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LIVING GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Raising Champions

Principal's Message: Conquering Sibling Rivalry

By Dr. Daniel Switzer

I would like to talk with you about helping our children to conquer sibling rivalry. Parents, I encourage you to share this article with your children.

Sibling rivalry is a serious issue among brothers and sisters. Proverbs 17:17 says, "A friend loves at all times, but a brother is born for adversity" (NIV). The challenge for our children today is to be a "best friend" to their brother or sister! It goes against the grain, which means it's not easy to love one's brother or sister, but God can work this miracle in their hearts.

In Genesis 25 there were twin boys in the womb of Isaac's wife Rebekah: Esau and Jacob. The Bible says that these boys were jostling each other in the womb. It was as if they were wrestling each other—jockeying for position even in their mother's womb. They had already begun that intense competition so characteristic among siblings.

Esau's body was red and very hairy compared to Jacob's smooth skin. Esau was born first with Jacob coming right behind and grasping Esau's heel. Jacob's name meant "he deceives." As they grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter comfortable with working in the open country, and Jacob was a quiet man staying among the tents. Their father, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau. However, their mother Rebekah loved Jacob. Genesis 25:29-34 relates a key event in these brothers' lives:

Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished! . . .

Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright"

"Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?"

But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

So Esau despised his birthright.

Esau sold the long-term blessing of his birthright for his short-term desire for food. This passage points out the need for young people to not sell their destiny for the pleasures of this world. It's important to encourage youth to keep in their heart the fact that God has a special plan for their lives and to trust Him for their future blessing—to not give up their destiny for the short-term pleasures of this world.

After the boys had grown older, their father Isaac was getting ready to die and wanted to bless Esau his firstborn before he died. He told Esau to go to the open country to hunt some wild game, and then prepare him a nice meal. Then Isaac would give him his blessing.

Esau and Jacob's mother Rebekah was eavesdropping on their conversation. She proceeded to help Jacob trick his father into giving him his blessing. They came up with a scheme to prepare the meal for Isaac. Jacob, whose name means "he deceives," deceived his father.

After Jacob had successfully deceived Isaac into giving him his blessing, Esau came in from hunting ready to receive the blessing. Isaac shuddered and realized that he had been deceived by Jacob. Esau was distraught that he missed out on the blessing. As a result of this conflict between the two brothers, Esau developed a grudge against Jacob leading to hatred. Genesis 27:41 says, "Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. He said to himself, 'The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.'"

Jesus told of the seriousness of hatred: "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment" (Matt. 5:21-22). Jesus was saying that the heart issue of hatred is rooted in murder. Our child may not consider murdering a brother or sister; however, we need to be sure that he not let anger develop into a grudge or even hatred toward a sibling. Rather, we need to encourage them to reconcile and forgive one another. Jesus said, "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be



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Supporting the Mission of Living Grace Christian School: Raising Up Champions for God!

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Eph. 2:8-10).



Please share with your friends about Living Grace Christian School, a school where the parents, teachers, and children work together in positive Biblical teamwork and relationship to raise up champions for God—servant leaders of godly character who advance the cause of Christ and make disciples of all nations. Living Grace Christian School is committed to Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence, and Godly Character Development. Families are encouraged to apply for financial assistance based on need.

Please pray about supporting LGCS in the following ways:

1. Praying for the school.
2. Becoming a prayer partner—the school is committed to having consistent prayer support through seeking up to twelve prayer partners who agree to pray daily for the school.
3. Helping families who cannot pay the full tuition to send their children to the school through the “Student Champions Fund.” We are committed to a ministry philosophy of “ministry over money” in which no family is excluded from the school due to financial hardship. Checks should be made out to Living Grace Christian School with “Student Champions Fund” written in the memo.
4. **Supporting the long-term establishment of the school through the “Living Grace Christian School Endowment Fund.” Contributions to this fund support the building of the expanded facility. Checks should be made out to Living Grace Christian School with “Endowment Fund” written in the memo. Also, we ask you to invite family and friends to give toward your child’s school expansion. Gifts can be made online at lgcs.northgatecc.org—click on “Endowment Fund-Building Expansion.”**
5. Providing volunteer help at the school.

Prayer Needs

As stated above, the school is committed to having consistent prayer support through seeking twelve prayer partners who agree to pray daily for the school. If you would like to be a designated prayer partner, please talk to Dr. Switzer. Obviously, we encourage everyone to be praying for the school—parents, teachers, students, and extended family.

Please pray for the following significant areas:

1. The spiritual life of all parents, teachers, and students, that our relationships with the Lord would be grace-filled and marked by integrity.
2. That parents, teachers, students, and Northgate congregants work together in positive Biblical teamwork and unified relationship.
3. Effective leadership and teaching, and a commitment to Christian discipleship, academic excellence, and godly character development.
4. Walking out our comprehensive plan for parent participation: pray that the teachers would effectively communicate with parents, be receptive and accessible to them, and treat them as partners in the educational process.
5. God’s provision for families, including financial and transportation needs.
6. Parents as they fulfill the role as their child’s primary teachers. Pray that parents would “reserve judgment” when their children give them a negative report about a school situation until they have the opportunity to talk with the respective teacher.
7. Excellent study habits, godly relationships, and prosperous health and safety for the entire student body.
8. Pastors and the larger Body of Christ to increasingly see the need to educate their children in a manner consistent with the Bible.
9. Volunteers to help in the classrooms, office, and building.
10. Consistent financial support to help needy families to be able to send their children to the school through the “Student Champions Fund.”
11. The families of all the teachers, parents, and students.
12. That these children would know that God has a plan for their lives; that God would raise up these children to be champions of God—servant leaders of godly character who advance the cause of Christ and make disciples of all nations! **Thank you for your prayers!**

Conquering Sibling Rivalry

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reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift” (Matt. 5:23-24).

Jacob and Esau left home, grew up, became married, and had their own children; however, they still had not

reconciled. They had unresolved issues between them. Fear of Esau grew in Jacob’s heart. At one point, Jacob sent a messenger to Esau seeking his favor.

Parents, let your older children know that their younger brothers and sisters greatly desire their favor; they greatly desire them to like them. The older siblings may not be aware of it, but younger siblings really look up to them!

Well, the messenger came back to Jacob and said, “We went to your brother Esau, and now he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him” (Gen. 32:6) When Jacob heard that Esau was coming with all of these men, he was filled with fear.

Young people, I strongly encourage you to resolve issues with your siblings when you are young. If you don’t do so, they’ll develop into strongholds of fear in your life. Jacob prayed, “Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children” (Gen. 32:11). Young person, make it your goal to be best friends with your siblings!

Jacob sent large gifts of herds of animals ahead of him to pacify Esau! Jacob prepared to meet Esau; he sent his family and his possessions across the ford of the Jabbok. He himself stayed that night on the other side of the river. Jacob, who had wrestled with Esau starting in the womb, that night wrestled with God. Here is the exchange between them:

When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.”

But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

The man asked him, “What is your name?”

“Jacob,” he answered.

Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome.”

Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.”

But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared” (Gen. 32:25-30).

The Bible says that Jacob was limping after he wrestled with God. Young person, instead of harmful wrestling with your siblings, I encourage you to wrestle with God. As you go through life, you may end up with a “limp,” a condition causing you hardship. When the Apostle Paul was faced with a debilitating thorn in his flesh, he appealed to God three times for it to be removed. God answered in this way: “My grace is sufficient for you; for my strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor. 12:9). That thorn—or limp—may cause you to depend on God.

Young person, I encourage you to wrestle with God. Get your breakthrough with God in order to have the breakthrough with your sibling. Jacob got the breakthrough with God before he received the breakthrough with his brother. Jacob had to wrestle with God and get the breakthrough with him in order to be able to reconcile with his brother Esau. Instead of fighting with your brothers, or even your parents, wrestle with God. Whatever issue you have, young person, don’t make it an issue with your parents or teachers. Go to God, go to His Word, wrestle with God, work it out with Him. Ask God, get your answer from Him, and you will be blessed!

God changed Jacob’s name to Israel, meaning “he struggles with God.” As a result of wrestling with God, Jacob was fundamentally changed. He was no longer marked by deceit. Instead he was now marked by being an overcomer. 1 John 2:14 says, “I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.” Jacob—now named Israel—had become an overcomer!

What happened when Jacob and Esau finally met? After wrestling with God, Jacob saw Esau. He now went ahead (not behind) of his family as a godly leader and humbly bowed seven times as he approached Esau. Genesis 33:4 shows their reconciliation: “But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept.” Jacob and Esau had reconciled!

Young people, I encourage you to reconcile with your brothers and sisters. Seek to be best friends with your siblings. Learn to love your brothers and sisters now while you are young!

January’s Godly Character Trait: Generosity. I encourage you to pray for your children and the school. (See “Prayer Needs” on page 2).

Reminders

TUITION PAYMENTS TO SMART

Please remember that tuition payments are paid directly to the Smart Tuition Management Company. Tuition payments are due to Smart by the fifth of each month, August through May.

COLD WEATHER

Students go outside for recess whenever possible. With the colder weather, please be sure that your child is dressed warmly. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, students should continue to wear their P.E. uniform consisting of their blue t-shirt, all-gray sweatpants, and all-gray sweat-shirt. (Students may wear a coat over their p.e. uniform when going outside.) The regular school uniform is worn by students on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays.

SCHOOL PICTURES

If you have not done so already and desire to do so, you can still order your children’s pictures. If you want to get an individual picture, you can let Mrs. Perez know by emailing her at tessben@yahoo.com.

SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS AND DELAYS

Living Grace Christian School follows the Montgomery County Public School system in determining school closings and delays because of inclement weather. Announcements regarding closings and delays will be broadcast on WJLA-TV ABC 7, News Channel 8, and posted on the www.wjla.com and www.news8.net web-sites.

Parent News

INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO REGISTER CHILDREN FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR! We encourage you to share with family and friends about Living Grace Christian School. Share your own testimony about what God is doing with your child. We seek to be a school where the parents, teachers, and children work together in positive Biblical teamwork and relationship to raise up champions of God. We are committed to Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence, and Godly Character Development. Also, families are encouraged to apply for financial assistance from the **Student Champions Fund** based on need.



PARENT-TEACHER ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 8TH

The Parent-Teacher Assembly is coming on Thursday evening, February 8th, at 7:30 p.m. This is one of our four team meetings of the year for all parents. We will be sharing of the school's future, giving important announcements, and fellowshiping with one another as we continue to build together as a school family. Dr. Switzer will share a message relating to our most important calling as parents. In addition, registration information for next school year will be discussed. Please mark this important meeting on your calendars.

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADERS VISIT GETTYSBURG. The seventh and eighth graders visited the Gettysburg Battlefield on December 13th. They watched a movie, experienced the Cyclorama art depiction of being in the middle of the battle's climax, and walked actual areas of the battlefield. Appreciation goes to Mrs. Toledo, Mrs. Gamez, Mrs. Palacios, and Mrs. Valdez for driving and chaperoning; and to Mrs. Switzer for her planning.

Student Champions Fund Drive!

The school's annual Student Champions Fund Drive begins January 3rd and ends March 7th. **Many of our school's families receive financial assistance to be able to send their children to the school. The Student Champions Fund is designed to help families who cannot pay the full tuition to be able to send their children to Living Grace Christian School.** Many schools have fundraisers that take up a lot of time and effort on the part of the family such as candy and fruit sales. Instead of involving you in these kinds of efforts, we are asking you to consider the value of this fund for its own merit. Therefore, we ask you to give generously to this fund as well as to ask family and friends to consider a donation.

During the Champions Fund Drive, your children will be aiming for the ultimate prize of the "All-You-Can-Eat Pizza Party." (Look for the letter coming home regarding how to qualify.) During the drive, students are asked to **bring in their envelope each Wednesday with donations from their parents, extended family, and friends.**

Our goal is to raise \$17,000 to help needy families to send their children to the school. All funds contributed toward this fund will be used for this sole purpose. Thank you for prayerfully considering this offering unto the Lord.

Support our Basketball Team! Come on out to cheer our basketball team on the Roadway to Victory! Games (listed on the calendar below) are played in our new home gym!

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 School Resumes	3 Student Champions Fund Drive Begins	4	5 Home BBall Game 4:00	6
7	8	9 Home BBall Game 4:00	10 Champions Donation Envelope due	11	12 Home BBall Game 4:00	13
14	15 MLK Birthday NO SCHOOL	16	17 Champions Donation Envelope due	18	19 Home BBall Game 4:00	20
21	22	23 Home BBall Game 4:00	24 Champions Donation Envelope due	25	26 No School End of 2nd Quarter Teacher In-Service	27
28	29	30	31 Champions Donation Envelope due			

"For I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer. 29:11).

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