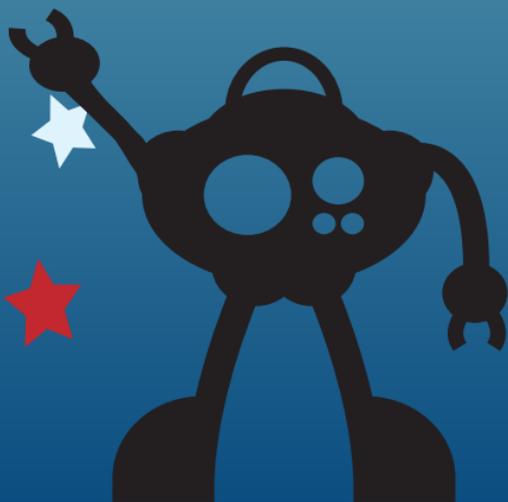




JANUARY
2019
Elementary
Journal



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

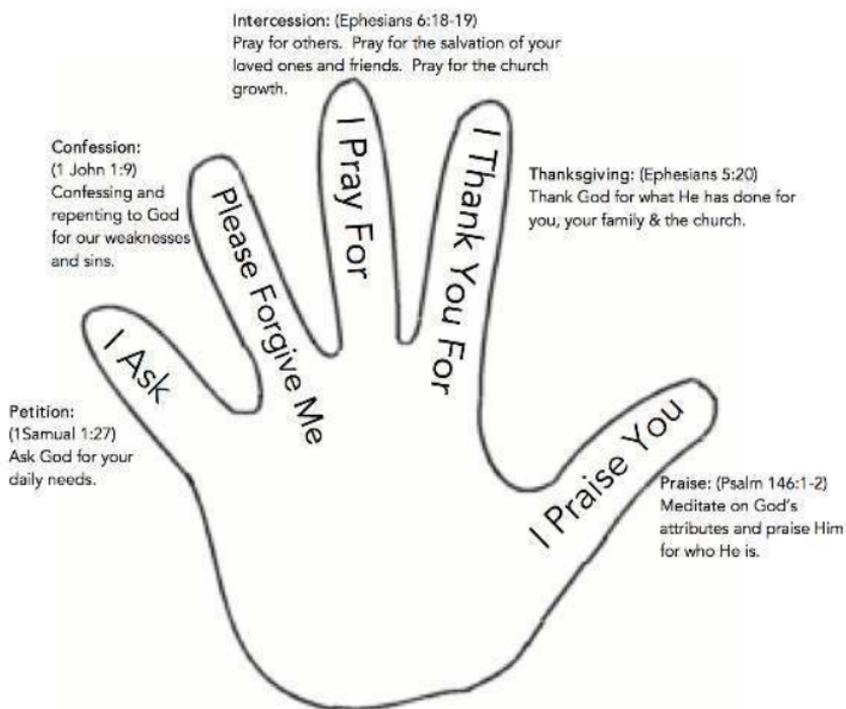
HONOR GOD WITH YOUR LIFE

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 3

**HEALING
THE BLIND
MAN**

JOHN 9:1-38

**BOTTOM LINE:
GOD'S PLAN IS
BIGGER THAN OURS**

DAY 1

READ JOHN 9:35-38

When Jesus healed the blind man, the blind man trusted Jesus and was ready to believe whatever He said. Other people were around and saw the miracle or the results (the man could now see). Can you think of a time when you saw God do something amazing? Or maybe someone else told you a story where only God could have pulled that off!

If you can't think of anything, go ask a family member or friend. Draw a picture in the space below write the word FAITH to remind you of what God did. Whenever you see this, remember that, like the blind man, you can trust God, because of all He's done!

THANK GOD FOR OPENING YOUR EYES TO AN
EXAMPLE OF HOW AMAZING HE IS.

DAY 2

FAITH IS BELIEVING WHAT GOD SAYS.

Some people think faith is like a leap in the dark. A lot of really great things happen in the dark like going to the movies, laser tag, fireworks, bedtime (if you don't like bedtime now, you'll love it when you're older), and the Disney Electrical Parade!

But faith isn't a leap in the dark, faith is not like being blind.

The Bible tells us so. Away from God, we are in the dark. That's when we're blind and stumbling around.

John Newton was a notorious slave trader - but coming to know Jesus changed him forever. He spent the rest of his life working to free slaves and wrote the hymn 'Amazing Grace': 'I once was blind,' he said, 'but now I see!'

When we come to God it's not a leap into darkness.

It's a magnificent leap into light - the light of God's love for us!

READ JOHN 8:12

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

THANK GOD FOR SHOWING YOU THE LIGHT.

DAY 3

READ JOHN 9:13-16

Would you ever go to school with a blindfold on? Or trust your mom to drive the car with her eyes closed? Do you think it's easier to find something in a dark room with the lights on?

The Pharisees were the religious rulers in Jesus' day. It was their job to make sure people were following God and not teaching the wrong thing. But they acted like they were blind a lot. They didn't walk around with eyes closed or with blindfolds. But instead of loving God and trusting Him – they loved rules and making themselves look good. They loved rules so much, they wrote a big fat book of rules on how to keep rules. They actually loved rules more than people. They loved rules so much, that they couldn't see what God was doing.

Jesus came to rescue us! The Pharisees knew a Great Rescuer was coming, but they thought he would be a king on earth, that he would love rules, and punish all the people that didn't keep them. But that's not why Jesus came.

Jesus came to set us free! No matter how good we are, we can't keep all the rules. So Jesus came, lived a perfect life, died for our sins, and conquered death. So when we do break a rule or sin, we can be forgiven because He took that punishment for us.

Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

WHEN WE PUT OUR FAITH IN JESUS, WE
KNOW HOW TO LIVE AND LOVE GOD.

DAY 4

You'll need a pen, black crayon, a piece of paper and a coin for today's activity. On the paper, draw what you think God looks like with the pen.

Now, color over it with the black crayon. You can't really see God anymore can you? You might be able to see Him a little bit, or see traces of the pen through the black crayon. But you can't see Him clearly.

Now, take the coin and use the edge to scratch away the black crayon. You can see God again!

This is exactly what Jesus does for us! Jesus heals our eyes so we can see God.

When God created the world it was a magnificent paradise. Everything was perfect and people had a perfect relationship with God.

Now, draw a picture of you holding hand with God.

But then, Sin entered the world. And the world was broken. And that sin separated us from God. Draw a picture of you on the left and God on the right, then write the SIN between you.

But Jesus came so we could be right with God again. He removes our sin, so we can see God. Just like when you scratched off the black crayon.

Draw a picture of you and God together again.

READ JOHN 9:3-5

**THANK JESUS FOR COMING TO RESCUE US, FOR
BEING THE LIGHT AND SHOWING US GOD**