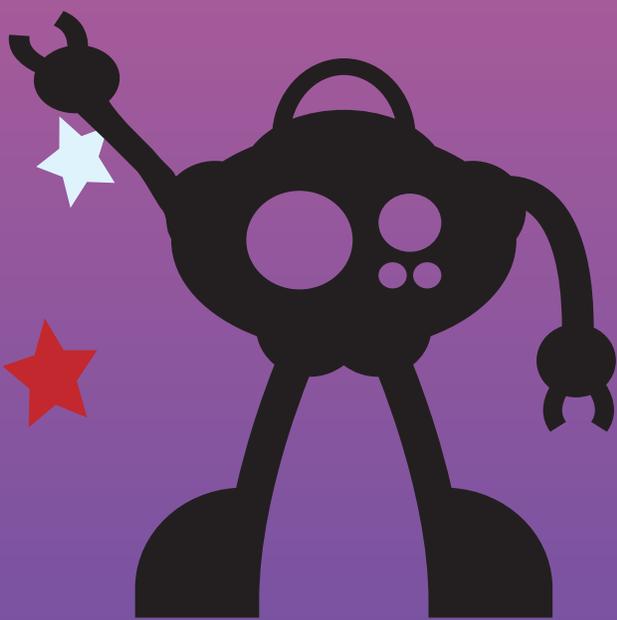




APRIL
2019
Elementary
Journal



MEMORY VERSE

WHAT IS LOVE?
IT IS NOT THAT
WE LOVED GOD
IT IS THAT HE LOVED US
AND HE SENT HIS SON TO
GIVE HIS LIFE TO PAY
FOR OUR SINS
1 JOHN 4:10 NIRV

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

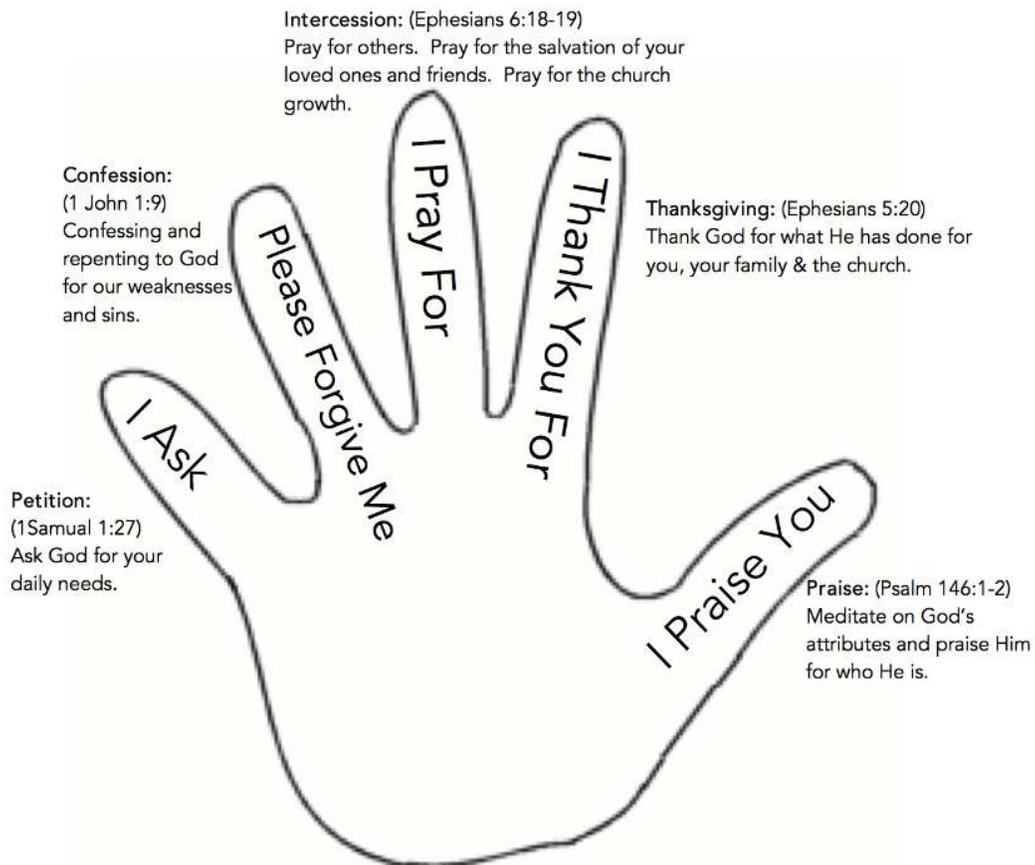
HONOR GOD WITH YOUR LIFE

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

**JESUS
IN THE
GARDEN**

MATTHEW 26:36-46

BOTTOM LINE:

JESUS IS OUR STRENGTH

DAY 1

Before you get started today, grab a bible or a bible app, a pen, and this journal. Then go find a nice shady spot under a tree. If it's raining or there's no shade around your house, a nice spot by the window will work fine.

Now, you may be wondering: Why do I need to be outside for this? The bean bag in my room works just fine. Plus it's super comfortable. Well, take a look at Luke 22:39.

“Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives.”

As usual? Sounds like Jesus went outside to spend time with God a lot.

Why do you think Jesus Might have wanted to be outside when he prayed?

What about you? What value do you find in being outside or looking out at the world God created?

According to Luke 22:39, Jesus went to the Mount of Olives often. So it probably wasn't too surprising when He asked His followers to join Him in the garden to pray.

But this time was a bit different. Jesus wanted to talk to God, His heavenly Father, about something really important – about dying on the cross. He was overwhelmed with what He needed to do. He could probably think of a million other things He would rather do. So He prayed and talked to God about it. You can read His prayer in Luke 22:42.

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DAY 1

CONTINUED

He knew He would suffer and feel pain. He asked God to make it so that He didn't have to die on the cross. But He also knew that He could trust His heavenly Father no matter what. Jesus did what he needed to do - not because He wanted to, but because it was what God required for His plan to save the world from their sins.

God has a plan for you too! There may be times that you have to stand up for what's right. Like your friends are asking you to cheat on a test or steal something from a store. There may be times, that you feel like you can't deal with a hard situation. Like your parents are getting divorced, a pet or family member has passed away, or you are getting bullied.

In every situation, God sees you. He hurts for what you are going through. But He loves you so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die for you! He sent Jesus to take away your sins.

And Jesus knows exactly what you are going through! He has been in hard situations, he has had bad things happen to Him.

Jesus is our Great Rescuer! No matter what you are going through today, KNOW that Jesus is your strength!

**PRAY AND ASK HIM TO HELP YOU WITH
WHAT YOU ARE DEALING WITH**

DAY 2

If someone asked you to prove something about yourself, how would you do it?

How would you prove you were a good soccer player or dancer?

How might you go about proving that pizza is your favorite food? Or that you love all things Disney?

Maybe you'd show them your moves, a tally of the number of pizza slices you eat in a week, or your collection of Disney movies.

Easy right?

But what about the stuff that might be a bit harder to prove?

That you love your parents.

Or that you have the best BFF ever.

Those might be a bit more work, huh?

When Jesus was put on trial, he had done nothing wrong. He told people who He was - the Son of God, the Messiah, the promised One who had been sent to rescue all people from their sin.

And though what He said about Himself was true, it got Him in serious trouble.

People spit on Him and made fun of Him. They beat Him. And eventually they crucified Him.

Jesus was perfect. he never messed up. So why was He punished as if He did something majorly wrong? Well, one of Jesus' disciples, John, tells us.

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DAY 2

CONTINUED

READ 1 John 4:9-10

So why does John say Jesus let them do all that stuff to Him? Why did God let Jesus go through all that when He hadn't done anything wrong?

God sent His Son to save the world from sin. And you are part of the world, aren't you?

Jesus suffered through all that for you. Did you catch that? Jesus did all that for you.

Doesn't make you feel pretty loved?

Jesus knew the only way you could be with God forever was for Him to go through all of that so he could pay for your sin. When He paid for your sin, he removed everything that kept you apart from Him.

That means that Jesus suffered through all of that horrible stuff because He wanted to.

Because He wants to be with you forever.

Be He loves you.

That might be hard to understand, but Jesus' love for us is sometimes hard to understand.

This week, find someone who knows a whole lot about Jesus. Ask them what Jesus' love means to them

Take a moment to pray and thank God for the awesome gift of Jesus' love.

DAY 3

It wasn't supposed to be this way.

In Peter's mind, he figured he'd stand with Jesus until the very end. It didn't matter what Jesus had said about falling away; Peter thought that when the time came, he'd stand strong, show conviction and defend Jesus.

But that's not what happened.

You can read the whole story in Luke 22:54-62. Jesus had said that Peter would deny Him three times, and it all went down just like Jesus said it would. When people pointed out that Peter had been with Jesus, Peter denied ever even knowing Him.

Look at Luke 22:60-62.

What did Peter do when he realized what he had done?

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DAY 3

CONTINUED

Peter felt horrible. he must have thought he was the worst person in the world, and that no matter what Jesus couldn't forgive him.

Has something like this ever happened to you? have you ever known that you needed to do something, but when the time came, you ran away? If it has, you're in good company. Even Peter, one of Jesus' closest friends, messed up.

But thankfully, it's not the end of your story. Just like it wasn't the end of Peter's story.

After Jesus rose from the dead, he forgave Peter and gave him a second chance, and Peter went to be a leader in the church.

Jesus gave Peter another chance. Jesus can give you another chance too. If you find yourself in Peter's shoes, its easy to feel like you missed your chance to follow Jesus. But talk to God about it. Tell Him how you feel. Ask Him to help you follow and serve Him.

Say or write out your prayer below:



DAY 4

How do you think the disciples felt after Jesus was arrested and taken away?

They were probably afraid and felt very alone.

Read John 14:26-27.

Do you remember the last time you felt alone? Maybe you were separated from your parents in a crowd or you were the only one your age at church.

When Jesus was taken away and about to be crucified, his disciples were scared. They had gotten used to having Jesus around. What would they do without him?

Jesus told them not to be afraid. he told them he was sending the Holy Spirit, who would remind them of everything he'd taught them. He would leave them his peace to help them in difficult times. he would give them courage and comfort.

Everyone faces situations that feel lonely. But we must remember that Jesus is our Savior and that he has given us the Holy Spirit to help us. We can be confident that we are not alone. The world isn't perfect, but Jesus' love is. He will never leave us.

Ask Jesus to comfort you when you are scared or lonely.

**THANK GOD FOR THE GIFT OF
THE HOLY SPIRIT.**