



JANUARY 2019

Elementary Journal



MEMORY VERSE

Love the LORD
your God
with all your *heart*
with all your *soul*
with all your *mind*
with all your *strength*
Love your neighbor as yourself
There is no commandment
greater than these

Mark 12:30-31

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



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

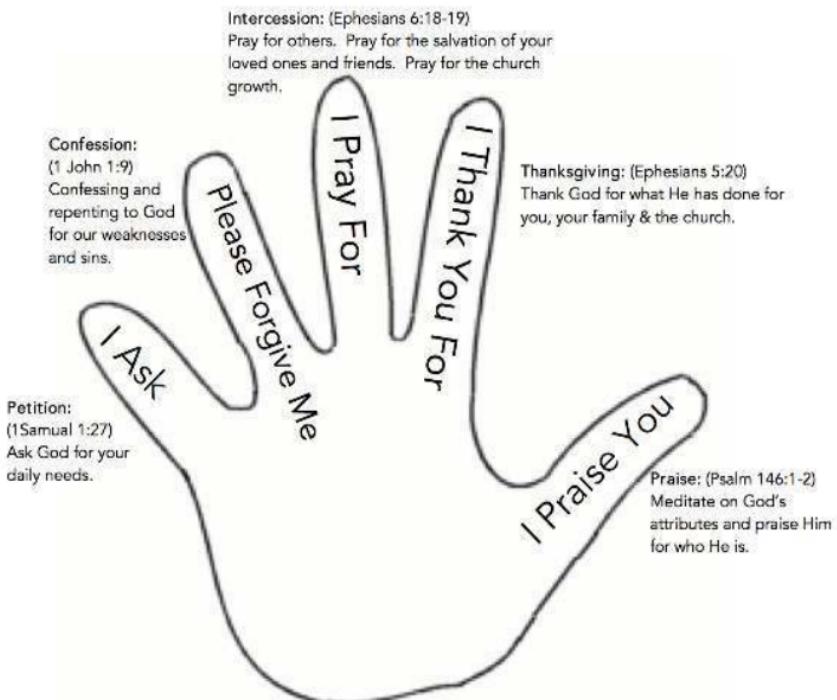
HONOR GOD WITH YOUR LIFE

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

PRAYER

Dialogue with God

In gK! we use the “Prayer Hand” as a helpful approach for teaching kids to pray. It’s a format that allows children to recall and pray in their own words the five distinctive elements of prayer.



WEEK 1

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

MATTHEW 22:34-40

BOTTOM LINE: LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS

DAY 1

READ MATTHEW 22:36-37

What is the greatest song of all time?

Who is the greatest athlete of all time?

What is the greatest movie ever made?

What is the greatest game ever played?

Now go and ask someone else the same questions and see what their responses are. They're probably very different from yours, especially if you asked a parent or someone older than you. It's hard to determine what is actually "greatest"—everyone has different opinions. But Jesus was perfect and always spoke the truth. So if He said something was the greatest, you'd better believe it was true!

Go back and read the verse again and answer this question (and for extra fun, go back and quiz your friend/parent on this question too):

What is the greatest commandment in the Bible?

**THANK GOD FOR SENDING JESUS TO TEACH US
ABOUT THE GREATEST THINGS IN LIFE.**

DAY 2

READ EXODUS 20:1-3

It seems kind of silly that God had to even give that command to the Israelites, that they wouldn't worship any other gods. This is the God who had just brought them out of slavery and was taking them to the Promised Land. This is a God who seems worthy of all our love, right? But God still had to remind His people that He was first in their lives. If the Israelites had to be reminded just after being freed from slavery, we will probably need some reminding ourselves!

Set a timer (you can use a watch, clock, ipad/iphone, or a sand timer from one of your games) as a visual reminder to put God first. Every time you see the timer has run out, stop and thank God for something you love about Him. Then flip the timer back over and repeat every time you notice it throughout the day.

**ASK GOD TO HELP YOU REMEMBER THAT
HE IS NUMBER ONE.**

DAY 3

READ MATTHEW 10:37

It's one thing to put God ahead of ourselves, or all our stuff, but it feels really strange to think that we should love Him more than our parents or our brother or sister, doesn't it? Here's the thing, though: when we love God more than anything, then we start loving LIKE God. And God's love is perfect and unconditional. We will love others more when we love God the most!

But what does that look like? Did you know that if you have a large pile of big rocks, small rocks and sand that should fit in a bucket, that if you put the sand and small rocks in first, you won't have enough room to fit the big rocks? But if you put the big rocks in first, then the smaller rocks, and lastly the sand, will all fit just fine! It's all about the order, and getting the big things in first. If you have a bucket and can find some rocks and dirt or sand, try it out! You'll be shocked to see how much more you can fit if you get the big things in first.

**KNOW THAT THERE'S NOTHING MORE
IMPORTANT THAN PUTTING GOD FIRST**

DAY 4

READ MARK 12:30-31

As big as the Bible is, it's hard to believe this, but almost every single commandment in the Bible can fit under one of just two commands Jesus gave: Love God, and love others. Think about all of the rules and advice the Bible gives: "Honor your father and mother." Where does that fit? Right, love others. "Don't have other gods"—you got it, love God. Even "rest on the Sabbath day" comes back to loving God, because we need to take a day of rest so we can worship Him and remember what's most important.

Break out your best art supplies and your neatest handwriting to make a cool sign that basically says the main rules of your house are to, #1 Love God and #2 Love others. Decorate it with your favorite colors and crafty stuff. Hang your "Rules of the House" picture somewhere that everyone in the house can see it.

(If crafts aren't your favorite thing, what about building one with LEGO blocks or even stuff from outside? You don't have to glue the words down, just take a picture and see if a parent will help you get it printed. Or you could save it as wallpaper on a computer or phone.)

**THANK GOD FOR KEEPING IT SIMPLE:
LOVE HIM AND LOVE OTHERS.**