



GLITTER & GRACE

A GRACE IN THE WILDERNESS MINISTRY

"With a little glitter and a lot of grace, we're spreading God's love all over the place."

In this issue:

- Spring Renewal
- 13 Reasons Review
- Summer Job Tips



Spring Renewal

Spring is a time for regeneration, renewal, and growth. Flowers are blooming, the smell of fresh cut grass fills the air, and everyone has a smile on their face.

Take this "breath of fresh air" and start over. Choose today to be happy. Choose today to follow God's will for your life and give Him the driver's seat.

So often, I hear people say, "I want to find peace! I want to be happy again. If I could just find God's will for my life, I would be happy."

The truth is, God's will is not lost. It's right in front of you in His Word.

You don't have to search far to find God's will for your life, all you have to do is trust in Him, spend time in His Word, and pray for wisdom and guidance.

God's will is not a mystery to those who seek Him; it's only a mystery to the ones that barely know Him. You have to spend time to with someone to know more about them and to understand their ways. In the same sense, you have to spend time with the Lord to get to know Him and to understand His will for your life.

Summer break is almost here. (Hallelujah) I challenge you to spend more time with God this summer. Take your Bible out to the lake or the beach and spend time with the One who created you and loves you the most.

You are blessed to be able to have a one on one connection with the Creator of the Universe. Take time to get to know Him, grow with Him, and find out what true peace really is.



13 Reasons Why Review: To watch or not to watch?



The popular Netflix show, 13 Reasons Why is about a young girl that decides to take her own life due to circumstances in her life. She reaches a point in her life where she feels like there is no point in

going on. She can't change her past so she alters her future by ending her life.

Before she ends her life, she scrambles with the thoughts of how she got to this point. She analyzes her life over the last few months and finds 13 reasons why she lost hope in this world. She then decides to record tapes of herself discussing the problems, people, and situations that led to her suicide.

One by one, she blames different situations and people for her hurt and pain. The show itself demonstrates how one small act can have a huge impact on someone's overall well-being and outlook on life. One simple negative comment can slowly destroy a person on the inside without anyone knowing.

As teenage girls, I know that you all deal with anxiety and stress every day. I may not be the same age as you, but I've been there, I've done that, and I've dealt with the lasting impacts of stress and anxiety. Working in the ministry, I've also seen first-hand how devastating stress and anxiety can be to a young girl. Anxiety can do one of two things in a person's life 1) it can destroy them 2) it can teach them to rise above the stress and grow into the person God created them to be. The fact is, everyone has stress and anxiety at some point in their life.

Consider it pure joy, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the

TESTING OF YOUR FAITH DEVELOPS PERSEVERANCE.

PERSEVERANCE must finish its work so that you may be mature & complete, not lacking anything.
James 1:2-4



The Bible says in James that we should rejoice in trials because God is creating us into the person He intended us to be. When my 1 year old who is just now learning to walk gets too close to the top of the steps, I have to run over to him and tell him to be careful. To him, the steps are interesting and look like

fun, but to me, as his mother, I know that if he takes one wrong move he could fall down the steps and get hurt pretty bad.

In the same sense, God is watching out for us when we get close to making the wrong move. He's watching over us, warning us when we get too close to the edge, and waiting for us to follow Him in the right direction.

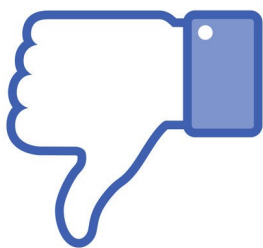


. Our God is not a dictator. He won't force you to love him or force you to follow His commandments, but just as a mother wants the best for her child, your Heavenly Father wants the best for you. He sets boundaries so you won't fall down the steps, and He loves you because you are His creation.

My review of 13 Reasons Why is this:

#1 I think it's too graphic for young teens to be watching with or without an adult. Before you watch this show, consult with your parents and let them decide. It is very graphic and not a show you should watch alone or without your parents' approval. If you wouldn't feel comfortable watching "your show" with your grandma or your preacher sitting beside you...then you probably shouldn't be watching it in the first place.

#2 The show depicts suicide as a tragic but dramatic action that



draws attention to the victim and casts blame on others for personal pain. I think it draws positive attention to suicide when it should be turning people away from it. It does show the pain/anguish it causes others, but it spends

the majority of the time casting blame on others for the action. Overall, the show can teach others the importance of treating their peers with respect because they never know what they are truly going through; however, it does not focus enough on preventative measures for suicide.

#3 The show never gives suicidal teens a way out or a place to turn if they are in pain. I think the show needed to add a suicide prevention section as well as focus more on the way back to peace verse the road to destruction.



#4 Imagine how great this show would be if the

writer changed the topic to 13 Reasons Why I said no to suicide. Step by step the writer could show how people influenced the young lady to stay strong and overcome stress in a positive way. Maybe a pastor or friend could show her the way to Christ and one by one you could see the plan God had planned for her life. Now that would be a show worth seeing!

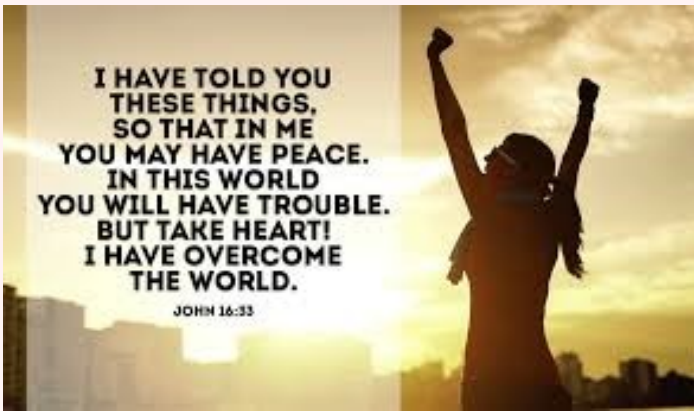


Life is tough, and I promise you, just as the Bible tells us, “you will face trials.” You will face hard times that seem like you can’t go on and you can’t find a way out, but I can also promise you that God will never leave your side.

There is a beautiful song by J.J. Heller called “Your Hands” that says

“When my world is shaking, Heaven stands, when my heart is breaking, I never leave your hands.”

I remember hearing this song on one of my darkest days. I was struggling with depression and pain that I could not understand. My heart was constantly breaking and at times I would cry and not even know why. My life was a mess and I wasn’t living the way God intended me to. I didn’t understand the pain, but God never left my side. Years later, I can look back and see how God was using that dark day to develop me into the person I am today. It took time, and it took pain, but because I never gave up, I can know that God never gave up on me.



If you are feeling like you want to give up or can’t handle this crazy thing we call life, I want you to know that you are not alone. There are people all over the world that either feel the same way

now or have felt this way before. This life is not easy but know that our hope is not in this world, our hope is in Jesus Christ.

Rest assure that He is always there for you, and you never have to face your anxieties alone. You can be confident in knowing that God will guide you through any battle you face if you will trust in Him.

Stay strong in the Lord and after you seek His face, find counsel in a friend, a family member, or a pastor. Don’t suffer alone. You can call me or contact one of our Grace in the Wilderness leaders anytime. We are here to listen, not to judge. Don’t let life get you down, and when it does, reach up to the One who loves you most, your Heavenly Father.

I am always here for you and would love to pray for your specific prayer needs. You can email your prayer requests to me at:

KaylaRampey@Yahoo.com





Looking for an awesome summer job?

Here are some great job ideas to consider!

- 1) **Chick-fil-a:** Have you ever been to Chick-fil-a and seen a mad employ? Never! They are so happy there! If I was in High School looking for a job, I would check them out! Plus, they make good money and offer scholarships! You may not be worried about college now, but when the time comes, you'll be thankful for those scholarships! McDonalds also offers scholarships for their employees!
- 2) **Check out the Rec Center and YMCA!** The Greenville Rec as well as other local Recreation Departments offer great internships and summer jobs for camps, events, and much more! What better way to earn money than having fun at camp all day!
- 3) **Babysitting:** Ask your neighbors if they know of anyone that needs a "date night" babysitter. Babysitting wages usually are \$10/hr. per child. As a mother of 2 young boys, it's worth the money to get a date night! Offer a date night to your church members, family friends, etc.
- 4) **Home Depot/Lowes:** Did you know Home Depot greeters and self-checkout workers make \$10/hour? They also hire summer help for watering the plants.
- 5) **Restaurants:** Waiting tables may seem like a pain, but it's definitely a good paying job. Plus, it helps you become a more confident public speaker. (I know because I started working as a waitress when I was 15) Just be upfront with managers and let them know you need Sundays off for church. Money is great but greater than God! I don't recommend giving up church for money. If you start skipping church for work now, it'll only get worse over time. It's easy to get out of church, but much harder to get back in to the routine of going back.

Beware – anything you put before God is an idol – so if work becomes more important than God – you are making work and money your idol.

Hang in there! Summer is almost here! I hope you have a great summer and enjoy each day that the Lord has blessed you with!

May God Bless you and show you His Grace every day!

