



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

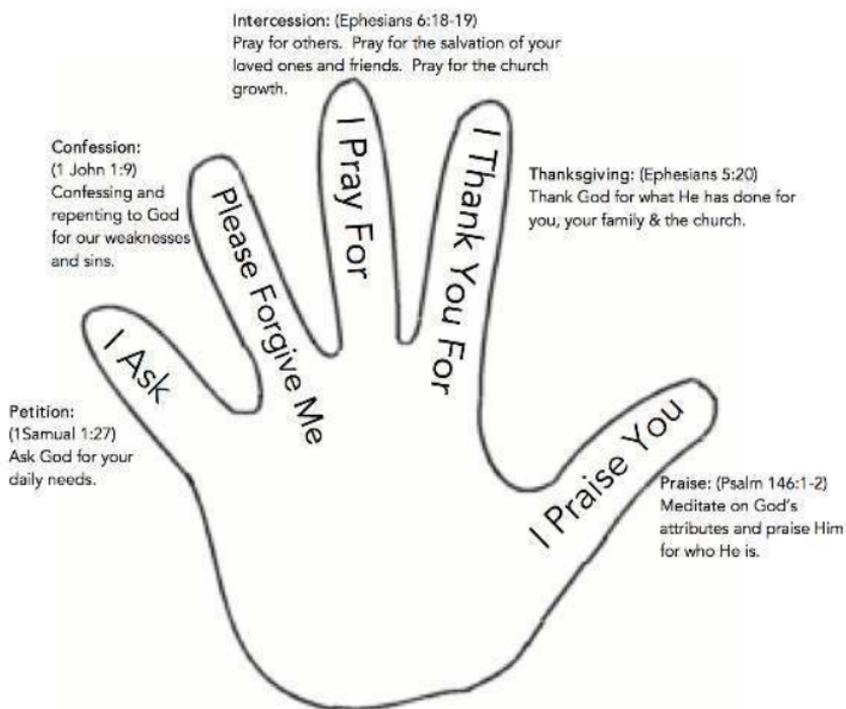
HONOR GOD WITH YOUR LIFE

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 2

ZACCHAEUS

LUKE 19:1-10

BOTTOM LINE:
GOD WANTS TO CHANGE
OUR WHOLE LIFE

DAY 1

READ LUKE 19:8-10

Take a walk outside and look around at the ground, the trees, and everything that is growing. Your parents might garden or mow the lawn, but for the most part, plants and grass that grow outside can change and grow on their own. But bring a plant indoors, and suddenly that plant needs a lot of help from you. It is trapped and it's not going to be able to grow and change on its own. You have to free up the plant to grow by giving it what it needs: water and sun.

Zacchaeus was stuck and trapped by the wrong things he was doing. But when he was given what he needed—forgiveness—he was able to change. Forgiveness changed Zacchaeus' life. Instead of cheating people, he paid them back even more than he took from them. Have you ever experienced forgiveness that changed you? Before you go back inside, take some time to thank God for His gift of forgiveness.

**THANK GOD FOR THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS
AND SECOND CHANCES.**

DAY 2

EXCERPT FROM "THOUGHTS TO MAKE YOUR HEART SING,"
BY SALLY LLYOD-JONES

FRIEND OF SINNERS

One day, Jesus visited the important city of Jericho and had a meeting.

Who with? The mayor? The bishop?

No. Jesus made a beeline straight for ... the biggest sinner he could find. (Who, by the way, was quite small and up a tree.)

It would like going to Washington D.C. and instead of having lunch with the President, finding the worst criminal and having lunch with him.

Zacchaeus was the most hated, despised man in the whole city and - of all people - he was the one Jesus chose to have lunch with. (Back then that was scandalous - it was like saying, 'Let's be friends!')

The important people sneered, 'Jesus is a friend of sinners!'

They were right, Jesus loves sinners.

And they're the whole reason he came.

'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.' 1 Timothy 1:15 (NLT)

DAY 3

READ EPHESIANS 1:7

Get a few sheets of blank paper—if you have colored construction paper, even better. With a parent's help, cut the paper into long strips. Use tape or glue to make a circle out of a strip (by gluing the two ends of one strip together). Stick another strip inside the circle, then glue those two ends together, and so on, until you have a long chain of paper strips. Use the final strip to bring the entire chain together into a circle.

Hang the chain somewhere to remind you how when you don't forgive, it's like being in chains. You are putting the other person in chains, but you're also keeping yourself from being free when you don't forgive. The next time someone hurts you and you choose to forgive, break the chain in half, but leave it hanging to remind you that when you forgive, you're setting yourself and the other person free!

ASK GOD TO HELP YOU SET YOURSELF AND OTHERS FREE THROUGH FORGIVENESS.

Love

Does that word make you starry-eyed or sick to your stomach?

Sigh dreamily or feel like your skin is crawling with a thousand tarantulas?

Like it or not, I bet you use the "L word" every day!

"I love Fridays." "I love chicken nuggets." "I love turtles."

GO AHEAD AND WRITE A FEW OF THOSE THINGS DOWN, WHAT DO YOU SAY THAT YOU LOVE?

Of course, the word "love" means so much more than how you feel about chicken nuggets. It's more than candy hearts and sitting in a tree.

Love is...

- ...kind
- ...selfless
- ...patient.
- ...hopeful.
- ...forgiving.
- ... generous.
- ... encouraging.
- ... understanding.

... no matter what!

During His time on earth, Jesus gave us a short list of what to love. (Surprisingly, chicken nuggets didn't make the list.)

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

First, love God.

Then, love yourself.

Finally, love everyone else as much as you love yourself.

If you do those three things, you’ve got it covered. **It’s that simple.**

Honor God with love.

If you love God, you will only worship Him. You will set aside time for Him. If you love yourself, you won’t be jealous of others. You will be content. If you love others, you won’t lie, cheat, steal or gossip. You will treat everyone with respect.

But it’s not that simple is it? Love is such a huge part of **honoring God...but it’s easy to forget sometimes.**

God is the most awesome thing ever...until you see that One Direction concert. You feel really great about yourself...until your hair does that peacock thing. You love everyone...except that kid who chose you last in P.E.

Knowing God and showing Him **honor** in your daily life means loving no matter what. Jesus said it was the most important thing we could do with our lives. **We honor God with our love** for God, others, and ourselves.

COME UP WITH ONE WAY TO SHOW LOVE TO...

GOD: _____

YOURSELF: _____

OTHERS: _____

And maybe every time you confess your undying “love” for something like chicken nuggets, remind yourself of what that word really means and the three things Jesus wants you to love.