink bottle, water, food coloring, and vegetable oil. Add a few drops of food coloring to the water. Pour about 2 tablespoons of the colored water and 2 tablespoons of the oil in the soft drink bottle. Screw the lid on tight and shake the bottle as hard as you can. Put the bottle on the table and wait five minutes. Now, take a look. The oil and water should be separated from one another. This is a picture of our relationship with God because of our sin. Thankfully, this experiment isn't over yet.

Next, grab some dish-washing liquid and pour a couple of drops into the bottle. (You might want to ask an adult to help you.) Now shake the bottle again. What happened to the two liquids? Are they mixed together?

Pretty amazing, huh? This is a picture of what God has done for us. When we were still separated from God, He sent Jesus to take the punishment on the cross for our sin. He died, was buried, and then rose again on the third day to forever fix the broken relationship between God and people. God's love for us made a way for our sin problem was taken care of once and for all. God proved just how much he loved us by sending Jesus to make a way for peace.

**LOOK FOR WAYS TO THANK GOD FOR
SENDING JESUS TO RESCUE US**