

Grace focus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE IMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2015 – VOLUME 2

Reading the Bible with Grandpa

“You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out.”

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible. His grandson who wanted to be just like him tried to imitate him in any way he could.

One day the grandson asked, “Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don’t understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?”

The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, “Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water.”

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, “You will have to move a little faster next time,” and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it

was “impossible to carry water in a basket,” and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said, “I don’t want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You’re just not trying hard enough,” and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty. Out of breath, he said, “See Papa, it’s useless!”

“So you think it is useless?” The old man said, “Look at the basket.” The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old coal basket, it was clean. “Son, that’s what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out. That is the work of God in our lives. To change us from the inside out and to slowly transform us into the image of His son.

Church Events

- **Feb 1**-First Sunday/No Sunday School/Baby Dedication
- **Feb 4th**-Wed night Bible study in 1 Thes:Chpt 4/YOUTH GROUP
- **Feb 5th**-Retired Men's Meeting
- **Feb 11th**-Wednesday night Bible study in 1 Thes:Chpt 5/YOUTH GROUP
- **Feb 13th**-Mens Meeting
- **Feb 14th**-Couples Valentines Dinner
- **Feb 18th**-Wednesday night Bible study in 2 Thes:Chpt 1/YOUTH GROUP
- **Feb 25th**-Wednesday night Bible study in 2 Thes:Chpt 2/YOUTH GROUP

Dishonesty Damages and Destroys

Protect your integrity. Consider the words you are about to say before you say them. Do not allow even a little dishonesty to be a part of your conversation.

In 1 Samuel 21, there is a story about David. At the time, Saul was the king of Israel, but David's popularity was growing and Saul feared he would lose his throne. So, he was chasing David and trying to kill him. David fled in such a hurry that he had neither food nor a weapon. He ran to the house of Ahimelek the priest. David thought that if he told the priest he was on the run from the king, the priest wouldn't help him. So,

he lied. He told the priest that he had been sent on an urgent and secret mission for the king—so urgent that he didn't have time to gather supplies and so secret that he couldn't bring men with him.

The priest had extra food—more than he needed. He also had a sword. Priests don't need swords. David couldn't figure how this lie would hurt anything.

The only problem was that

when Saul found out that Ahimelek had helped David, he considered it to be treason. He thought the priest had been conspiring against him. So, he had Ahimelek and all the other priests of the town executed. Many people lost their lives because of the lie that David told.

Lies that we tell may not have such disastrous ramifications, but untruthfulness is never without its consequences. When we lie, sooner or later that lie will be discovered. And when it is, we will be exposed as untrustworthy people. Trust is a hard thing to earn but an easy thing to lose. Dishonesty will damage relationships and destroy friendships, so, "Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies."

*Protect your integrity.
Consider the words
you...say.*

Psalm 34:12-14 (CEB)
12 Do you love life;
do you relish the chance to
enjoy good things?
13 Then you must keep your
tongue from evil
and keep your lips from
speaking lies!
14 Turn away from evil! Do
good!
Seek peace and go after it!

Sunday School

*Thank you teachers for your time and patience.
Your love does not go unnoticed!*



Youth Summer Camp

We know summer camp is fun and full of adventures, but we also know how influential it can be. Summer camp is more than a week of fun with friends and messy games; it is an opportunity to step out of the every day busy and spend irreplaceable time at the feet of Jesus. Lets keep this in mind as we are giving this year. We would love to be able to give enough money to send all of our kids to camp!!

Meet Our Youth

Aside from Jake's (Jacob Angelovski) "love" for Arianna Grande, he likes making videos for his Youtube channel- @jacobangelovski (check his channel out and subscribe), he has the ability to clack his tongue extremely loudly, and drums in the High School band.

His favorite worship song is Oceans by Hillsong United and enjoys the book of Philippians. Philippians 3:16 is his favorite Bible verse. Jacob's prayer right now is that he would know the Joy of the Lord in his life, even more than he has before. He's a pretty cool cat and we are proud to have him as a youth at Grace!



Alone in the Room

...yet not alone

By Carol Haskell

Sitting alone, near the window, in my mother's chair

Wrapped in her blanket, feeling the cool night air.

Enjoying the quietness, the peace, the calm

Praying, meditating, basking in Jesus' healing balm.

All of my thoughts, my hopes and my fears

Hushed in His Presence, along with silent tears.

He's well aware of the moment and place

Knows that I'm longing to see His Face.

Unveiled and opened with perfect love;

The love that outshines even the sun above.

Glory and honor, praise and power

Be unto You, Lord, this very hour.

Thank you for Your comfort and rest,

Lord, You always know what is best.

So....I wait.....and wait....and wait....

Bless You, Lord, You're never late.

Knowing that You wait for me

Gives me grace and eyes to see.

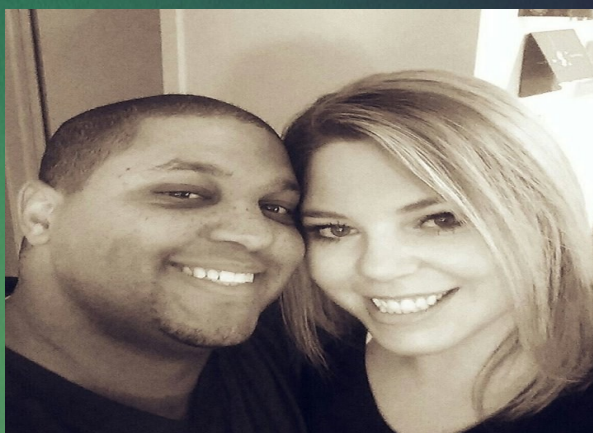
You are ever gracious and kind

I am Yours and You are mine!

After writing and reading this poem, the Lord reminded me of His waiting for me. *Isaiah 30:18 "And therefore will the LORD WAIT, that He may be gracious unto you, and therefore will He be exalted that He may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are ALL they that WAIT for HIM."*

So, continue to COME to HIM, continue to LOOK to HIM, continue to WAIT for Him...HE IS WAITING FOR YOU!

Love, joy and peace to all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.



Testimonial

Anthony and Megan Spann and their boys have been with us at Grace for 2 years.

Megan and I had been praying to God for a second vehicle for 3 years. 3 years of hauling 2 adults and 3 kids aged 8, 4, and 1 in a midsize car. God said yes to our prayer on March 17, 2014. I remember being so unsure if we should make the purchase or save the money. I prayed that if this was not God's will, to slam this door shut in my face and block this purchase. We went to pay for the car and the price changed. By God's grace it was figured out. Then I didn't even consider sales tax, but by God's grace the money needed was in our checking account. Shortly thereafter the devil began making me second guess God's will. I kept having anxiety that we wasted all our money on this car and my anxiety grew. Every time Megan noticed something about the car, I would begin to panic. But God is good. I asked for peace and He gave generously. Recently, the car began overheating and panic set in once again. Then God blessed us with the money to fix the problem. The wheel bearing went and panic set in. Then God blessed us by having the auto shop fix the problem and allow us to pay them the next day, with no strings attached. That's amazing! The radiator sprung a leak and panic set in. Then God blessed us with a \$7.00 fix. Each time a problem arose, all I saw was dollar signs. I would forget that God's will is perfect, but when we're faithless, He remains faithful.

Announcements

- Our annual *Couples Valentines Dinner* is coming up on the 14th of this month! This is an event for couples of ALL ages. We love to see old and young turn out for this event, so please consider joining us. The cost will be \$25 per couple, which will cover dinner/desert and entertainment. Please RSVP and pay by February 8th to Bobby Stockman. Start planning now for childcare as we will not be providing any for this event.
- Please remember to continue to fill our church pantry. This has been and will continue to be a blessing to those in our church in times of need.
- Remember to sign up to clean the church! If you didn't get a chance to sign up for cleaning last year, make sure you sign up this year! It is important we rotate the responsibility.
- Would you like to have a CD of Praise and Worship songs from the hearts of our Grace community? Let us know if you would like the GIBC worship team to record a CD in 2015.



Scripture of the Month

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:1-4)

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