



HOPE & IGNITE

A Weekly Middle & High School Newsletter
Sunday School Lessons with Other News & Updates for Youth



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Unit 6 Overview

This four-session unit invites us to think about what it means to be the people of God and ways to pursue a holy life. During these lessons, we will explore what faithfulness looks like in the midst of differences, what faithful actions look like, how to fast in a way that's spiritually healthy and, finally, how to act with faith when tensions are high. This unit spans the period of Lent and provides students an opportunity to learn more about how fasting shapes our faith.

Unit 6; Lesson 1 Snapshot

James provides us with fascinating insights into the culture of a newly formed Christian church and how the biases of society were influencing the practices of the Christian community. In this opening session, we see what it means when we show favoritism to the church and why it's important to treat everyone equally in our communities. We don't treat others fairly simply because it's fair, but also because Jesus views us this way and we are meant to follow his example.

Lesson 1 Take-Away

God doesn't choose favorites and neither should followers of God.

Bible Lesson Fun-Fact

James, the author of this letter, is generally believed to be the brother of Jesus. He is mentioned in Acts 21:18 and was the leader of the church in Jerusalem.



The corresponding videos for each lesson are available through our Grace UMC Youtube channel



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Tamara Albert

Contact our Co-Directors of Christian Education with any Questions or Ideas you have for our Youth Programming.

Session 1:

Dealing with One Another

Engage

My Favorite Things

Top 5 Favorite Foods

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Top 5 Least Favorite Foods

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Total Points: _____

You earn one point if you match someone else's answer. You lose two points if you contradict someone else's answer.

**James 2:1-13
(Common English Bible)**

¹ My brothers and sisters, when you show favoritism you deny the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has been resurrected in glory. ² Imagine two people coming into your meeting. One has a gold ring and fine clothes, while the other is poor, dressed in filthy rags. ³ Then suppose that you were to take special notice of the one wearing fine clothes, saying, "Here's an excellent place. Sit here." But to the poor person you say, "Stand over there"; or, "Here, sit at my feet." ⁴ Wouldn't you have shown favoritism among yourselves and become evil-minded judges?

⁵ My dear brothers and sisters, listen! Hasn't God chosen those who are poor by worldly standards to be rich in terms of faith? Hasn't God chosen the poor as heirs of the kingdom he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Don't the wealthy make life difficult for you? Aren't they the ones who drag you into court? ⁷ Aren't they the ones who insult the good name spoken over you at your baptism?

⁸ You do well when you really fulfill the royal law found in scripture, *Love your neighbor as yourself.* ⁹ But when you show favoritism, you are committing a sin, and by that same law you are

exposed as a lawbreaker.

¹⁰ Anyone who tries to keep all of the Law but fails at one point is guilty of failing to keep all of it.

¹¹ The one who said, *Don't commit adultery*, also said, *Don't commit murder*. So if you don't commit adultery but do commit murder, you are a lawbreaker. ¹² In every way, then, speak and act as people who will be judged by the law of freedom. ¹³ There will be no mercy in judgment for anyone who hasn't shown mercy. Mercy overrules judgment.

Playing Favorites

- What are some issues that separate people in the Christian community?

Key Verse

**My brothers and sisters,
when you show favoritism
you deny the faithfulness of
our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has been
resurrected in glory.
—James 2:1**

- How have you noticed people in the church being treated differently?
- When have you seen someone receive special attention and then end up causing difficulties with others?

Focus

Not the Favorite

- How did you feel when someone else was favored over you? How did you react in the moment?
- Why is it important to keep in mind others' feelings when we show favoritism?

- What are a few ways you can help others to avoid feeling like you felt in the situation you recalled earlier?

Love Your Neighbor

In the space below, trace your hand. On each finger, write something you possess but have more of that item than you require to meet your needs.



Change Your Point of View

List three places you normally choose to sit (at school, at home, at church). Over the next week, "fast" from sitting in these places. Instead, sit somewhere new and with someone new.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Celebrating Black History Month through Diversity! Diversity Word Search!

Words can be forward, backward, up, down, and diagonal!

DIVERSITY
being different!

ACCEPTANCE
Understanding everyone is unique and recognizing our differences

BIAS
preferring one type of person over another and often treating them better

IDENTITY
different parts that make you who you are

SEXISM
believing that one sex (male/female) is better than another

CULTURE
a group of people with similar race, language, beliefs, food, way of life and other things

RACISM
believing that one race is better than another

DISCRIMINATION
treating others badly because they're different

STEREOTYPE
an assumption used to describe a group of people

INCLUSION
making other people feel welcomed and involved

D	B	Q	C	U	L	T	U	R	E	K	I	R	E	I
F	I	E	L	E	M	F	E	S	C	C	I	G	N	Q
Y	A	S	T	I	P	W	S	H	N	I	C	M	Y	T
V	S	O	C	I	M	Y	D	N	A	G	A	Y	U	R
D	I	V	E	R	S	I	T	Y	T	I	N	Q	R	G
H	Y	S	E	X	I	S	M	O	P	D	R	Y	I	P
N	S	I	F	Q	C	M	O	D	E	S	I	Q	N	L
E	U	F	S	R	A	S	I	G	C	R	D	I	C	A
O	M	P	M	J	R	O	E	N	C	P	E	H	L	D
H	Y	F	P	U	L	G	E	F	A	T	N	T	U	U
G	Z	T	B	X	B	P	K	N	R	T	T	T	S	F
K	D	I	Z	V	Y	S	K	D	K	H	I	A	I	I
Z	R	Z	N	I	W	Z	G	M	Y	O	T	O	O	I
C	W	R	M	F	O	J	D	F	G	Y	Y	D	N	Q
X	Y	B	B	J	A	U	F	C	L	A	H	R	F	I



Follow GUMC on Instagram
& Grace UMC Youth on
Facebook!



Faith FAMILY CLUB



WELCOME TO FAITH FAMILY CLUB!
Combining Spirituality, Community and Fun
You are welcome to be part of Faith Family Club. Children will learn about God's love for them and about the Bible, and they'll have fun experiences with their families.

February Spiritual Activities & Practices

The purpose is to enjoy spending quality time together through creative & intellectual projects, while sparking family & faith based discussions. These activities are just suggestions. We encourage your family to do at least two within a month's time span.



Outdoor: Ice Globes— A fun & easy family activity for limited Supplies such as: Balloons, & Colored Dye or a Tea Light. Fill your balloon with water and then add a colored dye to it (if you want something other than clear). Then either take them outside to freeze or place them in the freezer. Once they are frozen solid, cut the balloon off of the ice sphere and place the now frozen globe outside where you can enjoy it while the weather lasts. For extended fun, place a tea light in the snow first, then place your ice globe over it for illuminating fun.

Outdoor spiritual connection: As you do this, think & talk about the complexity of mankind and how although we may all look similar (Balloons) on the outside, on the inside (frozen water) we are all made the same, yet we're different from each other. Our "frozen water" doesn't look the exact same as everyone else, because we all have unique personalities that make us each special individuals.

Artistic: Family Valentines— Everyone in your family writes a heartfelt valentine/ note for each other member in your household. You should receive one for each member you wrote one for. Have a different bag or location for each member's valentine notes to be placed.



Artistic spiritual connection: The goal is to remind your loved ones what you love and appreciate most about them. It is encouraged to read these aloud in front of your family, but you can certainly do this in private too.



Movie: Zootopia— This animated 2016 to-be-classic Disney movie, is all about a society of animals overcoming stereotypes and coming together despite their differences.

Movie spiritual connection: In honor of February being Black History Month, talk with your family about the various forms of Diversity & overt racism portrayed in the film. Reflect and compare the society of Zootopia to our American society. What differences and similarities do you notice?

Innovative: Hello Kitchen— Each member of your family will be responsible for providing a part of dinner for a family potluck. This meal will certainly be a variety of food, creating a smorgasbord as each person must cook/prepare something "on their own" and provide it for the whole family as part of the meal that night. This includes appetizers, entrees & desserts if desired, and this can be as easy as someone buying a bag of chips that they like and sharing it with everyone. The catch is... you can't communicate with one another which foods you'll each be providing. **Note—Obviously small children should have guidance from one person.



Innovative spiritual connection: The objective is to create a fun experience and atmosphere for the whole family as you (hopefully) learn how to cook/create new foods for one another. Make sure to pray before your meal and think about how thankful and grateful you are to have your loved ones provide a meal for you. **Suggestion—regardless if you cook or buy something from the store, everyone should do their best to be actively present during the preparation of this dinner meal. This example of "too many cooks in the kitchen" is highly recommended as it encourages

Please send our Christian Education Team (christianed@gracesiouxcity.org) pictures of your family doing any of the Monthly Faith Family Club Spiritual Activities.
Faith Family Club; Where Our Strength is United

ANYONE is Welcome!!

GRACE VARIETY HOUR

Do you have a Talent you'd like to share with Grace UMC?

ANYTHING FROM DANCING, SINGING, INSTRUMENTS, JOKES, JUGGLING, AND MORE!

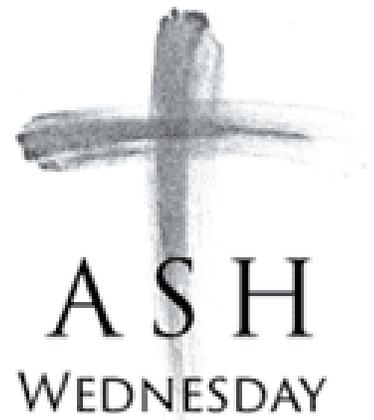
How to Participate:

Talent Acts must be 4 Minutes or Less

Recordings of each Talent Act must be submitted by Monday, February 8th to brock@gracesiouxcity.org

PLEASE EMAIL BROCK BEFORE THE 8TH IF YOU ARE INTERESTED

The Final Product will be available Feb. 14th on our Youtube, Facebook & Grace Website.



A S H
WEDNESDAY

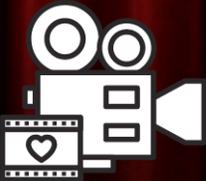
Join us on

February 17th

for an Evening Service from

7-7:30pm on

KSCJ & Facebook.



Discover five spiritual practices to help you
WALK CLOSER
with GOD



We Have TWO Lenten Studies Coming Up

We're offering TWO Lenten Studies at Grace this year. Choose the one which best fits your interests or schedule...or participate in BOTH!

Our Tuesday evening group will be using a book entitled "*The Walk*" by Rev. Adam Hamilton. We'll explore five essential spiritual practices rooted in Jesus' own walk with God.

This study begins Tues, February 16 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

This is the link for each of the 6 sessions: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88197446725>

Don't use the computer? You may use your cell phone to connect with this or any of our other Zoom gatherings. Contact Pastor Jim for details.

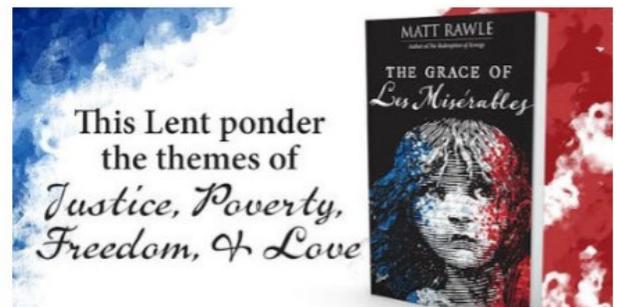
Our other Lenten study, with options on Saturdays or Sundays at 1 p.m., is entitled, "*The Grace of Les Miserables*". It dives into 6 ideals found in this classic story...grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love and hope. You do NOT need to be familiar with Les Miserables...the book OR film...to get into this study. The author gives us all the background we'll need.

This study begins the weekend of Feb. 20 and 21 and runs for six weeks. Choose the sessions (Saturday or Sunday) which fit your schedule. Remember...if you don't use a computer, you may call in to any of our Zoom gatherings. Pastor Jim has the details.

Saturday Zoom link (all 6 sessions): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82817803407>

Sunday Zoom link (all 6 sessions): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82020652984>

All sessions will happen via Zoom and participants may join the discussions by phone or computer. Participants may purchase books for either study on the Cokesbury website or other book sellers.



This Lent ponder the themes of
Justice, Poverty, Freedom, & Love