



# 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](http://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**

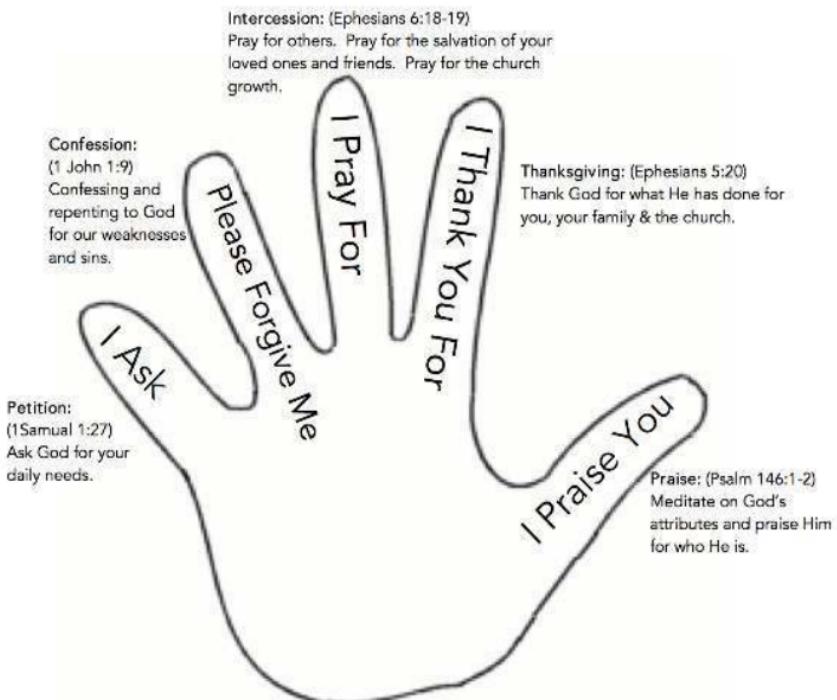
## **HONOR GOD WITH YOUR LIFE**

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 4

## LAZARUS

JOHN 11:1-44

BOTTOM LINE:  
NOTHING IS  
IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD

# DAY 1

## READ JOHN11:41B-42

Lazarus was dead. He was buried. For four days. And Jesus brought him back to life! What could be bigger than that?! Even still, Jesus had to pray out loud to God so that everyone around would understand exactly who He was. It makes you wonder if God is doing big things around us all the time (He is!) and we often miss them (we do!). The miracles we see every day may not be as big as Jesus raising someone from the dead, but if we look closely, we'll see God is at work—doing stuff—everywhere, every day!

Everywhere you look, you can see the glory of God. You can see the beautiful things he created, his power in a storm, and his love through His church. However, sometimes things happen that we don't understand. But God always has a greater end.

In this story, Jesus allowed something to happen, so God could get the glory and people would know that He is the Great Rescuer.

Ask your parent for a clothespin, a cotton ball or a few squares of toilet paper and glue. Pull on the cotton ball to make it longer and wrap it around the clothespin and glue it to secure the cotton. Or you could tear strips of the toilet paper and wrap them around, gluing them down. Tape or glue your little "Lazarus" to a piece of paper and write, "For God's glory." Keep it in your room to remember, God is good, and always has a plan.

**THANK GOD FOR DOING BIG THINGS  
TO HELP YOU TRUST HIM.**

# DAY 2

## READ PSALM 33:4-6

God has so much power and He used it to make the earth. He has so much wisdom and He used it to set the world in its place. He has so much knowledge and He used it to spread out the skies.

300,000,000,000,000,000,000. Do you even know how to say that number or do you just know it's big? That's how many stars scientists estimate are in the universe. Our sun is just ONE of those stars. And even though it looks big and far away to us, it's nowhere near being the biggest of the stars. Can you believe God created all those stars? All of them, every last one of them, by simply speaking. A God who can do things that big, that amazing—that's a God we can trust.

Grab a piece of paper, coffee filter, blue and green makers, spray bottle of water, foil, and a pair of scissors.

Cut out some stars from the foil and glue or tape them to your piece of paper.

Ask a parent for a coffee filter or napkin, a squirt bottle, and some blue and green washable markers. Use the markers to scribble on the filter or napkin to make it look like a globe (blue for the water, green for the land). Then squirt just a bit of water onto the filter or napkin (just one or two squirts!) and watch the colors go! Let it completely dry and then tape it to the paper with stars.

Hang up your creation, as a reminder that the same God who created the earth and the stars love you and you can trust Him.

**ASK GOD TO REMIND YOU OF ALL THE BIG  
THINGS HE'S DONE EVERY TIME YOU SEE  
AMAZING THINGS IN GOD'S CREATION.**

# DAY 3

## READ MATTHEW 19:26

Did you know you can't sneeze with your eyes open?  
You also can't tickle yourself. Try it!

Now write or draw a short list of things that seem SO big or impossible that you won't be able to do them without God's help:

Take this list hang it up as reminder that you can trust God even with the impossible. Remember, that Jesus did the impossible a raised Lazarus from the dead! Then pray and ask God to help you with these "impossible" things, knowing that with Him, nothing is impossible!

**KNOW THAT GOD CAN MAKE  
THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE.**

# DAY 4

## READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13, 17B-18

When something bad happens, like someone close to us dies, we may cry and feel sad for quite a while. But today's verse says it's different for a Christian – someone who has trusted Jesus as his/her Savior. The difference is HOPE. As Christians, we know that people who trust Jesus will live again with Jesus in heaven. So even though we feel sadness when someone dies, we grieve differently than other people. Because of that we can encourage each other with words of hope.

Do you know someone who is going through a hard time? Think of a way you can express hope to that person this week (maybe with a card, phone call, or visit). Write or draw your idea below, then follow through with your plan.

**ASK GOD TO SHOW YOU SOMEONE  
WHO NEEDS ENCOURAGEMENT.**